

Approved Minutes of Silver Lake Advisory Commission – March 19, 2009

Members present: Bill Ambuehl, Sally Raeber, Randy Ammann, Dan Shimer, Fred Bircher, Chairman Kent Korte (arrived late). Guests: Ryan Hummert, Natural Resources Manager; Councilwoman Ruth Zobrist, Attorney John Long & Mark Rosen, Director of Parks & Recreation. Members absent: Bob Wittenborn & Larry Diveley.

Meeting was called to order by Bill Ambuehl on behalf of Kent Korte. A motion to approve minutes of the December 11, 2008 meeting was made by Dan Shimer; seconded by Randy Ammann.

Director Rosen introduced the city's attorney John Long to provide an update on the Keystone Pipeline agreement. Attorney Long stated that an agreement was reached and presented the results.

- Tree replacement approximately \$7,500. This is due to 11 "Bat Trees" that will need to be removed prior to April 1, 2009 and the need for an additional 50' of easement. The bat trees are where the Indiana Brown Bat nests and roosts and according to federal law, such trees are not to be cut down between April 1 & October 31.
- Easement \$18,000.
- Lake improvements - \$107,000 to be paid 45 days after the contract is signed with an additional \$117,500 to be paid one year later. This money is to be used for the benefit and improvement of Silver Lake.
- The purchase of equipment, by Keystone Pipeline to be used in the event of a leak to retain contaminants as well as training. In addition an agreement to provide up to three emergency water pumps to pump water directly from Old City Lake, Bargetzi Lake and a third lake in the event of a situation where the water supply is contaminated in Silver Lake. It was also mentioned that the equipment for containment would also be usable for any emergencies pertaining to accidents from the interstate.

A brief discussion was held on the ability of this "third lake" to be a useful water supply as it is shallow and small. It was recommended instead to contact Dennis Munie of Munie Gravel Pit to utilize his water supply. Further discussion indicated that the gravel pit is nearing the end of its useful life and the city should consider purchasing the quarry for the water and future recreational needs. In addition, Director Rosen mentioned that if the quarry would be sold to the city, a pipe could logically be bored from the quarry lake to Bargetzi Lake and avoid having to call upon water pumps.

Attorney Long continued by explaining that although there was opposition to the pipeline being installed, he mentioned that in order to avoid the expenses of mediation/arbitration and risking losing out on any money, the council determined that many benefits could be attained with this agreement.

All commission members supported the agreement and will use the time until the next meeting to think of priorities.

Old Business:

- Director Rosen provided an update on the Clean Lake Implementation Grant. He stated that the total project will cost \$408,344.00. Of this amount the city's portion will be \$81,667.00; an amount that appears to be able to be provided from the Keystone agreement.
 - This project includes the installation of approximately 3,700 linear feet of shoreline stabilization; the installation of a fence to prohibit livestock from entering Silver Lake; education, a Best Management Plan and consulting.
 - Director Rosen said that he would recommend to the council to enter into a contract with HDR/Cochran & Wilken to oversee this project because of their track record with the lake.
- Director Rosen informed the commission that we are applying for the Priority Watershed Implementation Grant to install approximately 500 linear feet of shoreline stabilization in Old City Lake. This would pick-up from the previous rip-rap shoreline that was performed in 2007.

- Director Rosen also mentioned that a portion of the Madison County Park Enhancement Grant would be going toward a gazebo next to Old City Lake and installing an ADA compliant parking lot at the boat ramp of Silver Lake.
- Natural Resources Manager Ryan Hummert gave a report on the upcoming projects he will be leading.
 - April 18, 2009 he will be leading a group of Boy Scouts to plant 350 trees in a field that was identified to be reforested. In addition, this field along Prairie Road will have clover borders and native plants put in.
 - April 25, 2009 will be the lakeshore clean-up day and he requested members to help with securing boats as he has recruited approximately 100 volunteers. He stated that he has a lot of support from Wal-Mart, Little Ceasars Pizza and the Korte Company. Randy Ammann, Fred Bircher & Dan Shimer indicated that they will do what they can to help with boats.

New Business:

* Discussion was made on the priority memo that Ryan submitted. The memo outlined some areas of immediate, cost-effective and revenue producing opportunities. The bulk of discussion surrounded the issue of allowing waterfowl hunters to pay a higher price, if they desired, to leave their blinds up year round. Bill Ambuehl voiced his disagreement as it would in essence secure a blind spot for eternity as there would not be any potential for anyone else to have the possibility of being able to ever get a spot to hunt. Sally Raeber agreed. After a lengthy discussion, it was pointed out that although only one person would have the chance to retain a blind for as long as they wanted, these hunters are ones that devote a great deal of time and expense in establishing an environment where they have successful hunts. This plan would not be any different in the current format as the previous year's blind holders can retain their blinds each year. It was mentioned that the idea of leaving blinds up year round would be optional.

A motion was made to recommend an annual cost of \$200.00 to allow anyone interested in leaving their blind up year round and continue with the \$50.00 fee for those not interested. All agreed.

The discussion continued by pointing out that there is a great deal of interest in the idea of allowing blinds to remain erected year round and stated that additional revenue would be gained. It also was discussed to put a maximum size limit on all blinds and the dimension of 12' x 20' was decided. This is one of the priorities that Director Rosen will propose to the council for consideration.

Sally Raeber strongly recommended that the marina concept be included as part of the recommendation as it has been 10 years since the city took away the docks and that those that were previous dock owners should be the first to be offered a boat slip.

Bill Ambuehl also stated that he would like to see the maintenance permit be included as a priority which everyone agreed to.

Fred Bircher recommended that the memo include the statement that the list of priorities include items that will provide immediate revenue.

* A discussion was then held on a possible replacement for the vacant seat left by Keith Haberer. Director Rosen suggested that it should be someone that is a resident since Keith was and said that he contacted Brad Kohlbrecher. Director Rosen stated that in a discussion with Brad, he voiced his interest but with his work schedule he wasn't sure when he would be able to submit his application. The commission discussed some possible other names which included Josh Kirchoff and Colby Schrupf.

* A discussion was then had in regards to the potential use of the money from Keystone Pipeline. Director Rosen offered his suggestion to not limit thoughts to what can be done immediately. Instead, he suggested considering long-range plans and everything that was discussed during many meetings over the last 10 years. Such consideration should include, but not be limited to the construction of a weir, purchasing flooding easements, purchase land for a sediment basin, use the money as a match for grants to develop the boat launch area/marina, trails, parking areas for hiking access points, etc. It was agreed to return to the June meeting with ideas and to prioritize so a recommendation could be made to the city council.

* It was decided that the next meeting would be Wednesday, June 17, 2009 @ 7:00pm.

* Dan Shimer made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm; seconded by Randy Ammann.