

CITY OF ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY SANCTUARY BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2015

Chairman Hoffman called the Quarterly Meeting of the City of Orchard Lake Village Nature Sanctuary Advisory Board to order at 7:05 p.m. on March 2, 2015 at the Orchard Lake City Hall.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairman Hoffman, Board Members Cooper, Graham, Fink, Smiley, Nelson and City Clerk McClellan

ABSENT: Board Members Dusek, Itin & Hirschfield

NOVEMBER 3, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Board Member Smiley had a correction on page four of the November 3, 2014 Minutes. He would like his comment to read that putting down wood chips sometimes makes is muddier and adding since they decompose so rapidly.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER COOPER AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 3, 2014 QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES OF THE ORCHARD LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Turtle Nesting Area Discussion

Chairman Hoffman started the discussion reminding the group that the proposed sandy nesting area was a recommendation from David Mifsud's Herpetofauna Report. Board member Fink stated that she felt turtles will lay their eggs where they want and won't use the proposed nesting area. Chairman Hoffman was in agreement that turtles have their own ideas regarding nesting. Board member Graham commented that she thought that they could put in a sandy area and Board member Nelson asked if it should have anything over it to protect the eggs. Board member Smiley commented that chicken wire placed around the border is to keep the people off and he didn't feel that would be necessary in the Sanctuary. Board member Graham commented that since it was one of David Mifsud suggestions in the recent Herpetological Inventory report, then we should have the City ask him where the turtle nesting should be placed, how big of an area it should be, and how they should install it.

PAGE TWO – NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2015

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE UP TO \$200.00 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TURTLE NESTING AREA AFTER THEY RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM DAVID MIFSUD ON THE PLACEMENT OF THE NEST.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Bird House Repair/Cleaning

Chairman Hoffman noted that at the last Sanctuary Board Meeting it was mentioned that some of the bird houses in the Sanctuary need to be repaired or replaced this spring or summer season and all of them need to be cleaned out. Board Member Nelson asked if just the ones in the prairie or all of them? Board Member Graham asked if we want to replace them if they are not getting any blue birds to nest in them. Board Member Smiley said that if blue birds are going to nest, they probably would be more apt to be out in the open, so probably repair and replace the bird houses in the prairie. Board Member Nelson said that there are about six bird houses out there now.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER COOPER AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO APPROVE UP TO \$100.00 FOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF THE BIRD HOUSES IN THE SANCTUARY.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

City Web Site Links

Chairman Hoffman commented that he meant to speak with Nancy Yacoub in the Clerk's Office about the City's web site. It was noted that the Board wanted to take the Herpetofauna Report and some of the Bird Sighting links and add them to the City's web site. It was stated that Board Members Fink and Smiley had volunteered to work with Nancy to keep the web site seasonally refreshed. Board Member Fink commented that she had sent some information to Nancy to use for the web site on bird sightings. Chairman Hoffman commented that he would follow up with Nancy Yacoub.

Invasive Species

Chairman Hoffman stated that as part of the meeting package they all received a summary of the work completed by Plant Wise last year. This report was received after our last meeting was held. Board Member Graham stated that it is pretty straight forward - it tells what they did and how they did it. She asked if Plant Wise had sent their recommendations for this next season. Chairman Hoffman replied that it was probably too early in the year to develop one. Chairman Hoffman stated that it will be a continuing effort to control invasive species in the Sanctuary. The group concluded that it is in the best interest of the Sanctuary to continue the invasive species control efforts. It was also agreed to continue to use David Mindell of Plant Wise to help with those efforts.

PAGE THREE – NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2015

Board Member Nelson reminded the group that the City had requested and is expecting to have WHAM every two weeks in the summer months to help in the City and Sanctuary and, although Plant Wise sprayed the garlic mustard rosettes last the fall he would watch to see if the application helped, and if not he would use WHAM to pull the garlic mustard.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO RE-ENGAGE WITH DAVID MINDELL OF PLANT WISE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL THIS YEAR FOLLOWING THE SAME FORMAT AS LAST YEAR TO HAVE HIM GO OUT IN MAY OR JUNE AND RE-EVALUATE THE SANCTUARY AND LET US KNOW WHAT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WITH A REPORT AT THE END, BUT THIS YEAR TO ADD A MAP OF WHAT WAS DONE IN WHAT AREA AND TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE UP TO \$4,500.00 FOR THOSE SERVICES.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO ASK THE ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION FOR \$4,500.00 FOR THE CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE NATURE SANCTUARY.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

PAVILION MURAL SEALING

In past meetings, there were discussions regarding re-sealing of the ceramic tile mural in the Sanctuary. Board member Cooper commented that he had recently communicated with John Hartom on the subject (John Hartom oversaw the creation/installation of the mural) and concluded that it should be done. Board member Smiley asked if we would have John Hartom do the sealing or if the City DPW could do it. It was stated that John Hartom is in North Carolina so he wouldn't be available, but we could get recommendations from him on what kind of sealer to use and how to apply it.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER COOPER AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE UP TO \$300.00 TO PURCHASE AND APPLY A SEALER ON THE PAVILION MURAL AFTER THEY RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM JOHN HARTOM.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

ENTRANCE SIGN REPLACEMENT

Board member Nelson stated that he did receive quotes for the replacement sign in the amount of \$2,500 to \$2,800. The new sign would be made from a long lasting synthetic material and would only need painting in the future to maintain. It would be of the same graphic design as the original sign, but would have certain areas raised for depth.

PAGE FOUR – NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2015

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE UP TO \$3,000.00 FROM THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO COME UP WITH A DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR A NEW ENTRANCE SIGN WITH THE SANCTUARY BOARDS APPROVAL BEFORE PLACEMENT IN THE SANCTUARY.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Chairman Hoffman noted that at the last meeting there was a discussion to reduce using the wood chips on the trails. Board member Nelson said that he spoke with West Bloomfield and learned that they use slag on their trails. It was noted that the wood chips have been provided free of charge in the past, thus the use of lime stone would be more costly. Board member Nelson noted that the wood chips are more labor intensive since they have to be replaced. Board member Smiley stated that he would not like to see the lime stone used on the trails. Chairman Hoffman recalled that in the earlier meeting that it was discussed to consider using alternate materials such as slag or gravel for the muddier areas. Board member Graham suggested just putting the wood chips in the muddier spots and Board member Cooper commented that maybe they could have WHAM do this as a project. It was decided to wood chip the problem areas this year with the WHAM workers and monitor the results. Chairman Hoffman suggested to have the DPW review the surface condition of the entrance road, parking lot and the main slag road to the pavilion this spring to determine if any of these area need re-surfacing. He further recommended that this topic be added to the next meeting's agenda.

ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION

Chairman Hoffman made mention that the Board has already agreed to ask the St. Francis Foundation for \$4,500.00 for the control of invasive species in the Sanctuary. There also was discussion of up to \$3,000.00 for the entrance sign replacement and whether or not the Board should ask the foundation for funding of the sign or not. It was the Boards decision to also ask the St. Francis Foundation for \$3,000.00 for the sign.

TOUR SCHEDULE

Board Member Fink stated that Sunday, April 19th from 2:00 to 3:00 will be the date of the next Nature Sanctuary Tour. Board member Fink commented that the tour participants really like the sapling trees that the City gives out on those tours.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER FINK AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE UP TO \$50.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAPLING TREES FOR THE SPRING TOUR.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0

PAGE FIVE – NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2015

Board member Fink also commented that the Historical Society will be providing snacks for the tour as they have in the past and Board member Nelson stated that he would put the sign out. Additionally, Board member Fink mentioned that the Apple Island Tours will be held on May 16th and 17th this year.

DPW ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

Chairman Hoffman made mention of some split rail fencing that was down and Board member Nelson said that has already be fixed. Board member Nelson also stated that last year they asked the St. Francis Foundation for \$500.00 to plant native trees along the shore line to control the erosion problem in the Sanctuary and was wondering if we should do the same thing this year. Board member Cooper stated that he would rather ask the St. Francis Foundation to contribute toward living things than not. Board member Graham asked about the re-growth of Norway Maples along Old Orchard Trail and what was to be done to manage them. Board member Nelson suggested that maybe we should have WHAM work on that too. It was noted that we couldn't have WHAM working with chemicals, but maybe they could pull out the newest growth. Board member Nelson stated that he could have WHAM cut the Norway Maples and then he could dab them with the chemicals.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER FINK TO ADD \$500.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF NATIVE TREES TO PLANT IN THE SANCTUARY TO THE ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION GRANT REQUEST.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0


FINANCIAL REPORT

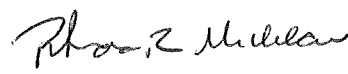
Chairman Hoffman reviewed the statement with the group noting that we are currently operating within budget. He noted that the St. Francis Foundation monies are defined separately on the report, and noted that currently the St. Francis Foundation Grant account has a zero balance.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BOARD MEMBER SMILEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 P.M. BOARD MEMBER NELSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0


Mark Hoffman
Chairman


Rhonda R. McClellan
City Clerk