

Minutes

Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board of Directors

April 15, 2009, 5:30 pm- 7:45 pm

Lakeview Branch , Madison Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

Present: Steve Ackerman, Jan Axelson, Jon Becker, Nan Cheney, Justin Sargent, Muriel Simms, Aaron Stephenson, Dick Walker

Absent: Dana Erlandsen, Don Hammes, Dorothy Wheeler

Guests: Jacob Fries, Steve Limbach, Mario Quintana, Ron Pegram

Comments From Members / Public

None.

Secretary's Report

1) Review/approve MAR 18 board monthly meeting minutes.

Jan Axelson moved to approve the March minutes with the addition of Jan as absent at the meeting. Nan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Correspondence / Communications

Discussed as needed below.

Treasurer's Report

1) Review/approve MAR 2009 Main and Program Account Summaries.

Aaron reported the following balances for our accounts: Regular: \$865.65; Program: \$1696.49. Dick moved to accept the report. Muriel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Review/approve reimbursements or forthcoming expenditures ("forever" stamps?)

Muriel moved to spend up to \$50 on up to 12 brochure holders. Aaron seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Muriel, with friendly amendment by Nan, moved to spend up to \$200 for stamps. Dick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Information / Discussion Items

1) Land protection in the Cherokee Marsh Environs, from WDNR's perspective (Jacob Fries, DNR Wildlife Biologist, South Central Region)

The state of Wisconsin began acquiring land in Cherokee Marsh in the mid 1960s because it was a major spawning ground. In recent years, the interest has expanded to include hunting and trapping as well as fishing.

Each DNR area, including the Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area, has a project boundary. The DNR is authorized to buy land within the boundary. The current boundary for the Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area encompasses 1700 acres. Each

area also has an acreage goal. In the mid 1980s, the goal for Cherokee was set at 940 acres. Current DNR ownership is 990 acres.

In the past, the master plan for each area was updated about every 15 years. Currently, the Natural Resources Board is pushing to update the master plans for all areas statewide. A single master plan will cover Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area, Dorn Creek Fishery Area, and Waunakee Marsh. The plan will likely be developed in 5-6 years. The master plans are typically done in house, though the DNR may contract out such things as biological surveys and socio-economic surveys.

The DNR's policy is to buy land from willing sellers only.

To increase the acquisition authority to enable buying more than an area's acreage goal would likely require a presentation to the Natural Resources Board to support the acquisition.

Ditched and drained lands are attractive to buy because the DNR can restore the wetlands and can partner with the Wetlands Reserve Program for funding. Madison Audubon helped buy land for Zeloski Marsh, and Pheasants Forever helped with Jefferson Marsh. The funding for these areas came from both the Wetlands Reserve Program and the Stewardship Fund.

2) Photobook (Mario Quintana) - Jon, Steve, Dick.

Aaron moved to authorize up to \$100 to buy at least one copy of Mario Quintana's book, *Cherokee Marsh: the Magic and the Mystery*. Justin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. This motion replaces last month's motion authorizing spending up to \$30 for same.

3) Board directors: Sheri Harper (resignation); W. David Clutter, Ron Pegram, and Dana Erlandsen

Sheri Harper has resigned from our Board of Directors effective immediately. Jan passed around a thank you letter for Sheri for all to sign.

Jan moved to approve appointing W. David Clutter as Interim Director for a term that expires at the 2010 annual membership meeting,

and

approve appointing Ron Pegram as Interim Director for a term that expires at the 2010 annual membership meeting.

Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan moved to approve appointing Dana Erlandsen as Interim Director for a term that begins at the July board meeting and expires at the 2010 annual membership meeting,

Nan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Lifetime membership category report (tbd) – Steve Limbach

Deferred for future consideration.

Action Items (New)

1) Board director (interim) candidates ~ Jon

See Information/Discussion item #3 above.

2) NPC Northside Pride Program support ~ Muriel

We need more information before deciding whether to support a neighborhood planter.

Updates

1) Calendar of events

a) APR 25 RAW Confluence at WPCRC –

Justin moved to send a delegate to the River Alliance of Wisconsin Confluence and appropriate \$25 for that purpose. Nan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Aaron will attend on our behalf and will bring brochures to display if possible.

Isthmus Green Day – our brochures will be available at the YLLP table.

b) WWA Wetland Gems (MAY 18) – Jon, Aaron

Jan will ask Russ Hefty about a stewardship activity and leading the Voyageur tour.

Aaron will arrange for food.

Aaron and Justin will arrange an education event, possibly with Emily Steinwehe.

Dick and Aaron will find captains for the canoes.

c) JUN12-13 WDNR/Friends events

Voyageur canoes – Nan will take reservations for June 12 and possibly June 13.

Take a stake in the lakes. Possible cleanup activity on June 13.

Pontoon boat - Dick has two on hold, June 13, 5-8 pm. Each holds 15 people. The second boat costs \$80. Dick will cancel the second boat. Steve will ask neighbors for use of their boat if needed.

d) WDNR/City Parks Division Outing (AUG 14, by invitation) – Jon, Justin, Jan Deferred.

e) Ad hoc 2009 Educational Events committee

Steve is looking for a speaker on climate change and its impact on WI wetlands.

2) Vision/Plan 2009/10– Jon –

The committee meets April 20, All directors and advisors are invited.

3) DNR 2008/09 Grant Activities – Jan (gen. mngr.), Jon (financials mngr.), Dick (inkind labor mngr.)

All activities have been completed. Jon will write the report.

4) NPC – Muriel.

No news.

5) Tabling – tbd – farmers market. .

No news.

6) Marsh-related art exhibitions- Jon –

The exhibition is setting up tomorrow in the Capitol.

7) Outreach (CPI, YLLP, YCMOU, CARPC, DCSGEC, WDNR, WWA, YES, etc.) – Jon and others

No news.

8) Marsh Art; Photobook ~ Jon, Steve

No news.

Announcements (as time permits)

None.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Axelson