

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

Regular Board Meeting

March 4, 2026

6:00PM

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 Roz Jaffe, Past President	Al Taylor Amber Sedelmaier Cindy Pons Diane Wemlinger Jane Foster Kathy Loynes Mark Miller Sally Koon Susan Halloran	Brian Devilling, Mary Jo McElroy, Mary Fairgrieve, Nancy Dabrowski, Paul Mueller, Carrie & Greg Cassagnola, Katy Castillo, Tim Mostowy, Jean Capper, Kathy Cyr, Lauralee Ryan, Joe Suchocki

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS / RESPONSIBILITY
Call to order and welcome	Cyndy Wangbichler called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Eleven PLA board members / committee heads attended, either in person or via Zoom. Attendees were Cyndy Wangbichler, Evie McNeil, Mary Jo McElroy, Susan Halloran, Kathy Loynes, Jane Foster, Joe Suchocki, Tim Mostowy, Lauralee Ryan, Cindy Pons, and Mark Miller.	
Additions to the Agenda	None.	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of February 4, 2026 minutes and February financials. Kathy Loynes made a motion to approve; Susan Halloran seconded, and the motion passed without discussion or dissent.	Mary Jo to get February minutes posted at Onekama.info .
Correspondence	None.	
COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS		
Mailing to PLA members in April	Mary Jo, Brian, and Cyndy will coordinate efforts to have Jackpine mail out the petunia letter, a donation envelope, and card with concerts / 2026 PLA events in April.	
Onekama History Association	Lauralee reported on three items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She and Kathy Cyr will finalize verbiage on the historical signs next week then get them to Michelle Ervin for printing. • They will work on website items next. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They authored an article for the April PLA newsletter. 	
<p>STRATEGIC PLAN REPORTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build and Strengthen Community Collaboration</i> – Joe Suchocki had a long report about his efforts with several businesses, Onekama Consolidated Schools, government entities, Lions, churches, other communities, DDA, and Manistee Chamber of Commerce and Manistee County Tourism Authority. The biggest takeaway is that the business would like some help with social media. • <i>Expand Financial Resources and Build Reserves</i> – Roz reported that membership dues are rolling in. She also communicated that Business Sponsorship requests were sent to over 90 local businesses and are coming in - full report in April. • <i>Build an Engaged Board and Volunteer Force</i> – more information coming in April • <i>Strengthen and Diversify Communications</i> – should have a leader for this by April • <i>Establish Effective Operational Tools and Systems</i> – Mary Jo reported that there are 9 folders on the Google Share Drive that are populated with as much information as she could gather. Next will be adding content about Concerts, Petunia Parade, and Publicity Guidelines. 	
<p>OLD BUSINESS</p>		
<p>Branding and Marketing</p>	<p>Two viable responses to our RFP for assistance with branding and marketing were reviewed. Pros and cons were discussed via email as well as in person. Cyndy has communicated the need to include exploring a name change as part of each proposal. Kathy Loynes made a motion to accept the proposal from Ellie Brown and award her the contract. Evie McNeil seconded the motion. Cindy Pons recused herself from voting since Ellie is a relative. A vote was held and the motion carried.</p>	<p>Cyndy will proceed to let Ellie know and will get a contract signed.</p>
<p>June Welcome Summer Event</p>	<p>Susan Halloran and Jane Foster announced that the venue is reserved for June 12. A</p>	<p>Cyndy and Evie to approve contract with</p>

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	deposit needs to be sent by March 9. Evie made a motion to approve the contract and to pay the deposit of \$1150. Cindy Pons seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. DJ Val Harmon is confirmed. The poster from 2025 will be modified; a red, white, and blue theme will be added. Jane also has an article in the April PLA newsletter.	Portage Point Resort and pay the deposit by March 9
PLA Banners	Frances Townsend repaired the twelve torn banners. Jane Foster made a motion to donate \$150 to compensate her for the work. Mark Miller seconded the motion, and it passed.	
Lights on poles in the Village	Tim Mostowy reviewed the 2023 proposal from Consumers Electric to replace/repair the Christmas lights and electric on the poles. The bid was \$25K but did not include enough technical verbiage for Tim to understand the work.	Joe Suchocki, Tim Mostowy and Justin Sedelmaier to assess it for the possibility of having several entities collaborate on funding it
NEW BUSINESS		
Onekama Days	Roz reported that we had our first community Onekama Days planning meeting. Onekama Days is August 6-10. Next meeting towards the end of March.	
Letter of Support for Township Parks and Rec grant (communication via email)	The PLA was asked to submit a letter of support for a grant that Onekama Township is applying for through its Parks and Rec committee. The grant is for completing the ADA walkway at Langland Park. The grant request proposes completing the walkway loop by joining the north and south entrances. Roz Jaffe made a motion to send the letter of support. Although there was not a formal second, Cyndy expressed that she is comfortable that everyone understands what we are voting for. Eleven affirmative votes were made. There were no dissenting votes, and the motion passed.	Cyndy Wangbichler sent the letter of support by the due date
PLA newsletter	Cyndy reminded folks that the deadline for articles in the April newsletter is March 10.	Send articles to Jean by March 10
OTHER BUSINESS		
Next meeting	The next meeting will be on April 1, 2026, at 6 PM.	
Adjournment	Susan Halloran made a motion to adjourn, Jane Foster seconded, and the motion	

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	passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.	
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Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy