

Minutes

Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board of Directors May 19, 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, Justin Sargent.

Guests: Alex Singer, Anita Weier, Tom Wilson

Jan called the meeting to order at 5:35.

Tom Wilson gave a report on Westport's progress in preserving and protecting green spaces helping Cherokee Marsh. Although Westport owns no land along the marsh, they do have land where the Yahara River comes into the lake. They have a park behind the Willows Tavern which is being improved by volunteers. They have a canoe launch that works when the water is high enough. They would like to have more trails – perhaps a major trail leading to Governor Nelson State Park for which they might need the help of the FOCM Board. The time is coming for Westport to redo their comprehensive plan which includes transportation. Westport has no roadway in their plan but it will include an easement for the North Mendota Parkway. Interested parties fear a major intersection from this parkway would spoil the rural character of Westport. The Township of Westport has the strongest standard for run-off from development with ZERO tolerance. All run-off must be contained! Westport has many retention basins to hold water in place or to filter its flow into the lakes. There are requirements to maintain the basins. In answer to Jan's question, Tom said the stakeholders in Westport want the lake levels to remain the same. To find out more, go to townofwestport.org and click on "codes".

Don: Dick Lathrop is doing research on the carp population and he will study the sediments. This study will eventually be a part of a bigger study of the river and the marsh. We are finally getting some needed information about the Yahara River.

Secretary's Report

- 1) Dave moved and Justin seconded to approve the minutes of April 21, 2009 It passed unanimously.
- 2) Justin sent a "sympathy" card to Nan Cheney's family for the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Directors like the format that Dana uses. Dana will write the \$10 check for NPC membership and also a \$10 check to the state for our corporation status.

Justin moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Dick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Director candidates:

- 1) Sheri Harper is up for an Interim Director for a term that expires at the 2011 member meeting. Sheri accepted the post. Jan moved. Dick seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Sheri will bring treats next time.
- 2) Jan moved and Dick seconded that Dorothy Wheeler's status be changed from "advisor" to "director" for a term that expires at the 2011 member meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Dorothy will bring treats the time after next.

Sheri will send out letters to remind people that their membership is up.

Liability Insurance: Dana reported that there is a statute of the state that protects Directors from liability except for four circumstances which she enumerated. How do we use the insurance? It costs a lot to get rid of suits and this policy does cover attorney's fees if someone is sued. Jan asked if there is a deductible and Dana said she didn't see one. The policy insures volunteer workers as well as Directors and Officers. Motion to approve spending \$360 for the renewal of Acuity Insurance for General Liability was made by Janet and seconded by Muriel. The motion passed 8 to 1 with Dick voting no.

CRANES: Dick moved and Justin seconded a motion to become partners with CRANES. The motion passed unanimously.

Dick moved to pay \$100 to CRANES for the dues and Justin seconded. Dana said we have about \$2300 in the account. The motion failed 3 to 8 with Justin, Dick and Dorothy voting in favor

Jan moved to pay \$50 for dues for the first year membership and Muriel seconded. That motion passed unanimously.

Sheri said that we needed to be involved in this organization with a representative besides Don. Dick volunteered to attend the meetings and perhaps other directors will join him.

Send your legislator down the river: Muriel moved to pay a maximum of \$50 to buy bottled water for the occasion. Justin seconded. The motion passed the board unanimously. Justin volunteered to bring a large container of lemonade and he also volunteered to get the Cherokee Marsh display and other materials from Muriel's garage to use at the Nautigal for a table top display. Justin will also contact the organizers and have a place for people to get water. Jan has invited all the members via email and Facebook. Dinner will be served at the Nautigal and then canoes will be launched from the pier off of School Road. (June 7th, 2010 at the Nautigal. Registration at 4:00 pm.)

Take a Stake in the lakes: On June 12th the Friends of Cherokee Marsh will clean up an area off Wheeler Road, a ditch that runs to the canal. Dick has notified the Lakes and Watershed Commission that the Friends have a plan. Dick offered to put up posters. Dick will notify trash collectors to pick up the stuff that is gathered from the clean-up. Dick will write up our purpose for the Cherokee Marsh newsletter. He will put the information on Facebook and Northsidediscuss, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed development in Subarea 1 of Cherokee Park. Muriel spoke with Ken Swanson who represented the developer, Independent Living. Muriel will try to arrange a meeting with Ken Swanson and other parties involved and will also invite them to our June meeting. Muriel will let us know their response.

Justin talked about WPCRC and the fact that no food can be brought into that establishment for gatherings. Food has to be purchased from approved caterers. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Wheeler, Secretary