



Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes

January 15, 2015

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Charlie Visek, Ryan Anderson, Ron Gonder, Tim Moran, Gregg Stark, Gary Thompson, Glenn Kimball, Nate Whipple, David Andrews, Daniel Gibbins, Sandy Pumphrey, Kate Hawkins, Dan Miller, Rich Patterson, Marty St. Clair, Stacie Johnson, Don Steichen, Karen Erger, Mari Phelan, Ron Kositzky, Demetrius Hadjis, Marlin McMann,

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes from 12/17/15 were approved.

Outreach

Great coverage in the Gazette of Tom Podzimek ice surfing on the lake; spotlighted the lake and additional recreational opportunities. FOCL will have a table at Paddle Day at Indian Creek Nature Center next week.

Incorporation Update

Erger shared our Articles of Incorporation and By Laws required for filing for 501c3 status. The Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation has agreed to facilitate holding and distribution of future funds for minimal fee.

MOU

The Mayor showing his support for our efforts has really moved things forward. At his request, we drafted a Memorandum of Understanding for the City, County, Alliant Energy and Friends of Cedar Lake. This is mirrored after similar documents from other communities that are dealing with potentially contaminated sites. It lays out the ground rules for discussion. Todd, Wyrick and Erger met with Mayor Corbett, City Manager Pomeranz, Asst. City Manager Sandi Fowler, Angie Charipar, and Steve Hershner to review their revisions to our document. They had abbreviated it considerably so we compared it to our original document and it is now back with the City for review. The key is that Alliant is now included in the MOU which will go to the Council for approval next week.

This new "entity" is still a work in progress and we will be redefining the role of FCL's involvement as we move forward. There is no doubt the group's value will continue even though roles may change. For example, we need a Water Management plan so that needs to keep moving forward.

We laid out a timeline for the Mayor and Pomeranz that starts with Phase 1 assessment of information gathered to date to hopefully give a level of comfort to stakeholders that the lake doesn't have extreme environmental issues. Phase 2 will involve environmental testing to begin late summer or early fall. Once this is complete, the way is more readily cleared for transfer of ownership and we would be positioned to start securing funding end of 2015 or early 2016.

There maybe push back from the community from individuals who don't understand what's going on at the lake. And there will be old perceptions to overcome so we must continue to be vigilant in our efforts.

Overview of TAC committee meeting

The focus of the discussion was on reduction of sedimentation coming into the lake regardless of what happens with flood protection. We came up with the following statement of our goals around this. **"The Friends of Cedar Lake encourages the City of Cedar Rapids to mount an assertive and comprehensive effort to enhance storm water infiltration to reduce the risk of damage from flash flooding, enhance safety and reduce the flow of sediment and storm water into Cedar Lake. We pledge to assist in building a coalition of concerned citizens and groups to help with this effort."** The next step will be for Patterson and St. Clair to meet with Pumphrey, Hutchison, Johnson, et. al. to make sure we're all on the same page, working together and not duplicating effort. Storm water management is mandatory for consideration for the DNR Lake Restoration Program.

Wyrick also shared that the group concluded we need to stop using the term "dredging" when discussing cleanup of the sedimentation. We need more positive messaging since dredging equals big bucks in many people's minds. We want to state our goal as **"Looking for the best solution to increase the depth of the lake to ensure the long term health of the fishery."**

Role of Railroads

We haven't engaged them yet, but we will soon as part of our involvement with Coe and St. Luke's efforts to improve trail access for students and the hospital population. This component was part of the plan that Confluence put together for us so we will begin putting numbers to the work that will need to be done.

Ash Ponds

A lot of questions remain about Alliant's responsibility for cleaning them up, if there could be a secondary use for them such as sedimentation disposal, what DOT restrictions are regarding mitigation efforts around the support pillars for the interstate, etc. We will continue to investigate their role.

Iowa Storm Water Education Program

Stacie Johnson reported that they are applying for an EPA environmental education grant. ISWEP did a pilot study in the McLeod Run neighborhood working with residents to reduce run off and increase pollution control. They would like to expand that program in to the Cedar Lake Watershed vs just a neighborhood. This watershed is ideal because it includes 50% impervious surface and is comprised of 7,000 households plus industry. They want to work with FCL on this effort. Watershed practices are another requirement for the DNR Lake Restoration Program.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM

Next meeting: February 19, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick