



# Friends of Cedar Lake Meeting Minutes 11/14/13

## Attendees

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Present: Don Steichen, Don Clow, Kurt Nillson, Chuck Swore, Dan Gibbins, Dale Todd, Mike Kuntz, Anthony Brown, John Hager, Will McIntee, Felicia Wyrick, Lu Barron, Ron Valenta, Fred Mischler, Kevin Kirchner, David Dechamp, Gary Thompson, Mike Easely, Martin Smith, Susie Weinacht, Marty St. Clair, Mike Butterfield, Phil Platz,

## Old Business

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Minutes from the 10/15 meeting were approved.

## New Business

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Those in attendance were designated as the board and the slate of officers was approved.

Todd presented bylaws which are in a format recommended by IRS and HUD that details the Friends of Cedar Lake's structure and protocol. These are very basic bylaws that we need to have in place to apply to the Secretary of State for 501c3 status. The bylaws were approved.

Todd circulated a list of current board members with committee assignments. Elections were held and a slate of officers was presented, Felicia Wyrick was elected secretary, Rich Patterson was elected vice – chair and Dale Todd was elected chair. Steve Hershner respectively declined the position of treasurer based on his current work load, budget season.

**Media Outreach** – Wyrick presented the logo that has been chosen for our initiative. Phillip Platz designed it and will also be working with Wyrick and committee to develop our website which is set to launch by the end of the year. As of meeting time we have 580 friends on our Facebook page. As part of outreach, we want to solicit support from groups that should be at the table. Bass Masters, Running Club, bird watchers, etc.

**Recreation** – Wyrick is co-chairing this committee with Sven Leff, City of Cedar Rapids Director of Park and Recreation. She stressed that recruiting groups is not only important for media exposure, but also for



recreation. A calendar of events will be put together to have regular events that will engage these groups such as an organized run, or bike ride or Sticks in the Water paddle day. This will help build awareness in the community that the lake can be used now even while we're in the revitalization planning process. TAC/Technical Advisory – Kuntz reported that the committee reviewed information from the DNR website about the Lake Restoration and Prioritization Program. We need to get the DNR involved and have made contact with a couple of individuals already. McLeod Run empties into Cedar Lake and there is a benefit for the cold water going into the lake. The committee made some requests for more information about the existing diversion structure and how the grate can be kept clean so the flow continues. Kuntz researched the StoreIt and SnapChat websites for available date.

One of the goals of the project is a water quality plan. The TAC committee, which is made up of City Water Department and Engineering staff, Terracon, HDR, etc., will gather baseline data and offer suggestions for the plan. Once we can determine how much the plan will cost, we'll develop an RFP for the professional services we need. We know that there could be some significant costs but the good news is the lake is not as bad as is perceived. We need to determine the necessary amenities such as stabilizing the banks, boat docks, fishing piers, landscape improvements, land acquisition.

We've generated discussions among the local branches of government, i.e the County, City Council, City Manager and the Mayor, all of which could assist with the development of planning resources and funding sources. At the State level, we've had informal conversations with Matt McCoy, Chair of Infrastructure Committee, Joe Bolkum, Senate Appropriations and Natural Resources, Bill Dotzler, Chair of Senate Economic Development Sub-Committee. We need to get our plan in place to communicate our needs to them and also present to the City Development committee in December or January.

Sen. Rob Hogg discussed the possibility of Cedar Rapids getting into the Lake Restoration program with Chuck Gipp, State DNR Director. It appears that other cities that will be advocating for more funding in Vision Iowa, etc. that we missed the opportunity to receive last time around. Secretary Vilsack has noted that Iowa hasn't been given some of the water restoration funds that are distributed by the Department of Agriculture.

Supervisor Barron shared that not only are the County Supervisors on board, she also chairs the County Conservation Board and she is certain they will be interested in helping too.

Mike Butterfield, Project Engineer with HDR Engineering gave a presentation on Cedar Rapids' Flood Protection and the Future of Cedar Lake. A summary follows:

In the coming years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood management plan for the City of Cedar Rapids will come to fruition. The differences between the USACE plan and the City's preferred plan mean that, unless the City's plan is implemented, Cedar Lake will remain vulnerable to flooding similar to the 2008 flood.

- The preferred plan includes floodwall & levee that extends past Cedar Lake up to Mohawk Park. Protecting Cedar Lake enables future economic development & benefits.
- The northern end of the USACE plan terminates the floodwall on the north side of the Quaker Oats



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and Cargill facilities. Engineering design for the initial phases in front of Quaker Oats is currently being managed by the Public Works Department.

- Current floodplain maps show that Cedar Lake is not inundated by Cedar River flooding until a river stage of approximately 22.5 feet, one foot lower than the 100 year return period.
- Cedar Lake is divided into a northern and southern economic reach in the USACE study. The economic benefit for the northern reach is much lower than the southern reach. So, by including the northern reach in the plan, the benefit-cost ratio is lowered.
- Storm water flows from Kenwood Ditch are the most significant influent flows to the lake, requiring a storm water pump station to protect Cedar Lake and the surrounding property from internal flooding.
- Water quality restoration efforts can move forward regardless of flood protection provided for Cedar Lake. Implementing & maintaining water quality will be easier done by implementing the City's preferred flood management plan to protect the Cedar Lake area.

Discussion followed about what can be done to improve the water quality while flood protection work is being done. Concern was voiced about Kenwood Ditch flowing into the lake. HDR has been thinking about some short term plan that will capture the sediment before it goes into the lake. Swore suggested that HDR's assessment should be shared with Joe O'Hern?? So the City's plan can be scrutinized with their information.

A question was raised about possible funding from the State that might be eligible to do something without having to get into the lake, remove sediment pre-lake and improve water quality. One challenge is that there is no open land to create a sediment basin. If we don't find a solution soon, the southern cell will fill up and we'll lose the circulation.

At what point is the City going to say Kenwood Ditch is full. A common City response is you can't remove the sediment because that process will stir things up. DNR says the sediment can be removed with no problems. There was a plan in 1910 to bring McLeod run straight into the lake because fish were dying. That is spring-fed water and it's important to keep the circulation going.

Todd wrapped up the meeting with an overview of the steps that need to be taken to get the Master Plan in place. At the next meeting, Hoeger will bring a list of all of the property owners around the lake. Meisterling will also present Alliant's progress on the decommissioning process. Todd admonished the board to reach out to state lawmakers to let them know how important this is before the current session adjourns. Wyrick suggested that we develop key talking points so we are consistent with our communication.

## Next Meeting

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December 12th, 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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Prelim Site Design Work Presentation

