

Minutes

Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board Meeting

March 12, 2008, 5:30 pm

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

Present: Jan Axelson, Jon Becker, Don Hammes, Muriel Simms, Aaron Stephenson, Dorothy Wheeler

Guests: Si Widstrand, Madison Parks Division, Kenneth Bradbury, Hydrogeologist

SECRETARY REPORT

Correction to the Feb. minutes: AStephenson provided a corrected balance of \$933.72.

MSimms moved to adopt the minutes with that correction, AStephenson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER REPORT

AStephenson reported a balance of \$820.58.

MSimms moved to adopt the report with that correction, JBecker seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

SPECIAL

City of Madison Parks: Cherokee Marsh priorities

Comments from SWidstrand:

Final approval for the Fifth Addition is likely this May.

Final approval for the eastern wetland is awaiting DNR grant approval and the governor's approval. No problems expected.

How to handle the High Hill area isn't resolved. The City may buy land instead of a conservation easement.

Resolutions may be introduced to the Common Council on April 8 with action at the end of April.

Wheeler Triangle: the City and CPI will split ownership of the 75-ft wetland buffer area.

City Engineering has concerns about runoff in Subareas 1 and 2. Currently runoff traverses the wetlands before it goes to the golf course. An alternative would be to send the runoff across Sherman Ave., directly to the golf course. This routing would reduce pollution in the wetland but might increase the water in the Cherokee Park neighborhood.

The replacement storm-sewer pipe at the corner of Burning Wood Way and Comanche Way will carry a small amount of additional water from the new development at that corner.

CPI is providing sightline diagrams to Parks for planned developments.

Existing Cherokee Marsh master plans include:

1970: covers the educational area.

1981: preservation plan.

mid 1980s: vegetation management plan.

State Natural Area management plan (?).

There has been no recent talk of providing a Visitors Center for the Conservation Park.

Flood plain maps: the DNR maps have 4-ft contours. The City maps have higher resolution.

City Parks has no plans to rename Cherokee Marsh?

A bridge at Menomonie Lane has been in the plans for many years but there is no schedule for putting the bridge in.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2008/09 Board Goals

We'll discuss goals at JBecker's house, March 15th, 11 am to 1 pm.

2. Nature walks/outings

AStephenson: Emily Steinwehe will lead a Friends-sponsored walk in the marsh April 12, 10 am to noon.

3. Fieldwork

JAxelson: Proposed Resolution:

FOCM will sponsor a volunteer day for lake-sedge planting in May in cooperation with the wetland mitigation efforts by Meade and Hunt along Hwy CV.

The motion was unanimously approved. JAxelson will check on who is responsible for the event (liability).

4. Capital Area Regional Plan Commission

JBecker: the CARPC advocates group might be able to help with Cherokee issues.

5. City of Madison Parks (R Hefty): Yahara River carp barrier

JAxelson reported that Parks has no plans to pursue this.

6. Dane County Conservation Fund Committee: Phase II

We should advocate at future hearings.

7. Madison Metro Sewerage District: survey/hearing

JAxelson: the survey deadline is past. No action required.

8. CPI communications: update

JBecker wrote a letter to CPI following up on the previous meeting with the Friends. On receiving approval from board members, JBecker will send the letter.

9. 2008/09 Board director recruitment: update

JBecker has contacted several potential new board members.

10. Time Bank

Tabled until next year. AStephenson will inform the Time Bank.

11. Board general liability insurance

Tabled.

12. Grants

JAxelson:

Background:

I've been looking into applying for a DNR River Protection Planning Grant to pay the application fee for applying for federal tax-exempt status (\$300), an attorney to advise us on the application (\$500), and print more brochures (\$100-\$200).

I've talked with a DNR grant specialist, and all of the above items can qualify. These grants will not pay for board liability insurance. They give high ranking to activities that build membership. We have to kick in 25% of the cost in dollars or labor.

We can add other things to the request but I'm reluctant to get overly ambitious with this first request. We can apply with new requests every year.

The grant application deadline is May 1. I'm willing to do the work but would like to get started on it asap.

To meet the DNR's requirements for applying, I request that we approve the DNR's model resolution authorizing me to apply for a grant.

MSimms moved to adopt the resolution as written. The motion was unanimously approved, and the resolution was signed by JAxelson and JBecker.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Storm sewer pipe replacement in Cherokee Park

MSimms will gather our questions and comments to submit to alder Schumacher.

2. Clean Yahara Partnership

JBecker is in contact with this group.

3. Website: secure archive upload folder; records backup protocols

No new info.

4. County Friends of Friends meeting

We can sponsor a meeting in July if we wish.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

16 APR 2008 (WED) 5:30-7:30p, Lakeview Branch, Madison Public Library

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dane County's Groundwater: Where it comes from, where it goes

Presented by: Kenneth Bradbury, Hydrogeologist

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey/University of Wisconsin-Extension

Attendance: 19.

JAxelson will write up the presentation for the Northside News.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Axelson