

CITY OF ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY SANCTUARY BOARD MEETING

March 7, 2016

Chairman Hoffman called the Quarterly Meeting of the City of Orchard Lake Village Nature Sanctuary Advisory Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 7, 2016 at the Orchard Lake City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Board Member Itin

GUEST: Mar Sclaw

NOVEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2015 QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES OF THE ORCHARD LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD AS WRITTEN. BOARD MEMBER NELSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

BOARD MEMBERSHIP – DISCUSSION

Chairman Hoffman asked Mar Sclaw to explain to the Board a little about herself. Mar explained that she lives on Middlebelt Road, between Long Lake Road and Square Lake Road. She has been the President of Six Rivers Land Conservancy for the past few years and a lawyer part of the time dealing with family law. Board Member Graham stated that they meet through stewardship activities pulling garlic mustard at Bavarian Woods, and invited her to the board meeting.

Chairman Hoffman suggested that they go around the room to introduce themselves and say a little about why they are on the Board. He started with himself and explained that he is the current Chairman of the Board and has been on the Board since it was formed.

Board Member Nelson introduced himself and stated that he works for the DPW of the City of Orchard Lake Village and he does a lot of the work in the Sanctuary.

City Clerk McClellan stated that she takes minutes for the Sanctuary Board, and tracks the Board's financial spending.

Board Member Cooper remarked that he has been on the Board since it was first formed. He further commented that the original owner was the Ward Family and when the City obtained the property from Cranbrook, Mary Ward helped put the Board together to make sure that the Sanctuary was preserved in its natural condition.

Board Member Dusek stated that he has lived on Old Orchard Trail since 1993 and that his property backs up to the Sanctuary. He sits on the board to insure that the Sanctuary does not get developed, and stays in its natural condition. That people are the guest there and the sanctuary is the home to the plants and animals. He has been on the Board since about 1994 or 1995.

Board Member Smiley stated that Mary Ward had contacted him when he was the Executive Director of the Detroit Audubon. He also founded the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

Board Member Fink stated that she does the nature tours for the Sanctuary she is a Naturalist that has worked at Kensington and now at Heritage Park.

Chairman Hoffman commented that there is just one other Board Member that is missing tonight, Board Member Itin and that she used to sit on the City Council and after her term joined the Sanctuary Board.

Mar Sclaw asked if they were the governing body of the Sanctuary and Chairman Hoffman replied that they were an Advisory Board for the City Council. The Board sets policy and direction.

Chairman Hoffman stated that a notice was placed in the Sanctuary asking if anyone was interested in being a Board Member to contact the City. City Clerk McClellan replied that there were no responses to their posting.

Chairman Hoffman also commented that DuAnne Sonnevile of the Historical Society has asked if she could get a picture of the Sanctuary Board members. It was his thought that at the next Sanctuary Tour to take a picture of all the participants on the tour as a promotional idea for the Sanctuary. Board Member Fink commented that they were also looking for pictures of the Sanctuary and Board Member Dusek proposed that maybe they could contact Board Member Hirschfield's wife and ask her if there were any pictures that her late husband had taken of the Sanctuary that she would like to contribute as a memorial for Board Member Hirschfield.

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Board reviewed the list of activities that were completed by Plant Wise for control of invasive species in the Sanctuary back in December 2015. Chairman Hoffman commented that as stated on the financial report, \$4,500 was paid to Plant Wise out of the St. Francis Foundation fund monies.

Chairman Hoffman asked the Board what they wanted to do as far as invasive plants for this coming year and Board Member Graham commented that she felt they should contact David Mindell of Plant Wise again and have him put together his list of recommendations including costs as in years past and they could look at that at their next meeting. Board Member Smiley suggested that he would still like to see a map along with the report from Plant Wise. Board Member Nelson said that he would contact David Mindell to have him put his recommendation together for the Board and mention the need to include a map showing the areas addressed.

Board Member Smiley asked if there are any groups coming in to help this year with garlic mustard pulls. Board Member Nelson commented that he thought WHAM would be available this year.

Chairman Hoffman asked Board Member Graham if there was anything that she wanted to add as far as the videos that she has e-mailed out to the rest of the Board Members. She stated that she just finds them informational and they back up her thoughts as far as invasive controls in the Sanctuary and she was just sharing with the other members.

ENTRANCE SIGN REPLACEMENT

Board Member Nelson stated that if they want to still duplicate their original sign than it will be double the cost because it is so labor intense. For them to add tree rings that are done by hand it is very costly. It would be about \$5,000 to have the sign look like the original one. The original sign was made out of wood and the new sign would be made out of a composite material made to look like wood, but it would last forever. Board Member Cooper wanted to know if they could get a cost on having it made out of wood. Board Member Nelson stated that he would go back to the original designer and get a quote to have it made just like the original, and look for other potential sources/quotes and bring his findings to the next meeting.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Board Member Nelson stated that he has not put the booklet box in the Sanctuary yet, but does have the box and showed it to the Board Members. It was stated by Chairman Hoffman that they would just continue to manage the trails the same way they did last year. To only put the wood chips down where it always gets muddy and to leave the rest of the trails natural.

SANCTUARY ORDINANCE REVISION UPDATE

Chairman Hoffman stated that the ordinance revisions have been approved and adopted by City Council. Board Member Nelson asked now that the ordinance has been adopted are they going to put up a sign letting people know that they could be ticketed if parked there after dark. Chairman Hoffman stated that he would talk with the Chief about putting up a sign in the Sanctuary or moving the existing sign.

ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION – UPDATE/STATUS

Board Member Cooper stated that the St. Francis Foundation is quickly becoming a thing of the past, as the Foundation funds are nearly depleted. He felt it would be appropriate to request up to \$5,000 from the St. Francis Foundation for the Sanctuary this year, but the City needs to recognizing that this will be the last year to request funds.

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO REQUEST \$5,000.00 FROM THE ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION, \$4,500.00 FOR THE ERADICATION OF INVASIVES AND \$500.00 FOR TREE PURCHASE AND PLANTING. BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Board Member Nelson asked how they should thank the St. Francis Foundation for all of the years of donations to the Sanctuary. Board Member Cooper replied that a letter would be appropriate. Chairman Hoffman suggested that a plaque in the Sanctuary for Mary Ward be discussed at their next meeting.

TOURS – SPRING PLANS

Board Member Fink stated that the Spring Tour will be held on April 17th at 2pm. Board Member Nelson commented that he would get the sign out for that event and purchase the sapling trees for the tour to hand out. Board Member Fink also commented that she knows a photographer from the Beacon and will contact her to have a group picture taken at that event.

DPW ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

Board Member Nelson commented that they are replacing the garbage cans in the Sanctuary, the bottom of the cans rotted out. He is also going to get a cost on a ring guard for the chimney at the pavilion. Chairman Hoffman noted that someone is making fires in the fireplace again, and the fireplace will need to be cleaned out. Additionally, he noted a piece of metal that has come loose around the fireplace that will need to be fixed.

FINANCIAL REPORT – REVIEW

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS SUBMITTED.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE REVIEW


Chairman Hoffman stated that currently we have quarterly meetings and prior to that they used to meet monthly. He wondered if it would make sense to meeting only three times a year - spring, summer and fall. He wanted the other members to think about it and they would discuss it at their next meeting.


Their next meeting is scheduled for June 6th.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, IT WAS MOVED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER FINK TO MOVE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:30 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0


Mark Hoffman
Chairman


Rhonda McClellan
City Clerk