

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

February 5, 2025

6:00PM

Regular Board Meeting

Onekama Township Hall

OUR MISSION: The Portage Lake Association is a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making the Portage Lake Area a great place in which to live, play and stay.

Officers	Board of Directors	Committee Heads
Cyndy Wangbichler, President VACANT, Vice President Evie McNeil, Treasurer Mary Jo McElroy, Secretary Al Taylor, Past President	Jean Capper Susan Halloran Kathy Loynes Mark Miller Roz Jaffe Carey Stark Joseph Suchocki Diane Wemlinger	Brian Devilling, Mary Jo McElroy, Mary Fairgrieve, Theresa Gimpel, Nancy Dabrowski, Paul Mueller, Nikki Schneider, Justin Sedelmaier, Carrie & Greg Cassagnola, Katy Castillo

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS / RESPONSIBILITY
Call to order and welcome	President Cyndy Wangbichler called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Present: 11 persons attended, either in person or via Zoom. Attendees were Roz Jaffe, Evie McNeil, Mary Jo McElroy, Jean Capper, Susan Halloran, Kathy Loynes, Carey Stark, Joe Suchocki, Nikki Schneider, Cyndy Wangbichler and Mary Fairgrieve.	
Additions to the agenda	Several items were added to the agenda as new business, old business, or other business.	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of December 3, 2024 minutes and January 2025 financials. Roz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Kathy seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.	
Correspondence	Roz received a letter about copyright infringement for PLA's use of a licensed AP photo on the website since 2017. The photo has been removed. A subsequent letter from the sender requests payment of \$250 for usage over the past 8 years. Roz does not know if this is a scam or is legitimate.	Roz to find the company on the internet and call their business number to verify the legitimacy of the request
OLD BUSINESS		
Strategic Planning	Roz Jaffe discussed that the PLA has hired Laine Blasch's company to help us with a 5-year strategic plan. A SWOT survey was sent to all PLA members asking them to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Next step is for the consultant to	Roz to send email about the strategic planning meeting dates, times, and location

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	conduct two days of in-person work with us develop a vision, mission, and goals. Zoom will also be available. The meetings are planned for Thursday, February 20 and Monday, February 24 from 9 AM to 1:30 PM at the Bible camp. Lunch will be provided at the cost of \$15 per person to be paid by the PLA.	Will need RSVPs to cover need for lunches
Onkama Days 2025: Flying Toasters	Al Taylor, Joe Suchocki, and Brian Devilling worked to determine the feasibility of the PLA working with the Flying Toasters for a summer concert. After considering all variables and the incremental costs, their recommendation is that this is beyond our capability.	Cyndy will talk to Brian and make sure communication about the decision goes out to the Flying Toasters
Welcome committee update	Diane Wemlinger sent a report that two others have joined her to form a committee; they are Elaine Maylen and Cindy Mason. They rely on hearsay and local realtors to find out about new residents or renters. They are working to update materials.	
NEW BUSINESS		
2025 Budget	Evie sent out a proposed budget for 2025. Some costs are new or have gone up e.g., fee for strategic planning, increase in administrative costs, requests for additions to some events. Evie clarified that the Frank English Scholarship money is in a reserve fund, not in this year's budget. The bottom line is a negative variance of \$8,000. Adding the consultant's fee and not doing the car show would probably result in a \$13,500 deficit. Joe Suchocki made a motion to approve the budget as is; Jean Capper seconded the motion. The motion carried with one dissenting vote.	Susan to work on silent auction fundraiser as part of summer party Keep trying to find someone to chair the Car Show Discuss financial situation at strategic planning meeting in a few weeks
Funding request	Patty Suchocki from the Onkama Guild Thrift Shop provided a letter with information about the history and current state of the thrift shop. They are doing some construction work now with more to come. She requested \$4900 in support which is contractually obligated. Jean Capper made a motion to donate the full amount requested; Susan Halloran seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about past donations from the PLA and other possible sources of funding. Four persons present suggested that we might give a lower amount. Carey Stark then	Evie to send a check for \$2000 to Onkama Guild

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	amended the first motion to donate \$2000; Kathy Loynes seconded the motion which passed. Noted that Joe Suchocki abstained from voting due to possible conflict of interest.	
Ideas for fundraising next year	Al previously suggested two ideas: an Onekama area jigsaw puzzle and a casino night. Evie mentioned that the jigsaw puzzle might be a good idea.	
OCS community day	Onekama Consolidated Schools is planning for another community day this year. An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27 at 8:30 AM in the school's media center for a discussion about needs. Jean Capper volunteered to represent the PLA; one idea might be to get help in cleaning out the storage unit. Kris Greve will also be there to represent the Petunia Committee since the students help with moving the large planters out of winter storage.	
OTHER BUSINESS		
Incidentals	<p>The deadline for the April newsletter is March 10. Jean Capper mentioned that the 45 copies of the winter newspaper that she placed at the post office were gone in two days.</p> <p>West Shore Bank will contribute \$750 to the PLA as a sponsor for events. Roz suggested that the money be put toward the Fall Festival.</p> <p>The schedule of events for 2025 is on the Onekama.info website. Roz reminded folks to get their posters done for events as "save the date."</p>	
Adjournment	Roz made a motion to adjourn; Mary Jo seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy