



Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes

October 2, 2014

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Leland Frieie, Charlie Viser, Ryan Anderson, Ron Gonder, Tim Moran, Gregg Stark, Karen Erger, Rich Patterson, Marty Sinclair, Mike Easley, Ron Valenta, Gary Thompson?

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

Minutes from August 21 were approved.

Outreach

Ryan presented the urban lake restoration success stories ppt to the City Development Committee. He added photos of the aerial views of the south cell of the lake starting in 2000 and ending with the shots after the June rain event. This demonstrates the critical to need to do something about the sedimentation. Feedback was positive and good questions were asked. Chair Monica Vernon spoke out in favor of moving the lake up in terms of a priority for the City. Council members Weinacht, Shey and Poe were also supportive.

The Mayor has also shown a high level of interest. The businesses on Shaver Rd have had conversations with Council about flood protection. Some of the push back we've seen to extend protection is cost. A blue sky figure that's being discussed is \$50 million and we are questioning that figure, especially considering it is only \$35 million for the Cargill protection. The railroad is interested as well because they always take on water when flooding occurs. It also came to our attention that the Corp plan crosses the tracks seven times; the preferred plan only crosses twice. The Mayor is getting behind protecting the lake so that we can get in the DNR Lake Restoration Program. We are asking the DNR for a letter that states that fact. He has also proposed the idea of extending the local option tax two years to fund the additional levy to protect the lake.

We continue to talk to the City about extending the Confluence Greenway Plan to include Cedar Lake, estimates at \$15,000. The extension would put numbers to our plan so we are equipped to go after funds for sedimentation cleanup, trail improvements, etc. Getting Council approval would be a significant victory because it means the majority supports the future of Cedar Lake.

Sag Wagon Clean Up is set for 10/18.

Water Levels

Tim voiced concerns about the water levels during the winter. When Alliant was using the lake, there were boards in place to keep the levels steady. Those have been removed. Wyrick will reach out to Alliant about putting those boards back.

St. Luke's Involvement

Felicia gave a quick recap of her walk around the lake with CEO Ted Townsend in the spring so that his facility manager who was in attendance, Mike Easley, was aware of his reaction and support. Mike shared that he is working with Mike White at Coe for cleanup of Coe Road. They discussed with Hall and Hall that if they could connect the north side of Coe and St. Luke's to the lake for students and the hospital population, how many properties would have to be crossed. Their goal is to connect the medical corridor to the lake trail. We will try to coordinate this effort with our efforts for trail expansion.

5013c Status

Karen has nearly completed our articles of incorporation. Once they are filed, we can apply for our 501c3 status. In reaction to discussion about engaging legislation to challenge Iowa's EPA regulations for decommissioning coal plants, she cautioned that we cannot lobby for any legislation as a 501c3. All activities are supposed to be charitable, educational, etc

City's Comprehensive & Greenway Plans

Dale talked to the consultant that was hired to do the city's comprehensive plan and she reported that they didn't get much public input for restoration of the lake. If the plan comes out with no mention of the lake, it won't offer much credibility for FCL. Felicia mentioned that timing could become an advantage that pushes Cedar Lake initiatives ahead of Greenway plans. Since the location of the levees on the west side has yet to be determined, nothing can move forward. Cedar Lake doesn't have these barriers for forward progress.

Sedimentation Discussion

There was discussion about the rapid growth of the "island" in the south cell. Although run off from the interstate, especially when it is sanded during the winter months, contributes to the buildup, it isn't the main source of sedimentation. During any rain event, McCloud Run is completely brown with sedimentation which dumps into the lake. Utilizing the diversion gate at McCloud Run would be a great resource for controlling the amount of sedimentation that flows into the lake. It could be diverted to the Cedar River instead. The storm sewers are also a primary source and the city seems to be doing some work on this, although the lake doesn't seem to be a priority. These issues are why the DNR requires a watershed management plan to be a part of the Lake Restoration application process. We need to look into more signage designating that you are in the Cedar Lake Watershed to raise awareness.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM

Next meeting: November 20, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick