



Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes

May 19, 2016

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Charlie Visek, Ron Gonder, Martin St. Clair, Bill Quinby, Gary Thompson, Leland Freie, Bugs Moran, Glenn Kimball, Madison Clark, Kate Hawkins, Gregg Stark, Jeff McCloud, Mark Mathis

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

CRBT \$2003.64

GCRFCF \$26,965.47

Outreach

Charlie, Felicia and Dale manned our table at EcoFest 4/23 with a 100+ engaged conversation. Rich's Nature Walk on May 5 had 25+ attendees. He and his wife Marion put together a nice video documenting the event. Rich and Charlie are working on a walking guide which we plan to post on our website. We'll be tabling at the Irish District Fest June 18 and also participating in the Family Fun Day on June 26. Charlie is finalizing details for the Cedar Lake Fishing Tournament June 18 and needs volunteers for marshals. Kate pointed out the ongoing coverage in the Gazette has been very supportive. Felicia played the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation video they put together to promote our effort to contributors. The video can be viewed on our Face Book page and website. We'll also be included in their printed Annual Report.

Watershed Management

Stacie Johnson wrote an NRPA grant that helps with educating neighborhoods like Mound View, a fairly large unserved population, on watershed management practices. It also has funding for building rain gardens. Marty pointed out that the City is getting on board for cost sharing for citizens for practices like these. We need to engage the large property owners on watershed practices as well. These activities will help us be ready for the watershed piece of the Lake Restoration Program application.

Easter Lake

Felicia and Gary attended a tour of Easter Lake in Des Moines at the invitation of the Lake Restoration Program reps who were at our last meeting. The primary focus of the tour was on their watershed management program, which has been underway for about two years. Below are the highlights.

Overview

- County Park managed by PCCB
- 178 acre lake, old coal mine
- Fed by Yeager Creek
- Master plan – 2003
- Water quality assessment – 2009
- Watershed project manager hired - 2013

Partnerships

- City of Des Moines
- IDALS
- IDNR
- Iowa State University
- Local Stakeholders
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Polk County Conservation
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

Watershed Management Practices

Sediment Retention Basin

- Constructed at mouth of main inflow
- 20 feet deep
- One dredge point for long term sediment management
- City has invested \$1m eliminating sediment “hot spots” upstream
- Bioswales and Raingardens with educational signage

After one year of implementation, there’s been a 34% reduction in flow to the lake from one test neighborhood.

Dredging

- Began in 2015, continues through mid-2017
- Hired Dredge America
- With input from DNR, determined 9 ft. target depth
- Equals 600,000 cubic yards of sediment
- Requires 80 acre deposit site
- Pipe transports sediment 2 miles away to inactive coal mine
- Runs under Des Moines River
- Pipe sinks with weight of sediment
- Cost estimate - \$5.8

These costs were equally shared between the DNR and Polk County. We talked to George Antinou about the idea he brought up during his Cedar Lake tour of using part of the South Cell as a depository for our dredge material. The knoll is another alternative, both of which would be vastly closer in proximity than the Easter Lake project so our costs should be significantly less.

The Easter Lake Watershed is making progress because of partners who are committed to making measurable impacts. Cedar Lake's Watershed efforts will succeed too once we secure cooperation and tap into the expertise available to us.

Capital Campaign

We are in the process of putting together an advisory committee to organize our capital campaign. Jack Evans at Hall Perrine Foundation advised that we should roll The Sleeping Giant into our project so we can make one ask. He believes this will make both projects more attractive because it makes it more of a community project. We believe this will also bolster our application when we submit it to the Enhance Iowa Fund next session.

Destination Cedar Rapids, as the project is currently being called, links the trail hub around Cedar Lake with the 3rd Street Corridor, which is now completely bike friendly all the way down to NewBo then continues on over to the Sleeping Giant bridge. There was a stunning photo of the bridge in the Gazette that captured the wow factor the designers were charged with, and the Gazette editorial board soundly endorsed the concept in a lead editorial last week.

We are currently interviewing companies who will help us with our messaging to be sure potential funders can easily grasp what we're trying to accomplish.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10.

Next meeting: June 16, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick