

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

February 7, 2024

Regular Board Meeting

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
Roz Jaffe, President VACANT, Vice President Evie McNeil, Treasurer Mary Jo McElroy, Secretary Al Taylor, Past President	Jean Capper Susan Halloran Kathy Loynes David Maylen Mark Miller 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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS / RESPONSIBILITY
Call to order and welcome	President Roz Jaffe called the meeting to order at 6 PM. The meeting was available in person and via zoom. Present: Roz Jaffe, Brian Devilling, Kathy Loynes, Evie McNeil, David Maylen, Mary Jo McElroy, Carey Stark, Al Taylor, Nikki Schneider, Joe Suchocki, Mark Miller, Jean Capper. Joe Suchocki and Mark Miller were introduced as new board members who recently completed their orientation.	
Additions to agenda	Joe Suchocki encouraged those present to attend a special Public Meeting about the proposed pavilion replacement in Village Park. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21 from 6 to 6:30 PM at Farr Center.	Joe to send email reminder to those present
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of December 6, 2023 minutes, December 2023 financials, and January 2024 financials. Roz suggested one small change to the December minutes. Al Taylor moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dave Maylen seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.	
Correspondence	A letter of thanks from Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses was circulated. We purchase petunias and mums from them.	
OLD BUSINESS		
Park Event Stage Update	Joe Suchocki updated about the status of the event stage in the park: full funding has been obtained; special rebar is purchased and in storage; electrical work and pouring the concrete foundation are scheduled for end of April; building the structure is expected to take two to three days in early May, weather permitting.	
Holiday lights update	Consumers Electric has quoted \$25,000 to rewire the holiday lights. Current chairperson Justin Sedelmaier needs help with fundraising. There is no anticipation that monetary support will come from Onekama Village or Township this year. Mark Miller stated that he might be interested in this project.	Roz will send out a request to see if anyone else is interested in helping with this
PLA and Onekama photos on Google drive	Numerous photos from PLA events and around Onekama have been loaded onto a Google Share Drive for purposes of use with brochures, social media, etc. They may only be used for non-commercial purposes and the photographer must be given attribution for the photo when using. The files are named with the identity of the photographer if known.	

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Strategic planning session (identity / branding)	Plans for strategic planning will move into the future due to unavailability of key people this winter.	
2024 Budget	A draft budget was previously emailed to all. Some changes were made to the holiday lights, Near and Farr Friends, and Beer Tasting. Group consensus was to use Beer Tasting net proceeds for PLA basic operations instead of being allocated to the school. There is a \$6,000 deficit (negative variance) planned. Jean Capper moved to approve the 2024 budget with those changes; Kathy Loynes seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.	
Frank English scholarship	Last year's Car Show had a net profit of \$3500 which is intended to be used for the Frank English Scholarship at West Shore Community College. Those funds will be donated per this schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1500 in 2024 • \$1000 in 2025 (augmented by the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle that year) • \$1000 in 2026 (augmented by the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle that year) Mary Jo has been in contact with Crystal Young from WSCC and expects this year's contribution to be sent around June.	
NEW BUSINESS		
2024 Board Meeting Schedule	First Wednesday of the month at 6 PM: March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4	
2024 Event Schedule review and Save the Date Flyers	A draft Event Schedule was circulated. Roz has some of the "save the date" flyers.	If any committee chair has a "save the date" poster, send to Al, Roz, and Mary Jo Roz to work with MS Creative to get the flyers posted on Onekama.info
PLA roster – emails	There was a typo in previously sent listing.	Roz to email roster with corrections
Onekama Schools	Nancy Dabrowski will meet with the principal tomorrow about interactions between the PLA and OCS.	Contact Nancy if interested in being a career speaker in March or April
PLA memberships	Faye Backie is still managing renewal of memberships. Carey Stark is considering whether she could take on this committee.	Roz to send information to "Friends of the PLA"
Park Event Stage Kickoff	Brian Devilling has proposed a larger musical show of four bands in conjunction with a ribbon cutting for the new event stage. The event would be on Sunday, June 23 roughly from 12:30 or 1 PM until 9 or 9:30 PM. He may seek sponsors. He needs volunteers to assist that day.	Brian to update proposal and Roz to send to this group Nikki Schneider to work on food trucks for the event Brian to present the Event Stage Kickoff event to Onekama Village Council and to request reservation of the park that entire day

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Park Pavilion Replacement Project	Joe Suchocki described the project to replace the current pavilion in Onekama Village Park including sources of funding, description of structure, addition of handicapped-accessible tables, upgrading electric, etc. Joe and Mary Jo are seeking a grant from Manistee County Community Foundation. They are requesting a letter of support from the PLA for proceeding with the grant. Dave Maylen made a motion to send a letter of support for the project including the grant application; Mark Miller seconded the motion. Joe Suchocki and Mary Jo McElroy abstained from voting. The motion passed without dissent.	
Portage Lake Water Trail	Roz had emailed a proposed project to create a Portage Lake Water Trail. Three online resources describing what a water trail is and how to create one were recommended for reading. At this time, no one present was interested in volunteering to assist. A request for an in-person presentation was made.	
PLA newsletter	The deadline for the next newsletter is March 10. It will be published in April. Mary Jo is trying to get information about Shay's for the newsletter.	
Near & Farr Friends	Joe Suchocki mentioned that a program called Aging in Place in Onekama is planned for April 18.	
Request to sponsor a podcast	Roz was contacted by Gretchen Carr about sponsoring a podcast related to Handstanders band at a cost of \$400. Other options were suggested e.g., splitting with someone else in town, spending that money on IPR or a local radio station. The conclusion was that we probably will not support this.	
Vacancies	PLA is still in need of a Vice President candidate, chair for Membership, and chair for Fall Festival.	If interested, let Roz know
Summer Event	The possibility of a Summer Kickoff Event (potentially around June 14) was mentioned. Joe Suchocki volunteered to work with Roz to plan one.	
OTHER BUSINESS	Next meeting on Wednesday, March 6 at 6 PM	
Adjournment	Carey Stark moved to adjourn which was seconded by Joe Suchocki. It passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy