



## **Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes**

November 17, 2016

**Attendees:** Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Charlie Visek, Leland Freie, Kate Hawkins, Bugs Moran, Mari Phelan, Martin Smith, Ron Gonder, Kate Hawkins, Gary Thompson

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **Treasurers Report**

CRBT – \$11,650                      GCRCF - \$18,689

These balances don't reflect outstanding invoices for Pros Consulting for the Feasibility Study and photo contest prizes. Updated balance will be \$17,795.

### **Cedar Lake Through A Lens Photo Contest Winners**

Felicia shared the top three winners in the four submission categories – sky, nature, people and wildlife. We had 85 entries which is a great level of participation for our first try at a contest. We plan to hold another one in the spring. The winners will be publicly announced at the Festival of Trees, an event that draws around 8,000 visitors. Thanks to the Gazette and Linn Area Photo Club for their assistance. Charlie suggested reaching out to businesses, i.e. dentist offices, that have screens that the winners can be displayed on to widen our exposure. Other suggestions included the Sag Wagon, the Water Department and City Hall.

### **Outreach**

Felicia shared some of the names that are being considered for our fundraising campaign – which will be done in conjunction with the Sleeping Giant Bridge. This is being done at the suggestion of Hall Perrine Foundation and other potential contributors who felt both projects would benefit by making only one ask.

The group shared some concerns but was assured that the mission of our group isn't going to change. Friends of Cedar Lake will continue to focus on the lake as a standalone project and we're taking care to keep our loyal FB followers engaged about our progress. The combined campaign is for fundraising purposes only and a lot of details in terms of how the funds will be allocated are still being determined.

The new name and promotional video will be debuted at our next advisory committee, sometime after the first of the year.

## **MOU Update**

While we had hoped that the Phase II study would have started this summer, we had a positive call with Mel Pins, IDNR, and feel confident that the testing will begin in December, with results to report in February or sooner. Depending on results, the next step will be transfer of ownership. Mary Meisterling from Alliant suggested that we get the paperwork in place so that we're ready to go when the time comes.

We presented the Feasibility Study and Ralph Russell had some questions which we passed on to Pros Consultants for clarification. Our hope is that we can present the Feasibility Study to Council after the first of the year.

Ralph also wanted to be sure that Parks and Rec were on board with our final Master Plan. Felicia reminded the group of the two presentations we've given to the P&R Commission as well as small group meetings with Director Sven Leff and his staff, who were also engaged during the research stage of the Feasibility Study. Sven also mentioned he anticipated investments in Cedar Lake impacting P&R efforts in 2017 in his report about upcoming efforts from his staff during the November Commission meeting.

Martin asked about engaging the railroads and we can't do that until we have full support from the City and a very specific site plan. Charlie asked about the status of the City on the Stickle property and we don't know at this point.

## **Flood Control**

There was discussion regarding the gate between the river and the lake. In preparation for a media interview during the most recent threat of flooding, Felicia talked to IDNR about the impact on their support without the lake having flood protection. They assured us that it wasn't a deal killer and reiterated the need for a thorough hydrological study of the interaction between the river and the lake. They are clearly supportive of our efforts and will offer their expertise when the time comes.

## **Good of the Order**

Kate has talked to Sven about moving the "Frame" from Prairie Park to Cedar Lake to help promote the area. This is a huge metal frame that people use for photo opps that moves from park to park. Felicia will follow up with Sven.

Kudos to Charlie for cleaning out the grate to allow McLeod Run to flow more freely into the lake. Water levels have improved and we need to get this onto a regular maintenance schedule with the City.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

**Next meeting:** January 19, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick