Members Present: Pete Strazdas, Chair; Sharon Dever, Vice Chair; Kay Chase, Council Secretary; Tom Sauber, Natural Areas Manager; Bonnie Alkema; Duane Hampton; Lauri Holmes; John Kreuzer; Paul Scott; Cybelle Shattuck; Marnie Twynham

Members Excused: Tyler Bassett, Mark Frever, David Lemberg; James Penner

Guests: Judy Huxmann

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ZOOM ROLL CALL.
   • A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. EDITING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2022.
   • There were no changes to the agenda, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

III. EDITING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 9, 2022.
   • There were no changes to the minutes, which were approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT.
      • Mr. Sauber reported that there were charges in July for mowing the trails and the areas around the parking lots at the Preserve.
      • There were also charges for two porta potty rentals and removal of three trees that came down over the trail during July. The hole from the Garlic Mustard pull will be filled soon.
      • Mr. Strazdas will request $75,000 from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to replenish the annual operating budget. Those will be operating dollars for the rest of the fiscal year. That information will be on the September financial report.

V. OLD BUSINESS.
   a. Project Updates and Project Finances.
      i. Stormwater Project.
         • The stormwater project is on hold; no expenses have been incurred recently.
         • The State of Michigan awarded grant money for the stormwater project. Matt Reeves, Professor of Hydrogeology at WMU, is interested in doing research on salt removal techniques in conjunction with the stormwater project.
         • There was a discussion at the last meeting about the intentions to redo the storm water bid and include the salt removal technology and other items that Kieser & Associates requested.
         • Mark Kieser plans to attend the September or October meeting and discuss the best time for the bid to go out. The new bid package will go to the Purchasing Department in December or January. The research piece is part of the new bid package. Work on the stormwater project will be done in the dry part of next summer.
         • Representative Rogers would like to attend the next Council meeting. The State of Michigan will provide the grant money in October or November. The money is committed but there will be a waiting period before the money is received.
         • Mr. Sauber spoke with Jackie in the Purchasing Department about rebidding the stormwater project. When the time comes, he will contact her to get the process started.
         • It is unclear at this point if the money from the state will be forwarded to WMU or to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
ii. Land Management Plan Committee.
- Ms. Huxmann reported that Justin Heslinga will provide a draft of the Land Management Plan to the Council for review before the next meeting.
- Ms. Holmes inquired if the Council still has Wildtype as a contractor. They are familiar with the invasive plants in the Preserve, and it would be preferable for the Council to not lose them as a partner. Mr. Sauber will try to contact them tomorrow. Updates should be placed under Ecological Maintenance on the Agenda.
- Ms. Chase and Ms. Holmes volunteered to work on the Ecological Maintenance Subcommittee, along with Mr. Sauber and Mr. Bassett. The subcommittee can bring a budget recommendation back to the Council for review.
- Having a study would help the Council with the five-year maintenance plan. Wildtype could continue with the maintenance in the Preserve.

iii. Ecological Study.
- Mr. Bassett reported to Mr. Sauber that Orbis finished the second half of the study in the non-forested area and they will have a report shortly. The report will be on the agenda for discussion when it is available.

iv. Ecological Maintenance.
- Refer to aii. Land Management Plan Committee.

v. Sign Committee.
- Ms. Huxmann reported that dogs off-leash, dog poop, and flotation devices have been issues in the Preserve recently. She inquired if the Council would like to have signs near the water to inform people of the rules.
- A Neighbor of Ms. Holmes told her that he witnessed two dogs on the Winchell path in the Preserve. They were unleashed and chasing deer, including a fawn.
- Maybe it would be a good idea to have a sign at the entrance to the Preserve stating why dogs should be on a leash. There was a rumor years ago that people received an $80 dollar fine for having their dog off leash in the Preserve. Some kind of admonishment might help with enforcing the rule; people don’t always read signs.
- Ms. Shattuck was at Wolf Tree Nature Preserve. They have a sign that explains the harm that dogs can cause in Preserves, including harm to nesting birds. Maybe the Council could copy that sign. Ms. Huxmann stated that she might have a picture of that sign.
- The sub-committee can bring an idea back to the Council at a future meeting. It is best to educate people as to why they shouldn’t do something. The sign could state that this is a Preserve not a dog park, and that dogs can harm the bird population.

vi. Trails Management Committee.
- Mr. Sauber just paid an invoice from OCBA (O’Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates) for $2,245. They are doing studies on five trail projects. These projects are not in the planning stage yet, they are just looking at what needs to be done. The Council will have to discuss these projects in the future.
- Mr. Strazdas suggested having the Trails subcommittee come back to the Council with a recommendation.
- Mr. Kreuzer inquired if the Council discussed expansion of the Parkview lot. The proposal from OCBA is to double the size of the parking lot. The Council couldn’t make a decision at the June meeting because there wasn’t a quorum. The Council didn’t meet in July.
- The subcommittee is scheduled to meet with OCBA on August 29th at 9 am. Mr. Strazdas suggested that the subcommittee stay at the conceptual level at this point. There should be a discussion with the Council about prioritization. Then OCBA could create the bid specifications for the Council to review.
- The Council has not discussed expanding the parking lot, and concern was expressed that the Council was paying someone to do a conceptual plan when it hasn’t been approved yet.
• There have been issues with the Parkview lot being full, and safety concerns about people parking on the road. Tom Sauber, Paul MacNellis, Judy Huxmann and Paul Scott are on the Trails Subcommittee. Discussion about the Parkview parking lot came up recently in conjunction with the loss of parking on Winchell.
• The letter from the ODWNA to the City Commission states that the neighborhood association is working with the Council on the expansion of the Parkview parking lot.
• The five projects under consideration are the four sections of the trail and improving the grade by the Drake entrance parking lot. Those projects have plans and funding.
• Mr. Sauber stated that the spillway is a priority because it is falling apart. The trail heading down to the spillway is eroding, and the one heading to the east side of the lake is a concern. There was a discussion about a split rail fence to keep people from going down the hill to the spillway.
• Mr. Strazdas suggested having OCBA finish the drawings for the spillway project. There is authorization to proceed with that project, but no consensus on the other four projects.
• The subcommittee can come back to the Council next month with more details on the other four projects. They were in agreement with holding off on work at this point. The subcommittee can bring Mr. MacNellis up to speed on what the Council discussed.

vii. Water Quality Testing with WMU Class.
• Steve Kohler retired and will no longer be attending the Council meetings. It was not clear who would be taking place his place. Updates will be provided at a future meeting.

B. Parking on Winchell Ave.
• Ms. Holmes offered a motion from ALPA as follows, “The board of Asylum Lake Preservation Association requests that the Council make a statement in support of the limited parking plan on the south side of Winchell Avenue, which was proposed by Dennis Randolph, City Traffic Engineer, on April 8 of this year. Ms. Alkema supported the motion.
• Reinstatement of limited parking by the Winchell entrance to the Preserve will not have an impact on the neighborhood WALK program or the goals stated for the neighborhood, and that is why the ALPA voted to support Mr. Randolph’s plan.
• The city survey did not ask the residents about banning parking at the Winchell entrance. It talked about non-motorized traffic and safer streets.
• The City Planner brought up the Parkview lot expansion and used that as a reason for not supporting Dennis Randolph’s proposal to have parking at the Winchell entrance. The ALPA representatives met with the city engineer and the city came up with the proposal. There was no feedback from the ODWNA and no opportunity for compromise.
• Mr. Scott, the representative from the ODWNA, attended the meeting in June with ALPA and City representatives. The ALPA used social media to reach people to speak at the City Commission meeting on June 21st. Mr. Scott thought that the city would not act on a request to go against the City Planner or the Sustainability Plan.
• Some of the city representatives are not in agreement with having 12 parking spaces, which is 240 feet. There are no sidewalks from Winchell Way to Sycamore, which is a safety concern.
• The Trails Subcommittee needs to discuss the possible expansion of the Parkview parking lot and bring a recommendation to the Council. Ms. Chase asked that the Winchell parking issue not be tied to whether Preserve parking lots are expanded.
• Mr. Scott stated that he is against the proposal from the city Traffic Engineer regarding the addition of parking on Winchell. He questioned if the Council would be against adding parking at the Parkview lot but would then ask the city to add parking on the street at the Winchell entrance.
• The ALPA is asking the Council to provide to the City Commission and the City Planner, written support for Dennis Randolph’s proposal for limited parking along the south side of Winchell by the entrance to the Preserve. An e-mail and map were provided to the Council showing exactly what the proposal is.

• Mr. Strazdas inquired if there was ever a discussion about something other than 12 parking spots. Mr. Kreuzer and Ms. Holmes (ALPA representatives) asked for a conversation with representatives from the ODWNA but that never happened.

• Ms. Holmes stated that the ALPA has been asked by City Commissioners what WMU thinks about this issue. The ALPA is asking the Council to support the Traffic Engineer’s parking proposal for the Winchell entrance to the Preserve.

• The bike lane is on both sides of Winchell. The parking proposal said 20 spaces which seems excessive, but the discussion has referred to 12 spaces. Ms. Chase requested clarification about the details of the proposal. Ms. Holmes stated that 20 is a misprint; the proposal should say 12 parking spaces.

• There has never been a lot of cars at the Winchell entrance but there has been a steady stream of cars there. Currently, there is no parking allowed by the Winchell entrance. The ALPA received volumes of responses from people who are upset about the no parking rule.

• The motion suggested by ALPA is to have the Council issue a statement of support regarding Dennis Randolph’s parking proposal. Ms. Shattuck suggested amending the proposal to indicate willingness to compromise. For example, many cities mix parking and bike lanes by designating times when there is no parking in bike lanes, such as commute hours, but allowing parking there at other times. The bike lane on the south side of Winchell is most likely to be used during morning hours when people leave Winchell Way apartments for work. Maybe that area could be signed to only allow parking from noon to 9 p.m. when there are less likely to be bicycles.

• The ALPA representatives were agreeable with that amendment. There is no history of safety issues at the Winchell entrance to the Preserve. Ms. Alkema was also in agreement with that compromise. There is a similar situation at Parkview Hills with parking and bike lanes.

• Ms. Holmes advised that the ALPA has attempted to reach a compromise with the ODWNA for months but there has been no cooperation. The ALPA is just asking the Council for a statement of support at this point.

• Ms. Twynham commented that she has never seen 12 cars at the Winchell entrance, but 12 parking spots might be reasonable if the Parkview lot is overflowing. She was in favor of the time limits.

• Mr. Hampton inquired if there was a willingness on behalf of the ODWNA to compromise. He inquired if Mr. Scott would be willing to compromise.

• Mr. Scott stated that this is the first time he’s heard of a compromise. People from Winchell Way were injured according to their website. Mr. Scott stated that he can’t speak for the ODWNA board. He inquired as to why the compromise is just now being discussed.

• Mr. Hampton mentioned that the letter from Mr. Kushner stated that the ODWNA is working with the Council to increase the parking capacity at the Parkview and Drake parking lots. That point was also mentioned by Christina Anderson, the City Planner.

• Ms. Holmes stated that the acceptability of the Winchell parking plan to the ALPA or the ODWNA is not the point, the Council needs to issue a statement on the proposed parking plan.

• Mr. Hampton mentioned that expanding the parking lots on Parkview and Drake would be against the conservation restrictions. He was not in favor of spending endowment funds to violate the conservation agreement.

• The motion was amended as follows: The Council supports the proposal from Dennis Randolph, City Engineer, and discussion to reduce parking spaces and parking hours for those who use the Winchell entrance to the Preserve. The results of the roll call vote were as follows: Marnie Twynham – yes, Bonnie Alkema – yes, Paul Scott – no, Kay Chase – yes, Sharon Dever– yes, Lauri Holmes– yes, Cy belle Shattuck– yes, Duane Hampton – yes, Pete Strazdas – yes. The motion passed with a majority vote.
• Mr. Strazdas will draft the letter from the Council to the City Manager’s Office and they can copy the letter to the city structure. This is just a recommendation. The Council does not control what goes on with the City Streets.

• The materials have not been revised yet, but that will be done before the next meeting. Ms. Shattuck’s students did research on indigenous land management and use of plants at the Preserve. She will bring a proposal next month to add those documents to the Asylum Lake website and acknowledge indigenous people. She will communicate with the Pottawatomi Indians about this proposal.
• Mr. Strazdas shared this information with the Diversity Officer, so she is aware of the process and what the Council is doing. The Diversity Officer suggested that a member of each of the three local Potawatomi tribes could serve on the Council. The Council could discuss that in the future, if there is anyone in the tribe that is interested. That would require changes in the bylaws.

V. NEW BUSINESS.
a. Application for Preserve Use.
• There were no new applications.

b. Voter Member Changes.
• John Kreuzer and Lauri Holmes will be switching roles on the Council. Ms. Holmes will be the alternate from the Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA); Mr. Kreuzer will be the representative from ALPA.
• Ms. Alkema will no longer be attending the Council meetings. Another resident from Parkview Hills will be taking her place. He will be prepared for the next meeting.
• James Penner is no longer participating in the Council meetings. He has been promoted to a different position at WMU. A new representative from the Campus Planning Finance Council will be appointed to serve on the Council.
• Steve Kohler resigned from the Council. Another representative from the Institute of Environment and Sustainability will be appointed to serve on the Council.
• Duane Hampton retired in May, but he expects to participate in the Council meetings through next May. Thereafter he plans to be overseas and not available for the Council meetings.
• Cybelle Shattuck suggested switching her to Steve’s Kohler’s position, as representative of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, which will open up an at-large position for more flexibility.

VI. NEXT ONLINE MEETING.
• The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2022.

VII. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS.
• No comments.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS.
• No comments

IX. ADJOURNMENT.
• The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.