

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION

May 7, 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 PM. Thirteen PLA people attended, either in person or via Zoom. Attendees were Roz Jaffe, Evie McNeil, Mary Jo McElroy, Susan Halloran, Kathy Loynes, Joe Suchocki, Cyndy Wangbichler, Al Taylor, Diane Wemlinger, Nancy Dabrowski, Carey Stark, Nikki Schneider, Jean Capper, and guest Sammie Lukaskiewicz.	
Additions to the agenda	Mary Jo asked to add Car Show to the agenda.	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of April 2, 2025 minutes and April 2025 financials. Evie mentioned that a late invoice from 2024 would be charged to that same event this year. Roz moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Joe seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.	Mary Jo to get April minutes posted at Onekama.info .
Correspondence	None.	
Manistee Tourism	Sammie Lukaskiewicz from Manistee Tourism Authority was introduced. She explained her role and how that organization can help the PLA with our activities and events. One idea mentioned is their capability for geofencing which helps to identify zip codes where we are drawing from. Her email is sammie@visitmanisteecounty.com if you would like to contact her for assistance with an event.	Contact sammie@visitmanisteecounty.com for help with events. Mary Jo to update the PLA Guidelines for Publicity with this information

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COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS		
Block Party Proposal	Joe and Nikki discussed their proposal to chair the block party as a kick-off to Onekama Days. It will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 3 PM to 6 PM. Area is from Zosel to Portage Streets along Main Street. It will be kid and family oriented. Roz made a motion to allocate \$500 for prizes and face painting. Kathy seconded and the motion passed. Questions raised were about PLA's insurance coverage and ability of churches to participate.	Roz to check on insurance coverage. Roz and Joe to contact Alison at First Congregational Church.
School	Diane and Nancy talked about OCS senior trip to Mackinac City next week. Each attendee will be given \$25 spending money from the PLA, a total of \$450. Mark Miller offered some tables and chairs for the student lounge area.	Diane and Nancy to follow up with Mark Miller about tables and chairs
Business Sponsorships	Roz gave an update on business sponsorships. Things are going well. Susan and Al have been calling potential sponsors.	
Car Show	Mary Jo gave an update on the proposal from Portage Lake Garden Club to present the Onekama Days Car Show this year. Caveats are they will commit to 2025 only; they are asking to retain the customary car show list of sponsors and will have a smaller presence at Christmas in Onekama. Proceeds will be used toward fixing the water problem with the Memorial Fountain in Village Park. The PLGC board has approved it, and a team of people are moving forward. Since they do not have a budget for this, Mary Jo asked if the PLA would consider funding the trophies as a donation. Last year's cost for trophies was \$398. Kathy made a motion that the PLA will pay for the car show trophies this year. Diane seconded it and the motion passed.	PLA to donate cost of car show trophies in 2025
OLD BUSINESS		
Strategic Plan Review	The board has completed their input into the PLA strategic plan report, i.e., the final draft has been approved. The five groups (and leaders) with action plans are Human Resources (Cyndy), Finances (Roz and Al), Operations and Technology (Mary Jo), Collaboration (Joe), and Communication (not assigned).	Cyndy will begin to put group reports on upcoming Board agendas

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Puzzle	Al is working with a company in British Columbia to create an Onekama jigsaw puzzle that we could sell as a fundraiser. Details discussed were size (most likely 1000 pieces), minimum order (N=300), cost to produce (\$14), selling price (probably \$25 to \$28), time to produce (4 to 6 weeks after order is sent), images (photos, artist renderings), and ways to sell (local shops, events, maybe online?).	Al will continue to pursue; need to decide at June board meeting to have them in time for Onekama Days
NEW BUSINESS		
Guild Thrift Shop	Joe mentioned that the Onekama Guild Thrift Shop is inviting PLA leadership to attend a thank you reception on May 21 at 4 PM in appreciation for our donation to their renovation efforts.	
Village of Onekama	Cyndy asked about the process that the PLA uses to get permission for using the park during the year and paying for that privilege. The confusion points to the need for better collaboration between the Village and the PLA.	Cyndy will talk to Ruth Hudson about what we owe and when
Approval of fireworks	Al described the process for getting fireworks approved for August 2 with an August 3 rain date. It involves sending a letter to the Township Board, getting a motion to approve documented, communication with the sheriff's office, and approval of a fireworks plan. Paul Mueller and Al Taylor are responsible for the fireworks. Roz made a motion to seek approval of fireworks for August 2 with an August 3 rain date. Susan seconded and the motion passed.	Paul and Al to implement the process with help as needed
Funding of fireworks	Al asking about funding for the fireworks. \$8500 is in the budget; if the cost is higher, Al will be back to request more. Sponsors and smaller donations are expected to cover most of the cost. Donation cannisters might be helpful. Another notion was having a GoFundMe push to help with funding the fireworks.	
Alcohol in the park	Having alcohol for the beer tasting requires a license. Joe made a motion to request a liquor license for the beer tasting. Carey seconded the motion, and it passed.	Susan will take to Village Council at their May meeting
Community calendar	Joe mentioned the idea of a Community Calendar since nothing like that exists although it has been discussed before now. Joe met with Dan Mesyar, OCS	Jean and Mary Jo volunteered to assist Joe with this idea

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	<p>Superintendent. Dan’s idea is having a google calendar maintained by students with the “Working Better Together” theme. Yvonne, honor students, and student council would do the work to pull it together. Timing would be in the third quarter 2025. Questions asked were about what specific URL (website address) would be used?; how to manage with students gone over the summer?; criteria for inclusion on the calendar?; and how to sustain it? The group present voiced strongly that a new separate website should not be implemented since things are confusing enough already.</p>	
OTHER BUSINESS		
501c3	<p>Roz put together a document listing the pros and cons of the PLA seeking 501cc3 status. Cyndy asked about the difference between 501c3 and 501c6. Roz will put together some comparative information.</p>	Cyndy to put on June PLA board agenda
Summer banners	<p>Joe mentioned that the summer banners are up. He also updated the PLA about the new pavilion in the park. The structure needed to be moved 10 feet to the north to avoid interfering with the sewer (rebar posts go six feet into the ground). The base will be raised 1.5 feet to meet the grade of the parking lot. There will be ADA access pathway. Roz asked about attaching the PLA sponsor banner to the event stage; she received an adamant “no way” since we do not want or need holes in the wooden structures.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Diane made a motion to adjourn, Evie seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.</p>	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy