



## **Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes**

June 18, 2015

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Charlie Visek, Bugs Moran, Greg Nalley, Steve Kalkhoff, Leland Freie, Rich Patterson, Mari Phelan, Ron Gonder, Sven Leff, Mike Kuntz, Ryan Anderson, Rosie O'Donnell, Carl Watts, Gary Thompson, Jared Gould, Wendall Gould, Heather Berard, Steve Sovern, Kurt Nilsson.

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

Minutes from 5/21/15 were approved.

### **Outreach**

We presented to Cargill and had great support. They had questions about what Alliant planned for the land where the plant is being demolished. If they're interested in it, they assured us that they would work with us to not encroach on our plans for the lake.

We are in the process of becoming a Blue Zones Certified organization. As part of that effort, we are establishing a walk around the lake every Tuesday at 5:15. This will be another great community outreach effort to engage new supporters. Mari would also like to gauge interest in an informational walk around the lake so email Felicia if you'd like to participate. We're tabling at Irish District Fest and once again, the Voice of Cedar Lake is playing.

Felicia showed some ideas for T-shirts and window decals to get input from the group. You can sign up to order a T-shirt at the next meeting.

Dale met with the new Iowa DNR Director George Antioque and he is very supportive of the lake. They're willing to offer their expertise to help select an engineering firm for the remediation plan. We now have both the DNR's environmental and watershed staff engaged with what we're doing.

Debbie Durham from the Iowa Department of Economic Development will be touring the lake July 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Flood Protection Update**

Felicia went to the City's Flood Protection Planning Committee meeting and heard their presentation about their visit to Fargo and Grand Forks to observe their flood protection systems. The plan that was recommended to be presented to the City Council is the Army Corp of Engineers plan that doesn't extend north of Quaker to protect the lake. In public comment we went on record to say that Friends of Cedar Lake will continue to advocate for protection of the lake not only to make us eligible for the Lake Restoration Program but also that we think it is a huge oversight to ignore the \$25+ million investment that businesses on Shaver Road made to come back after the flood.

**MOU Update**

The study group is discussing Phase II environmental studies to determine what is in the sediment on the bottom of the lake. The City is researching the process to apply for an EPA Environmental Assessment Grant for the lake. We are also discussing how the \$30-50k testing grant from USGS fits in.

We continue to get very positive input from Alliant that they are ready to transfer ownership of the lake. The City needs a level of comfort about what they'll be responsible for when that transfer takes place. We've talked to Ivan Webber, an environmental attorney with Cooney-Alhers in Des Moines about crafting an agreement between Alliant and the City to give both parties a sense of comfort in terms of potential liability. We are pushing for an aggressive timeline for this transfer so we're ready to advocate for funding before the next legislative session in the fall.

**Trail Signage**

We continue to talk to the city and trails association about the need for mile markers on the lake for safety reasons. Although we know that a lot of work has been done on a comprehensive plan, we are concerned that as the trail around the lake becomes even busier, the possibility for accidents increases. The markers will make it easier for emergency responders to find folks who may be injured and need medical attention.

Sven said they are in the process of branding all of our parks with signage that doesn't look like a park sign from the 50's. They are also taking into consideration the mile markers for the entire trail system so it takes time.

The kiosks have been taken down because the encasement doors had been damaged.

**Confluence Master Plan**

We want to get this plan finalized with budgets in place in a short time frame. Finalizing the plan will involve some open houses, engaging the Parks Dept., etc. to get input and make sure it fits with the Parks Master Plan. We will also work with our stakeholders like Cargill, Quaker, Coe and St. Lukes and other property owners around the lake.

**Watershed Management Plan**

A copy of the Indian Creek plan was shared with the group. We need to put a plan together for the Cedar Lake Watershed and we think we can use the plan as a model to jump start our efforts.

**Good of the Order**

We need to keep submitting letters to the editor, advocating for flood protection, city ownership, etc. and keep our momentum going.

Charlie urged us to continue to include the South Cell in our revitalization plan and not just let it silt in. The South Cell is critical because of its visibility from 380 and as a component of the hydrology of the lake.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Next meeting: July 16, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick