I. CALL TO ORDER.
   • Mr. Hampton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.
   • The draft agenda was approved without changes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 10, 2021)
   • The following changes were requested: Page 3, second bullet point from the bottom, Ms. Chase suggested this addition: Mayor Anderson stated that American Rescue Plan money could not be used for that purpose.
   • Mr. Scott, supported by Ms. Dever, moved approval of the June 10th Minutes as amended. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. UPDATE ON STORMWATER TREATMENT PLAN BY MARK KIESER.
   b. Update on using beetles to deal with Purple Loosestrife in the Preserve.
      • On July 12th, a crew from Kieser & Associates, along with volunteers, placed 14 pots of Purple Loosestrife in two areas on the south side of Asylum Lake. The plants were infested with Galerucella Beetles to help control the Purple Loosestrife population.
      • Staff from Kieser & Associates will monitor the beetles’ progress during the next water quality sampling.
      • Kieser & Associates extracts Loosestrife plants locally, with the roots intact, and infects them with local beetles. After about three weeks, the potted plants are taken to the site and the netting is removed. There are approximately 300 to 400 beetles per pot between adults and pupae.
      • It usually takes a couple of years for the beetles to work. It might be necessary to put out another dozen pots or so. The beetles don’t get rid of the plants, but the plants won’t be as competitive as they were and that helps suppress them.
      • Mr. Sauber assisted with the release of the beetles at Asylum Lake. He suggested adding the location of the Purple Loosestrife to the GPS data. The cattails have grown, which made it difficult to find the Loosestrife that was easy to locate in the spring. Also, the water level was up and that was an issue.
      • Kieser & Associates has maps showing the location of the Purple Loosestrife. They looked at data showing the density from ten years ago. The Purple Loosestrife has flourished over the past ten years.

 a. Progress of the permit application to EGLE, progress on the design and bidding of the project, meeting with the City of Kalamazoo Engineering staff.
      • Staff from Kieser & Associates met with staff from the State of Michigan a couple of months ago at Asylum Lake. They are trying to work around the trees but some of them might need to be removed.
      • A survey was done to find suitable habitat. A time frame constriction won’t impact the storm water project, which is estimated to begin in October.
      • Kieser & Associates has been working with staff from the City of Kalamazoo to make sure they know what has been proposed. James Baker led the review from the City.
      • John Jacobson from Kieser & Associates addressed Mr. Baker’s questions and some minor changes were made. The goal is to make sure the storm sewer is not adversely impacted. Mr. Baker approved highly of Mr. Jacobson’s work.
• The piping will be engineered a little differently to protect the integrity of the system. Storm water goes into a manhole and is then diverted. There are 30-year-old concrete structures in the storm water system and Mr. Baker wants to make sure they don’t crumble.
• Kieser & Associates received tentative clearance from Mr. Baker. There will be a soil erosion control permit, an agreement between the City of Kalamazoo and WMU for system maintenance, and a right-of-way permit from the City of Kalamazoo.
• There is an agreement between WMU and the City of Kalamazoo which states that WMU and the Council will take care of everything below the manhole, and the City of Kalamazoo will take care of everything in the manhole. Stated differently, the city will clean out the Barracuda twice a year, and the Council will maintain the rest of the stormwater interception and treatment system.
• The right-of-way permit will be provided by Mr. Baker; the EGLE permit review and approval will take place after that. Once Mr. Baker signs the EGLE permit, that will trigger the contractor to move forward.
• There will be no bare soil at the end of the workday; it will be covered with seeding and soil erosion control mats. Those details will be in the wetlands permit, which will be submitted next week to the State of Michigan. The bid should go out in September and the construction will likely begin in October.
• Kieser & Associates will work with the City of Kalamazoo and WMU regarding maintenance of the storm water system. Kieser & Associates will do water quality sampling this summer and fall.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Preserving the Preserve. Signs, parking lots, bike racks, needed maintenance by spillway, boom boxes, shadow boxes, ALPA website.

• Ms. Huxmann was not present at the meeting but contacted Mr. Hampton to advise that she had witnessed someone on a bike cruising through the Preserve and playing music. She inquired if the signs are adequate, and it would it be helpful to close the gates at Parkview?
• She also mentioned that there is a fund to support the Preserve. Could the Council hire someone to deal with the erosion issues, which might be helpful to Mr. Sauber and his crew.
• The Shadow Box Committee will be adding information regarding the different trees and the Oak Tree Savannah to the shadow boxes at the Preserve. Anyone on the Council who is willing to contribute their expertise to this project, please contact Judy Huxmann.
• Mr. Sauber stated that his crew addressed the erosion issues on the east side of the lake. He sent some pictures to Ms. Huxmann showing what had been done. There are also eroded areas by the culvert and that will be dealt with as soon as possible.
• The police department was in the Preserve recently searching for a missing person. The body was eventually located. Details regarding this situation are not being released at this time.
• The beaver deceiver is not working as well as hoped. The beavers are building a dam around it. Mr. Sauber cleared away the dam and the water was running, but the beavers came back. The beaver deceiver worked for a long time but the beavers got smart. They would dam up the area quicker if the beaver deceiver wasn’t there.
• Discussion continued about the beaver population. It is unclear if their numbers have increased. One lodge can hold up to 12 beavers. There was a second lodge further to the west.
• Mr. Kreuzer was in favor of closing the gates at the Parkview entrance. He has closed the gates at Drake Rd. in the past, once it gets dark. There was a padlock on the gates but it was removed so that emergency vehicles can access the Preserve. Mr. Sauber’s crew can put a bungee cord on the gate at Parkview also.
• There have not been any reports lately about people parking on the south side of Parkview by the entrance to the Preserve.

b. The financial report.

• Mr. Hampton will forward to the Council the spreadsheet he received from Mr. Strazdas.

c. ALPA – NFP 2.0 approved by planning board.

• Ms. Holmes stated that Jamie McCarthy requested that people call in to the public hearing at the City Commission meeting on Monday at 7 p.m. regarding the NFP.
There is concern that people might make objections to NFP 2.0. There has been broad public support for the NFP in the past, and it is important for people to continue to express their support. Someone will be calling in to speak on behalf of the Winchell board.

Ms. Chase will forward to Mr. Hampton the resolution the Council approved in support of the NFP. She suggested having him read the resolution at the meeting on Monday night. Ms. Holmes will forward a phone number to the Council for people to call in to that meeting.

Ms. Alkema mentioned that the City Commission put a six-month moratorium on development when the first phase of the NFP was approved (not this expansion).

d. ODWNA WALK Nature Route is finalized – uses Winchell entrance.
- The route for the nature walk was finalized; it uses the Winchell entrance to the Preserve instead of the Parkview entrance.
- Mr. Scott stated that someone is working on the content for the links to go on the sign. They are also working on the graphic for the trail. The route and signs have been completed. There is already a budget for the signs. The City requested changes to the route and that has been done.

VI. PROJECT/SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Application for Preserve use. How should we tell visitors that they must apply to use the Preserve?
- There was an application from someone at Michigan State University who wants to sample bumble bees in the Preserve. That group was in the Preserve earlier this week; they might be back to do more sampling.
- There have been discussions about how to alert visitors that they need to apply to use the Preserve. The Asylum Lake Preserve website has not been updated recently. The Council needs to put resources into updating the website.

b. Ecological Services RFP – is it too soon?
- Mr. Bassett was not available to provide an update on ecological services.
- The Council would like to hire a company called Orbis to do sampling in May of 2022. It has not been determined at this point if an RFP will be needed or if a sole source provider can be hired.

c. Signage Committee – blue green algal bloom no biggie. What should we communicate via signs?
- Mr. Kohler provided an update regarding the blue green algae at Asylum Lake. Signs should only be used in the Preserve if they are necessary to protect the public.

d. Trails Committee: OCBA first phase of trail improvements.
- Mr. Scott stated that the committee is focusing on the improvements around the entrance at Parkview. The trail will go around the trees and down the path to little Asylum Lake. Improvements will be made to the path at the west end of the lake where the old parking lot is blocked off.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.
a. Lights at WMU soccer field – a done deal? Parkview Hills not happy about this. Are we? What should we do about it?
- Mr. Hampton received an e-mail from Karen Larson regarding the WMU soccer team receiving a donation from somebody who wanted lights there. The Asylum Lake Preserve is across the road from the soccer field. Lights at night might affect the wildlife in the Preserve. Ms. Alkema didn’t have an update from Mr. McGlinn.
- Mr. Strazdas said the project is not funded. Mr. Hampton mentioned that before a donation is accepted, the Council would like the opportunity to talk with the Athletic Department about the larger implications of adding lights to the soccer field.
- Ms. Holmes suggested that the Council could direct a memo to someone, rather than waiting, just to say we would like to discuss the lights. There might be an impact they haven’t thought of. Mr. Hampton suggested sending a letter to the Athletic Director. Mr. Sauber will talk with Kathy Beauregard about the lights.
- Mr. Lemberg suggested having some design standards that would be sensitive to the Preserve. They should take the light down rather than to the sky and the neighborhood. He will do research on lighting guidelines.
- Mr. Kreuzer’s brother is part of the National Dark Sky Project; he will follow up with that.
• The Xerces Society is focused on insects and how nighttime light affects them.

b. Community effort to buy parcel C as a buffer strip. What can we learn from the Stewards of Kleinstuck’s success?

• Mr. Hampton mentioned that the Stewards of Kleinstuck raised money for a parcel of land that was added to that Preserve. Maybe it could be a template for getting parcel C into someone’s hands that would not turn it into a car wash. Ms. Dever advised that the people who owned that parcel were open to preserving that land, and it was less developable compared to Mr. Tehrani’s land. Ms. Holmes volunteered to speak with the Stewards of Kleinstuck about their process.

• Discussion followed as to the possibility of WMU buying Parcel C; Mayor Anderson said WMU wasn’t interested. Mr. Kreuzer suggested a community effort to find out what people want to see on that corner; it is a gateway to Kalamazoo.

• Ms. Holmes suggested noting in the minutes that the Council members should consider this important situation and open a discussion in September about the potential for seeking community input regarding Parcel C. The Council is charged with protecting the integrity of the Preserve. Mr. Kreuzer suggested that the discussion should include the whole property owned by Mr. Tehrani, not just Parcel C.

c. How can we minimize broken bones at the Preserve?

• Someone mentioned on the Asylum Lake website that they fell in the Preserve and broke their arm. Someone else also mentioned breaking a limb in the Preserve. It was suggested that painting the tree roots might help people avoid tripping on them, but there was opposition to that idea. It was unclear as to whether the person was off the path or not. Similar incidents happen on sidewalks; people need to watch where they are walking.

• Ms. Alkema suggested hiring someone to update the Asylum Lake website. Information can be added regarding lights, being careful on the trail, etc.

d. Conversation with Kathleen Baker about finding an intern.

• Mr. Lemberg offered to follow up with Ms. Baker about finding an intern who can help with updating the Asylum Lake website.

VIII. NEXT MEETING.

• Due to concerns about the recent spike in Covid cases, it was decided that the Council should continue meeting on-line. The next Zoom meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 9th.

IX. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.

• Mr. Sauber will be in the Sierra Mountains from August 25th through Septembers 1st. Mr. Frever will take calls about the Preserve during Mr. Sauber’s absence.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

• None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

• The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.