



# Historic Water Tower Neighborhood

## OFFICERS

### President

Jeff Bentoff

### President Elect

Dawn McCarthy

### Treasurer

Adrienne Houck

### VP Events

Joe Libnoch

### Secretary

Dawn McCarthy

### VP Membership

Thea Kovac

### Past President

Sandra McSweeney

## TRUSTEES

### Area 1

(LaFayette Pl. to North Ave.)

Mary Beth Geraci

Larry Presberg

### Area 2

(North Ave. to Newberry Blvd.)

Michael Barna

David Brust

Maria Costello

Lloyd Dickinson

Barbara Elsner

Angela Jacobi

Jeff Jordan

Bunkie Miller

Pat Small

### Area 3

(Newberry Blvd. to Edgewood Ave.)

Camilla Avery

Mark Falci

Jennifer Runquist

Eric Waldron

## MINUTES

March 3, 2010

Marcia Coles Community Room

Lake Park Pavilion

Absent/Excused: Michael Barna, Lloyd Dickinson, Pat Small, Mark Falci, Sandra McSweeney

1. Call to Order: 7:05 p.m.
2. Program

### Program: "East Side Parks: How Citizen Groups Are Making a Difference"

Tom Cheney, president of Lake Park Friends, and Dan Cody, president of Park People of Milwaukee County, discussed issues their groups are tackling to maintain and improve East Side parks.

Tom Cheney has been the president of Lake Park Friends for 2 years; his term ends in May. The highlights for him have been the playground renovation, The Walcott Statue renovation and working with the county on the renovation of the Marcia Coles Community Room.

The LPF will continue to work with the county to make sure renovations continue and to address the needs of the park. The current and new projects are

Ravine Water Fall restoration: Originally built by the WPA, this project has been underway for at least a year. The water fall has grown and become more elaborate. There will be an overlook from the upper bluff into the ravine. LPF is exploring adding LED lights to the water fall. The project will be finished this summer and there will be a dedication ceremony. At some point, in keeping with the idea of wise water use, LPF would like to add a rain garden(s) at the bottom of the falls to filter the water before it goes into the lake.

Other LPF projects are

The new performance stage is now in the process of being designed. At the appropriate time there will be a public meeting to discuss the design. Programming on the stage will likely be expanded. LPF promotes the use of the park; more use results in better maintenance.

Phase One of the Lion bridge is done; phase two will begin soon.

Challenge: The park budget has been reduced. Two full time staff at Lake Park will be laid off as of March 12. This cut is on top of previous cuts. Staff at Lake Park will be two staff and a director. LPF is open to finding a different way to appropriately fund the parks.

Q&A session:

The performance platform will be located in the same place as the Musical Mondays stage.

LPF is considering more clearance of the bluff. The previous clearance was initiated by neighbors on Wahl. The response was not 100% favorable. Some believe it was too drastic. According to Olmsted the bluff is to look like a lace curtain.

For more information and to join: <http://www.lakeparkfriends.org/>

Dan Cody, President of The Park People of Milwaukee County

Park People formed in 1977

This organization is a friends group for all 144 county parks, and partners with individual park friends groups. Juneau Park Friends is the latest group to join.

The Park People work to coordinate the Weed Out programs with the county and the unions.

Donations to fund the parks are donated to the Park People, a 501c3 organization, and then the Park People disperses the funds to the county; for instance the Lubar funding for life guards on Bradford Beach went through the Park People.

Parks are essential because they add to the quality of life, increased property values, and they attract business to a city.

Challenge: Currently many of our parks are in disrepair. Property values plummet in areas where the parks aren't being maintained.

Our parks are open 24/7 and are free. Waukesha parks require a \$5 fee to enter the park.

The county budget for the parks today is the same as it was in 1983. Meanwhile the county budget has tripled, so the parks have never increased our taxes.

Options: If nothing is done the funding of the parks will come from selling off park land. If parks are closed it won't be in the wealthy areas, but in the lower income areas where the parks are needed more.

The Parks People endorse the idea of sales tax for funding the parks (Assembly Bill 504). The sales tax to fund the parks would lower property tax and would mean that one-third of the park funding would come from people who live outside of the county.

Another solution: create a Parks District. Jon Richards is working with the Parks People on that legislation. This legislation would return the park management structure to what it was like in the 60s and 70s. Dan would like to see an elected unpaid board and not an appointed board. The board would then have the power to levy property tax for the parks. The calculation is that the average tax per home would be about \$45.

Revenue from boat slips, weddings, water parks, etc. funds half of the County Parks budget.

Parks People of Milwaukee County is a volunteer organization.

For more information and to join: <http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/>

### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Amendments suggested by Adrienne Houck were made.

Thea Kovac moved, Jennifer Runquist seconded a motion to approve the amended minutes.

Motion carries.

### 4. Reports of Officers

#### ▪ President's Report

Adrienne Houck moves and Jennifer Runquist seconds a motion to add Dave Brust to the Historic Preservation committee.

Motion carries.

Jeff reported that he had hoped to have the Bradford Beach operator, Todd Gawronski come to the April HWTN meeting, but Todd can't make the April meeting. Jeff will put Bradford Beach House on the April agenda for a general update and discussion regarding any proposed renovations for the Beach House and planned events for the summer of 2010. Chuck Ward of the Milwaukee County Parks will be appearing before the Lakefront Development Advisory Commission (LDAC) on March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Bradford Beach House proposed renovations.

The Mercy Housing plans for a work force/affordable housing development at the US Bank parking lot/City of Milwaukee Parking lot will be presented at a Greenwich Village Neighborhood Association meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Paddy's Pub. The city land sale resolution is scheduled for the Public Works Committee approval on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The zoning change required to build the housing is scheduled for a City Plan Commission hearing on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Adrienne moved and Barbara Elsner seconded the following motion:

HWTN wishes to express concern to our city officials that the approval process for Mercy Housing is moving too quickly and without public input. A letter expressing this concern should be sent to the Alderman, Department of City Development (DCD), Public Works committee, Zoning Neighborhoods and Development (ZND), and Rocky Marcoux.

Motion carries with one abstention.

Adrienne Houck and Jeff Bentoff will compose the letter.

- Treasurer's Report

- Membership Vice President Report

Thea Kovac thanked Lise Sadagopan and Laurel Maney for their help with distributing and mailing membership information. Thea and Adrienne have using Quickbooks to organize membership information. Thea is working with HWTN Team on the membership directory, due out soon. If you know of anyone who might be interested in HWTN membership, give the contact information to Thea and she will follow up. HWTN currently has 135 members.

- Other Officer Reports

Joe Libnoch reported on Events. There are now 5 enthusiastic committee members. Historically the HWTN holiday party is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of December. In the past HWTN has tried to have more than one event a year. There have been summer parties. The event committee will discuss whether or not to have more than the one event this year.

5. Committee Reports

- Historic Preservation Committee

Dawn has contacted the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation department regarding the Historic Downer Avenue Popcorn Wagon Certificate of Appropriateness that requires the Popcorn Wagon to be restored and returned to Downer Avenue. Paul Jakubovich, at the city, is contacting the owner to discuss the possibility of someone else storing and restoring the Popcorn Wagon and finding a new location for it.

Bradford Beach House is of concern to the Historic Preservation Committee and Dawn, Barbara Elsner and Dave Brust will meet with the Buildings & Institutions committee and Chuck Ward of Milwaukee County to discuss any new plans for the historic building.

A letter to Senator Plale asking that Senate Bill 55 have language increasing tax credits for home owners and investment property owners, for completing appropriate restoration work, be restored to the bill.

- Crime Committee

Bunkie reported that the next 1<sup>st</sup> district police meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup>. Bunkie has a conflict and needs to find someone to go to the meetings.

Peter Graber, MPD District 1 Liaison (pgrabe@milwaukee.gov or 414-935-7701) will be at the June HWTN meeting.

- 3DNA (3<sup>rd</sup> District Neighborhood Associations)

Jeff Jordan said that all of the 3DNA neighborhood associations voted to withdraw from UNA (University Neighborhood Association). Jeff said that Tom Luljak, UWM Vice Chancellor of University Relations, is disappointed in the action being taken by the neighborhood associations.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

8. Announcements

- The April agenda will include a discussion about proposed Bradford Beach House renovations and summer programming.
- May's guest speaker is John Eastberg on the history of North Point North.

#### 9. Adjournment

These meeting minutes constitute the author's understanding of the issues discussed and the decisions reached. Please contact the undersigned with any additions, deletions or changes.

Prepared by,  
Dawn McCarthy  
Secretary, HWTN