

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

September 3, 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 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	Cyndy Wangbichler called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Nine PLA people attended, either in person or via Zoom. Attendees were Roz Jaffe, Evie McNeil, Mary Jo McElroy, Susan Halloran, Kathy Loynes, Diane Wemlinger, Jean Capper, Carey Stark, Cyndy Wangbichler. Linda English was present as a guest.	
Additions to the agenda	Artisan Market	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of June 4, 2025 minutes and August 2025 financials. Mary Jo moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Diane seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.	Mary Jo to get June minutes posted at Onekama.info .
Correspondence	Joe Suchocki sent an email resigning from the PLA board. Manistee Chamber of Commerce is holding an event on September 25 at the Outsider if we are interested in networking.	Cyndy to see if Joe can help with banners and lights or advise someone else.
COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS		
Fall Festival	Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 4 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Katy Castillo is the Chair. Assignments have been made for activity vendors, food vendors, community partners, publicity, kids' games, scarecrow liaison, and supplies. Work is underway. Jean Capper needs someone to help on the day of	Need to find someone to help Jean

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	the event. All PLA events will be held at Village Park.	
Celebration of Lights	Kathy Loynes affirmed that the event is to honor and memorialize others. She suggested the following changes: • Start at 5 PM on Saturday night 11/22 with refreshments and caroling • Do tree lighting at 6 PM followed by caroling around the tree • Do not light up the tree at all until the names have been read Donor envelopes are usually mailed out in October (included with nominations for 2026 board).	Susan to ask the choral group at First Congregational Church about doing caroling Kathy to ask Beth McCarthy to read the names Donor envelopes to be sent out with nominations for 2026 board
Artisan Market for Christmas in Onekama	From Nikki Schneider: We have 20 vendors for the Artisan Market on November 22nd. Marketing is in place to get more (social media, ad in the Freshwater Reporter, PLA Newsletter, posted flyers etc. A meeting with the school will take place in early October to finalize the set-up plans etc.	
OLD BUSINESS		
PLA Puzzle	The photo puzzle at the Bradford farm has been selling well. Two orders have been placed (N=128 puzzles). 124 of those have either been sold OR are at one of the business establishments selling them for us (MacBeth's, Anchored Design, Miller's Market). Revenue has been received from MacBeth's. Roz thinks we will make around \$2000. Glenwood Market is also willing to sell them.	Roz to facilitate a press release through MNA To sell at PLA table at Artisan Market Roz to check on sales/revenue from Anchored Design and Miller's Market
Strategic Plan	Printed copies of the PLA Strategic Plan were distributed. Not much discussion tonight, but "champions" are needed for the goals related to Communications and Collaboration.	Cyndy will ask Mark Miller if he is interested in the communication piece
NEW BUSINESS		
Petunia Parade Proposal	Mary Jo gave an abbreviated report from the Petunia Parade Committee. Information included the results of the Summer 2025 survey; recommendation for posts, bases, holders, containers, flowers, and locations for 2026. She requested to use current budgeted dollars (around \$4300) to begin buying the	

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	hardware during this fiscal year. Kathy made a motion to approve the proposal as presented; Roz seconded the motion, and it passed without dissent.	
Volunteer Appreciation	Roz explained why the usual picnic for volunteers did not happen this year. She is looking for another chair for next year.	Roz to post something in the October newsletter expressing our appreciation for our volunteers
History Committee	Roz provided background information about the Onekama History Association and their request to become a committee within the PLA structure. After some discussion about pros and cons, it was suggested that we try it in 2026. Roz made a motion that the Onekama History group become part of the PLA committee structure for 2026 to see if it is a good fit. Jean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.	Roz will communicate to the leaders of the history group
OTHER BUSINESS		
Newsletter	Deadline for articles is September 10.	
501c3 status	Roz would like to talk to an attorney about the process for gaining 501c3 designation.	Roz will ask Laura Heintzelman for a referral to an attorney specializing in that topic
Nominating Committee	Cyndy needs to appoint a Nominating Committee to provide a slate of officers for 2026. Ballots would go out in October along with the Celebration of Lights donor envelope.	Mary Jo to send documentation from 2024 about thoughts on board membership
Next meeting	The next meeting would normally be on October 1, 2025 but three of those present will be out of town that night.	Cyndy to poll the board to see if another date might be better
Adjournment	Susan made a motion to adjourn, Evie seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy