

Minutes

Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board of Directors APRIL 21, 2010

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

Present: Jan Axelson, Muriel Simms, Dick Walker, Janet Battista, Dana Ehrlandsen, Tim Baker, Don Hammes, Dorothy Wheeler, Sheri Harper.

Absent: Justin Sargent (excused)

President Jan Axelson opened the meeting at approximately 5:35 pm.

Secretary's Report

Since there was no meeting in March, the February minutes needed approval . There was one amendment: "Dorothy Wheeler was given an excused absence." With this amendment, Muriel moved and Jan seconded that the February minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dana reported the rent for the P.O. box increased to \$60 a year. Dana paid this amount which was due by March 30.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Director candidates: Dick moved and Muriel seconded that Tim Baker be appointed as an interim Director for a term that expires at the 2011 members meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Member thank-you letters and renewal reminders.
Sheri will send out a generic "thank you" letter to people who have renewed their membership. Dana has been getting forms with checks in the mail. She will pass on the filled-out forms to Sheri who puts the information onto an Excel Spreadsheet. Sheri and Muriel will work together on a reminder letter to send to members who have not renewed. The organization has about 100 members, half of whom are paid up for 2010.
- 3) The Board authorized Dana to pay a \$10 check to the Department of Financial Institutions for corporation fees. Dana described the "inflow and outflow" of money ("revenue" and "expenses") paid from the Friends' account. Dick moved and Janet seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Jan reported that the Friends have received an environmental grant from Dane County for educational purposes. Every teacher of third and fourth graders in MMSD will receive a brochure from the Friends of Cherokee Marsh in the hope that some of them will bring their classes on buses paid for by this grant.
- 2) Jan brought information about "Send your legislator down the river" sponsored by the Rock River coalition. Should we co-sponsor this event? Muriel moved and Tim seconded to join the coalition. Our board should invite legislators at all levels perhaps beginning with Dane County and Madison to educate them. Committee members were named as invitees: CARPC, Lakes and Watershed Commission, Environment and Natural Resources were all mentioned. Jan said our group would furnish the water and she offered to supply the bottled water. Muriel brought up liability and thought there should be a release for the legislators to sign. Dick wanted to know if there would be an RSVP so we would be sure to have enough boats. The motion to join passed unanimously but more discussion will ensue in May.

- 3) Jan discussed **Take a Stake in the Lakes** which occurs from June 12 to June 19. Should the Friends of Cherokee Marsh sponsor an event? We could clean up the drainage ditch that goes from Wheeler Rd. to the Marsh. This idea was adopted by consensus and Dick Walker agreed to be the leader on June 12th. We should try to engage 10-12 people to help out with this project.
- 4) The idea of having another paddle in the **Voyageur canoes** was turned down as being too close to other paddle trips.
- 5) **Liability insurance** was discussed by Dana. It was unclear because of the tenor of this discussion whether or not we need insurance because we have a general policy from Parks that protects directors and officers. Don thought that the state had insurance protection for Friends of parks groups and he will check on that. It was not decided whether to pay \$353 a year for liability insurance.
- 6) **River Alliance Spring Confluence Event.** Don said that he would try to attend this event and Dick will go if Don can't make it. Dana moved and Tim seconded to pay the \$30 fee for Don's (or Dick's) registration fee for this event.
- 7) **CRANES** was introduced by Don who is a member of this environmental group . (CRANES stands for Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability) Should FOCM pay \$50 and become a partner in collaboration with CRANES. Don reported that the group had met in March with 10-15 organizations and now have 10 possible members. The idea is to get a stronger organization with more groups participating for a regional approach to solving environmental problems. The dues are needed for administration purposes including hiring a project manager. The members also want to write grants to get more funds. An assembly is planned for the summer where organizational problems will be addressed. Janet wants to see what happens next with this group. Dana thought the power of numbers would be helpful. Dick moved and Dana seconded to join this group and pay the \$50. Muriel wanted to check the webpage. Jan thought we wouldn't learn anything that way. The vote was 3 to 3 and the motion to join failed. It will be placed on the agenda for May.
- 8) **NPC membership.** The Northside Planning Council is reorganizing but the directors present voted to keep a membership going by paying the \$10 dues and continuing to have Muriel be the representative.
- 9) Jan and Aaron will update the trail maps.
- 10) **Future guests** should be Mark Hazelbaker whom Dana will invite for a summer meeting but first someone will invite Russ Hefty to help us define some goals and then come up with some money from the city to help us get things done. Don said the board should pick 10 things they want to accomplish and then prioritize that list. They could then pick the most important goal.
- 11) **Sheri Harper** is a new member from Cherokee that writes grants and does spreadsheets. Sheri Harper and Dorothy Wheeler will be advanced to members of the board next month. Don reported on progress for the WI Legislature citing a few bills that were passed to protect wetlands and restore wetlands with federal grant money. It will now be mandatory for land owners to check their land for possible wetlands before there can be any construction.
- 12) The next meeting will be May 19th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.