



Friends of Lapham Peak

Board of Directors Meeting

April 4, 2018

Board members present: Louise Borzynski, John Hillmer, Rita Keber, John McCarthy, Jackie Nicholson, Karl Timm, and Rick Von Haden, Dan Wiley

Absent: Kris Maki and Daya Pillay (both excused)

Also present: Anne Korman (DNR), Anne Riendl

Meeting called to order: 6:05 pm

Dates to remember: Next board meeting **Wednesday May 2, 2018 at 6:00 pm** at Hausmann Center

March Minutes: accepted as presented tonight (draft versions were previously emailed to attendees and corrections to those working drafts were applied to the final version that was presented tonight for approval).

Treasurer's Reports: Treasurer's reports for February¹ and March² were presented and approved (attached).

February –

Receipts: \$12,900.52 (includes an anonymous \$7,500 donation from Fidelity Charitable- Snowmaking)

Disbursements: \$ 2,991.16 (includes transfer of \$950 LPF ENDOWMENT FUND to Vanguard)

- After discussion regarding the Treasurer's report's STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUTURE OBLIGATIONS (page 5) and the categorization/labeling of "Dedicated Funds" versus "Future Obligations" Rick moved, seconded by Karl, to change the name of "Future Obligations" to "Dedicated Funds" (so these will all be "Dedicated Funds" going forward. The motion passed.
- It was also highlighted that the Colorama 2017 Funds have now been transferred to the General Fund.

March –

Receipts: \$9,728.04 (includes \$4,339 GF; \$4,309 SM; \$400 Bricks; \$270 Endowment)

Disbursements: \$1,641.90 (includes \$104 GF; \$668 Ski Series; \$870 SM)

- After some Q&A regarding the memorial funds and donations, Karl and Rita agreed to double check on the PayPal donations for several recent memorials.
- The Northwest Mutual donations should be listed as Northwestern Mutual donations on the report.
- Rick asked if we wanted to consider reallocating any of the \$21,902.69 that is currently in our Memorial Bench Fund. Anne K suggested that we might need more funds for the Evergreen Projects, and is hoping that those projects could be completed before the snow flies again in the fall/winter, 2018. No action was taken at this time to reallocate any of this money.
- Bills were discussed, including a WE Energies bill that was submitted against snowmaking; Anne K will take that bill (\$158.54) back to the DNR for payment. Karl also handled reimbursement requests (including one for Habitat Restoration Work)
- Checks and donations were presented to the Treasurer for handling/depositing, including: Louise with donations, Kris for Ski League, Dan for 3 Bricks, Rita for membership.
- Rita also reported that we currently have 162 paid and/or life members.

Running Agenda

Colorama: n.a., **Bike Swap:** see below, **Lapham Loppet:** n.a., **Summer Solstice:** see below, **Candlelight Ski:** n.a., **Fright Hike:** see below, **Wednesday Night Ski Series:** n.a., **Work Days:** under new business, **Snowmaking:** see below, **Cross Country Skiing:** n.a., **Nature Center:** n.a., **Endowment Fund:** see below, **Butterfly Garden:** see below, **Memorial Benches:** see below, **Agreement Between DNR & Friends:** n.a.

Old Business

1. **Bike Swap, Anne R reported:**

Anne and Theresa continue to make progress with Brian J helping especially with answers to questions. A Special Events form will be used; a Commercial Use Permit will not be needed for the vendors; Louise will work with them on the needed form.

2. **Snowmaking, John M presented their report, attached³, and summarized below:**

- **Preparation of Strategic Plan and Business Plan:** Data was collected and analyzed by Rich M to determine hours and expenses required by DNR and the Friends for snowmaking operations over the last several years, and in great detail for the season just completed. This analysis will form the basis for the updated Snowmaking Strategic & Business Plan for use in the MOU process that John M will lead.
- **Snowmaking expense planning:** An estimated budget for Oct 2018-Sept 2019 to determine priorities for next season is under review by the committee. Priorities for expenses are also being considered.
- **DNR Enhancement Grant project proposals:** The SM Committee will submit applications for Enhancement Grants, as described at the February 28, 2018, DNR Regional Partnership meeting. Three requests are in the works:
 - relocation/repair of several electrical receptacles along the trail for improved skier/hiker safety;
 - drainage improvements not covered by the rec trails grant;
 - and payment of one year's electrical costs for snowmaking.
- **Memorandum of Understanding for Snowmaking:** Clarification is needed on data provided by DNR regarding labor and expenses for making snow; they're looking to meet with DNR in Madison (mid to late April) with an agenda to include:
 - a discussion of the ROA results as it relates to resolving the campground issue from original LP park master plan;
 - review of the DNR's estimated hours and expenses for snowmaking;
 - the SM committee's estimate of the hours to operate the snowmaking system;
 - the strategic/business plan for snowmaking needed for the MOU;
 - the possibility/ramifications of the Friends running snowmaking as a concession;
 - and the timeline for potential snowmaking trail extension.
- **Fundraising awareness:** Charlie Ritter of the SM Committee has contacted L.L. Bean and continues to work on obtaining financial support from them. A fundraising subcommittee of Cris & Susanna Rosario, Charlie, Will, and Chris Peske will meet to discuss fundraising strategies.
- **End of ski season newsletter:** Newsletter is posted on the SM web site; and, a [link](#) will be sent to donors (if we have their e-mail address), Lapham Peak Ski Club, Wed Night Ski League & Lapham Loppet participants, Friends of Lapham Peak members, Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee, and Peak Nordic families.
- **Social pot luck with FLP board:** Joanne Z. will coordinate; will be similar to last year; is scheduled for July 24th this summer.

- **Midwest Ice Games:** Cris Rosario of Nordic Specialists (Oconomowoc) has proposed a new SM fundraiser; this is proposed for January 12, 2019, to occur on frozen Fowler Lake, Oconomowoc. Activities to include Nordic skating demonstrations, 'ice-bocce', 'fat tire on ice' and other events.

3. Summer Solstice, Jackie reported:

June 23rd, Saturday at Trekker and Mike Fort Shelters, 6pm – 9pm, Brats, Burgers, Beer, and Music! There was discussion on the brochure / flier updates that are needed for this year's event; a special events form will be needed; and adult tickets will remain at \$10.

4. Fright Hike, Anne R reported:

Liability coverage has been arranged. Due to various other events and schedules, the last Saturday in October is being looked at but this is not locked in yet. Concessions are being pursued as well as other tasks. More information will be available at our next meeting.

5. Butterfly Garden, Dan reported:

About 40 more bricks will be ordered (and options for the work-days in May should consider helping with the installation of these).

6. Memorial Benches, Louise reported:

The front office will keep the data base of donors, installs, locations (current & available). An 8"x5" standard plaque size will now be offered going forward. Some wording-limitations for plaques was discussed but the Board was not in favor of strict restrictions. The Board agreed to the 8x5 standard and that the office will format using requested wording and font, the sign company will draft up the proposed image and the office will review this with the donor, modifications will be made as needed, and then the sign company will produce each. The policy will be updated to indicate the 8x5 standard. Rita will get the updated policy on the website. Anne K will work with the staff on what can be placed on or near these benches. John H will get nice picture(s) of benches to replace the blue-print versions that are currently on our web site.

7. Endowment Fund, Rick reported what his investigation ended up with regarding how the GMF determined our recent payout:

- a. The payout was complicated by the fact that our fund was an Acorn Fund for 5 months with no payments to the Friends (Interest was accrued) and then converted to a Designated Fund for the last 7 months, with the maximum proceeds payable to the Friends.
- b. The earnings were determined by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Investment Pool as an Acorn Fund and then the JPMorgan Fund for the last 7 months.
- c. Then the complicated part – even though earnings are determined by our selected pool (JP Morgan, which earned 18.2% for the year and averaged 7% over the last 10 years), the amount paid out to the Friends is determined by the 20 quarter rolling average of unit values in the investment pool multiplied by the Spending Rate of 4.75% less GMF Admin fees. The payout for 2017 was \$950.
- d. Rick said that he does not have access to the exact calculation but if he averaged the beginning and ending fund balance, multiplied by 4.75%, less the \$193 GMF Administrative fee, the result is \$960 (this is almost identical to the actual payment of \$950).
- e. In addition, the GMF auditor is the nationally recognized accounting firm of KPMG and Rick's been told they audit the calculation annually. As a result, it is his belief that the calculations are correct.
- f. Even so, Rick does not agree with the Spending Policy set at 4.75% when average earnings over the last 5 years have been 9.4%. This results in larger fund balances that continue to grow since earnings exceed payouts. A reasonable cushion seems reasonable but not this excessive. And this provides a

larger payout to the GMF since they charge 1.6% in fees on the investment balance. He also explained, that his voice is a small one since we have a fund balance of \$45,000 compared to total GMF funds of \$819,000,000(.01%).

New Business

1. Basket Stretcher, Anne K reported:

DNR continues to investigate options that would work for skis and/or wheels with quick installation options for various UTV configurations (so that the UTVs can continue to be used for regular utility work).

2. Friends/DNR Agreement, Anne K reported:

Other Friends groups have also now questioned the proposed statement regarding insurance in the proposed agreement. The State DNR is working with their legal team on this matter and will get back to us.

3. Volunteer/Work Days, Louise reported:

Reminder, Saturday May 12, Work Day is scheduled, 9-noon with lunch to follow (at the Maintenance Shop). Louise will get a final number from St. John's on the number of Cadets that will be coming. Our Spring Newsletter will also ask for Friends to attend/volunteer. In addition to the previously reported activities (buckthorn, garlic mustard, and work in the butterfly garden), woodchips will also be available to spread.

4. Grants, Louise reported:

- a. Louise will apply for a \$100 grant from the Friends of WI State Parks, for beatification work (flowers). Other grants were discussed by Louise, John M, John H, and others. Some will be pursued, others not (based on timing and other types of projects that are needed and which are not at this time).
- b. Discussion about grant(s) for Evergreen ranged from the current siding work, to a redesign and expansion of it, to the long term proposal that the DNR has on the books to replace it. While desirable, there was very little optimism that the DNR would fund the capital for a total replacement, though Anne K said she'd ask for an update on any plans in that direction. However, the Board is interested in the expansion costs (which sounded like it might be in the \$200K-300K range, or possibly more). Yet, the Board also agreed at this time to continue work this summer with the grant money that has been awarded for the siding project. If solid new developments around something more (such as an Expansion) come into play we can consider the impact on the current project/work.

At 8:45 pm, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Rita, and a second by Rick; the motion passed.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 2, 6 pm, Hausmann Nature Center

Respectfully submitted with updates and approved on May 2, 2018,
John Hillmer, Secretary

Attachments (not available in the online PDF):

1. Treasurer's Report, Feb

2. Treasure's Report, Mar

3. Snowmaking Report, Apr



FLP Feb 2018 Tr
Report.pdf



FLP Mar 2018 Tr
Report.pdf



Apr-2018
Snowmaking Rpt.pdf