PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION Regular Board Meeting

October 7, 2026 6:00PM Onekama Township Hall

OUR MISSION: The Portage Lake Association provides opportunities that enhance the well-being of the community as a great place 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	Amber Sedelmaier Cindy Pons Diane Wemlinger Jane Foster Kathy Loynes Mark Miller Sally Koon Susan Halloran Joe Suchocki	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	Roz Jaffe called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Thirteen PLA board members / committee heads attended. Attendees were Evie McNeil, Mary Jo McElroy, Roz Jaffe, Lauralee Ryan, Sally Koon, Diane Wemlinger, Cindy Pons, Amber Sedelmaier, Jane Foster, Kathy Loynes, Susan Halloran, Joe Suchocki and Tim Mostowy. Ellie Brown, Bonnie Brown, Scott Treynor, and Cindy Treynor were present as guests.	
Additions to the Agenda	None.	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of September 2, 2026, minutes and September financials. Susan Halloran made a motion to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Joe Suchocki. The motion passed without discussion or dissent. Evie McNeil mentioned that she needs to order more specialty checks that print directly from QuickBooks. 250 is the minimum. It was agreed that she should buy it under the current PLA name.	Mary Jo to get September minutes posted at Onekama.info.
Correspondence	None.	
COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS		
Artisan Market / Craft Fair	Amber Sedelmaier reported that thirty vendors have indicated interest; fifteen of them have paid and confirmed. The event will	

	be a combined Artisan Market / Craft Fair on Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22 from 10 AM to 3 PM each day. Roz mentioned that she needs a flyer and details to place an ad in the Freshwater Reporter which is due next week.	
Fall Festival	Roz Jaffe gave a report about Fall Festival. It was a great weather day. Good turnout although perception that there were fewer children and fewer vendors this year. $246 was collected for the scarecrow voting; Evie was authorized to send a check for $250 to the Food Pantry c/o Leslie Osborne.	Evie to send check
History Committee Update via email	Lauralee reported that "the historical sign project has been completely handed over to Michelle Ervin with Township Parks/Rec. The signs are supposed to be in production and then will be given to the respective business/property owners. At this time, our work is completed on the project. We are now shifting to building historical information about Onekama and to update the website which leads to the question of - can we? If we could have an offline discussion about this as the branding project continues, that would be much appreciated. Kathy Cyr and I attended the Benzie County Historical Museum "Night at the Museum" event which was quite interesting. I have reached out to Jackpine for the reprinting of The Story of Portage. More details to come on that."	Kathy Loynes checked the supply of booklets at MacBeth's – there are 25 so no need to reprint at this time.
Onekama Blooms	Cindy Pons and Mary Jo McElroy reported they are working on the 2027 budget which at this point shows a negative variance of about $900. Assumptions are that we will sell 25 shepherd hook units with 10 honor / memory signs. So far we have received check, email, or verbal indication for purchase of 9 units. Discussions are ongoing about how we will water them, but cost for labor will be much higher due to stop and go process.	Still need a lot of work on funding and watering solutions
Celebration of Life	Kathy Loynes confirmed that this will be held at Farr Center on Saturday, November 21 with 5 to 6 PM social hour followed by reading of names by Beth McCarthy. Four	Kathy to send flyer to Roz Jaffe so that she can have donor

	musical groups will perform (two choirs, one bell ringer choir, and one bagpiper). Kathy secured a cordless microphone for the event. Tim Mostowy will take care of the lights. Amber Sedelmaier and Diane Wemlinger offered to help set up.	envelope mailed out with ballots
Collaboration	Joe Suchocki updated on the following: • Meeting with Manistee Chamber of Commerce with 20 business owners on September 22 along with Jeff Dontz and Dave Meister; #1 request to the PLA from business owners is help with marketing Onekama. • Worked with Bick Pratt to get letter of support for funding of a sidewalk from M-22 to Glen Park; Onekama Collaborative Recovery team gave the go ahead for funding up to $12K if grant monies are received. • Safe Routes to School kick-off on September 17. Included walking audits and open community meeting facilitated by team from Michigan State University. Village has contracted with MSU and are funding their engagement. Good attendance and good energy for both. • New signage at Onekama Township prohibiting parking. Joe will address this with Township leadership in a collaborative spirit.	
OLD BUSINESS		
Main Street Pole Work	Tim Mostowy updated the board about work done with Consumers Electric (i.e., electrical troubleshooting resulted in 7 of 8 fixtures restored to working condition) and with Johnson sign company (25 of 30 holiday decorations will work; remaining 5 will not work due to outlet or wiring issues). Lighting work will be done week of November 9 or 18. Agreed that the five non-working items will not be put up.	Tim will do show and tell at November PLA board meeting Mary Jo will make sure the ironweed at Farr Center is cut down to allow access to the electrical box
Brand Discussion	Ellie Brown presented an updated PowerPoint with latest rendition of colors and logo for Onekama Community Connection. The reception was positive, with only objection to the image for petunia hanging basket. Sally Koon made a motion to approve the new	

	images; Kathy Loynes seconded and the motion passed unanimously. An orchestrated roll out of new brand name and image will begin in early 2027.	
NEW BUSINESS		
Board Nominations	The nominating committee held several meetings to produce a slate of proposed board officers and board members. The recommended slate was emailed today by Cyndy Wangbichler. Proposed officers are: • President – Roz Jaffe • Vice President – Sally Koon • Treasurer – Evie McNeil • Secretary – Mary Jo McElroy • Past President – Cyndy Wangbichler Diane Wemlinger's term ends in December. Two new additions to the board members are Kelly Tomazewski and Mary Bergren. Diane Wemlinger made a motion to accept the slate; Amber Sedelmaier seconded and the motion passed.	Slate of officers and board members will be sent out to all PLA members this month
Next meeting	The next meeting will be on November 4 at 6 PM.	
Adjournment	Sally Koon made a motion to adjourn, Kathy Loynes seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy