



## **Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes**

January 21, 2016

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Charlie Visek, Leland Freie, Ron Gonder, Gary Thompson, Gregg Stark, Bugs Moran, Mari Phelan, Cara Matteson

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

We have around \$42,000 between our GCRCF and CRBT account.

We hired Clifton Gunderson for tax preparation assistance and also a back up to Karen. This should amount to about \$150.00 a year.

### **Board Meeting**

FCL board met on 1/9/16 and committed to meet quarterly to fulfill the parameters set out for 501(c)3 organizations.

### **Outreach**

Presenting to newest City Council member Scott Overland tomorrow. The second nature walk will be held on Saturday, 1/23, and will be led by Jan Aiels from Indian Creek Nature Center, who co-sponsors the walks. Presenting to the local Sierra Club on Sunday. They've adopted Cedar Lake as their community project for 2016. They'll be teaming up with Trees Forever and hopefully Parks Department as well during our spring cleanup to make some progress toward removing invasive plant species and possibly some plantings. Meeting with Coe professor who's teaching an advocacy class to see if there is an opportunity for the students to do a project at the lake this spring. We are still working on a photography contest and we are hopeful Linn County Photo Club will take it on as their community project.

### **MOU Update**

The City submitted the EPA Assessment Grant application. They secured several letters of support from FOCL, Alliant, Economic Alliance, Linn County, etc. Our initial master plan was part of the submittal as well. We will find out if we receive the grant in April. We lobbied for putting together a Plan B for funding Phase II testing if we don't get the grant and City staff is working on that now. Making progress

toward a letter of intent to transfer ownership of the lake. It may come before the council as early as their first March meeting.

### **Watershed Management Plan**

This is a requirement for applying for the Lake Restoration Fund so they know there is a plan to reduce the amount of sediment that gets into the lake. The City is already working on a watershed management plan with HDR. We met with HDR and they've offered to assist us pro bono. This was presented to the MOU group and while they support this partnership, they don't want us to work in isolation. We need to coordinate with the City's efforts so the overall plan not only meets our needs for the lake restoration fund, but also dovetails with the storm water plan.

### **Masterplan Update**

Ryan from Confluence presented the revised master plan which will be unveiled, including tweaks from our core group, at the public open house on Feb. 4.

I380 project for cleaning up the vegetation along Shaver Rd is also still in the works. Need to coordinate these efforts with the DOT component of the master plan.

Highlights from the plan include:

- Wildlife overlook structure on the North Shore
- Boat house with ADA accessible boat dock on the East Shore
- Art/foundation installation in the highly visible South Cell
- Expanded parking on the West Shore

The estimate for all of the amenities came in at \$8.8 million, a very doable number from the perspective that it can largely come from the private sector. There may be some additional additions based on suggestions from the group at our meeting. Those will be incorporated into the final plan.

There was discussion about the flow of McLeod Run and its impact on the plan. While it increases the size of the watershed and carries sedimentation into the lake, it is also Iowa's only freshwater trout stream and it provides an important ecological benefit to the lake. Some options for controlling the flow of the stream into the lake were brought up, i.e. reducing flow during rain events and increasing it when water levels are low.

There were also a couple recommendations suggested by Charlie: to establish suitable access to west side parking for kayak launching from plan's west side sand landing, and establish another kayak launch area at the St. Luke's/Coe College access. And a concern was expressed about maintaining fishing opportunities in Tuna Bay (outflow area). These will be discussed with Confluence and hopefully incorporated into the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20.

Next meeting: February 11, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick