



# Friends of Cedar Lake

## Meeting Minutes

### 10/17/13

## Attendees

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Present: Cedar Rapids City Council Members Pat Shey, Kris Gulick, Chuck Swore. Paul Sleeper, Rich Patterson, Felicia Wyrick, Daniel Gibbins, Ron Valenta, Steve Hershner, Jason Toms, Greg Brenneman, Marty St. Clair, Martin Smith, Dale Todd, Kevin Kirchner, Mike Butterfield, Kurt Nilsson, John Hager, Jennifer Warner, Robin Kash, Leland Freie.

## Old Business

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Minutes from September 26th meeting were approved.

## New Business

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Todd detailed the components needed to apply for 501c3 non-profit status: board, officers, by-laws, mission statement. He reiterated the importance of community support in terms of gaining support from the DNR and getting on their list. They have a "priority" lakes category and have the authority to get Cedar Lake on the list if there is adequate public support from the public for this next legislative session.

The issue of lake ownership was discussed and as long as the lake is in the process of being transferred to the city ultimately, the DNR (Deputy Director) does not see this as a problem in the ability of the lake to get into the program.

Todd acknowledged that City cooperation would also be important. Mary Meisterling, Alliant's liaison to the City, is preparing to present the company's plan for the power plant, remediation, etc., at FCL's December meeting. It is still to be determined if remediation costs that Alliant is spending could be given as in kind contributions, which will help with the local funding match required from the DNR for consideration for the "priority" lakes category in the DNR Lake Restoration program?

The inclusion of the watershed is integral to the DNR's consideration. Todd encouraged the steering committee to spend the fall months reviewing the parameters set out by the DNR for the Lake Restoration program because FCL can spring board from it and doesn't have to reinvent the wheel.



Todd talked about the importance of branding in terms of a logo, website, Facebook. FCL has over 500 friends already. Branding is important in outreach efforts and for funding requests. Leland Frie from the Audubon Society offered some possible funding for permanent signage at the Cedar Lake trail parking lot that would promote the effort and chronicle progress.

First draft of mission statement reviewed: Suggested wording changes in red.

Friends of Cedar Lake is a coalition of stakeholders committed to creating community support to improve and protect Cedar Lake and adjacent area, and its watershed by developing and implementing a plan to improve the lake's water quality, enhance the fishery and provide **additional recreational opportunities**.

Todd will send a first draft of by-laws for review before the next meeting.

Steve Herschner, City of Cedar Rapids Director of Utilities talked about the need to review existing water quality testing data. Marti St. Clair from Coe College offered help in this process. The Technical Advisory Committee will spend the fall months reviewing current data to see what else is needed.

Todd shared that some stakeholders that have verbally committed support/funding. Members of the City Council, Economic Alliance, Linn County Supervisors, State Senator Rob Hogg, St Luke's and other corporations have been contacted. Mayor Corbett and City Manager Pomerantz are excited about this project as well. Once those stakeholders are on board, FCL will have a better chance for asking for ancillary funding.

Daniel Gibbins, City Parks Supervisor, talked about the possibility of getting a temporary put in dock for non-motorized boats being doable. Paul Sleeper said he would help.

Attendees were encouraged to email Todd about their interest in sitting on one of the committees:

- Steering/Board of Directors
- Technical Advisory (TAC)
- Funding-Infrastructure
- Media Outreach
- Recreation

## Next Meeting

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Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.

Cedar Rapids Water Department Administration Bldg. 1111 Shaver Rd NE, Lower Level Conference Room

## Next Meeting Agenda Items

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U.S. Army Corp Flood Prevention Plan for Lake Area

Meeting adjourned at 6:05.

