

CITY OF ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY SANCTUARY BOARD MEETING

November 3, 2014

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 November 3, 2014 at the Orchard Lake City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None

AUGUST 4, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION WAS OFFERED BY BOARD MEMBER ITIN AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER NELSON TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 4, 2014 QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES OF THE ORCHARD LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Survey – Amphibian and Reptile Inventory/D. Mifsud-Report Review

Chairman Hoffman stated that he believed everyone should have received the e-mail that Clerk McClellan had sent out with the attached Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary Herpetofauna Inventory Report that was done by David Mifsud. Color copies of that report have also been made for all of the Board Members at tonight's meeting. He stated that "it was very nicely done" and that "it was better than he had expected". Chairman Hoffman asked the question, we have the inventory done now what should we do with it? Is there anything that we need to do from the report? Or should we just prepare to do this again in maybe ten years or so?

Board Member Graham commented that the report shows that what we have been doing has not been harming the amphibians and reptiles.

Board Member Itin asked if this inventory report is something that could be added to the City's new web site. Clerk McClellan stated that as far as she knew it could and she would look into having it added.

Page Two – Nature Sanctuary Board Minutes – November 3, 2014

Board Member Dusek stated that the report re-enforces that what the Sanctuary Board has been doing as far as controlling the invasive species has not been hurting the amphibians or reptiles. It was unanimous that the Board was happy with the findings of the inventory report.

Board Member Dusek asked if there was another specialty that should be inventoried if the monies became available. He would like to get into some kind of cycle that shows over time the changes in the Nature Sanctuary. Rotating the specialties as the budget allows.

Board Member Cooper stated that he feels that we owe it to future generations to keep the data of these inventory files. Weather alone can drastically change the plants and the animals over time.

Board Member Smiley felt that ten years was too early to have the inventory done again and Board Member Graham agreed saying unless there is a big change maybe ten years is too early.

Chairman Hoffman made the comment that the St. Francis Foundation approved the use of their grant monies for the inventory to be done. Board Member Dusek asked how much the inventory cost again and it was stated \$3,000.00.

Chairman Hoffman concluded the discussion suggesting the inventory should be done every fifteen to twenty years.

Board Member Smiley made the comment that maybe they should install a turtle nesting area in the Sanctuary. Board Member Nelson said that he should be able to get the sand and make that happen. He asked if it would be beneficial to place it in the sunlight and Board Member Smiley said that most of the ones he has seen are in the sunlight. It was discussed to consider placing it in the prairie. It should be in place before late spring if they decided to go ahead with this project. A concern was voiced regarding the installation of the nesting area – would it attract predators such as raccoons? The turtle nesting area discussion will be added to the February agenda.

Birds

Chairman Hoffman commented that Board Member Smiley had sent the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary bird findings to the Board (summary attached to minutes). The information on this web site is not just within the last few weeks, but over years. Board Member Graham asked how West Bloomfield's Nature Sanctuary compared with ours and he commented that they have much more visitation on the web site. Chairman Hoffman commented that they should just keep reviewing the web site and maybe in the spring Board Member Smiley could supply a new findings report.

Page Three – Nature Sanctuary Board Minutes – November 3, 2014

Board Member Nelson asked Board Member Smiley if the bird houses in the Nature Sanctuary should be repaired and cleaned? Board Member Smiley responded that a few should be left out in the Sanctuary and they should be cleaned out.

Board Member Smiley made the suggestion that maybe the bird information could be put on the City's web site with pictures of the birds that are present in the sanctuary. Board Member Itin suggested that the OLNS web site should be updated regularly so that the information out there is always current. Board Member Cooper said that maybe it should be updated seasonally for all of the things in the Sanctuary. Chairman Hoffman asked who would like to be a resource for Nancy as far as links to add to the Nature Sanctuary page of the City's web site. Board Member Fink and Smiley volunteered to help Nancy with the City's web site.

Invasive Species – Plant Wise – Status/Action

Board Member Nelson said that he knew that David Mindell of Plant Wise has been out in the Sanctuary working. He spoke with a member of David Mindell's staff regarding the new growth in the "old woods" and he was told it is a native plant and it was nothing to worry about. He believes it is called pokeweed. Chairman Hoffman made the comment that one of the things they have done is ask David Mindell for more information along with his billing invoice and they have not received that yet. Clerk McClellan stated that she received his invoice on October 30th and in his e-mail he said that he would put together a brief report outlining what they did this season.

SANCTUARY ENTRANCE SIGN REPLACEMENT – DISCUSSION/STATUS

Board Member Nelson had a potential new design for the replacement Entrance sign for discussion purposes. The new design addressed a concern (brought up by the sign company's designer), that the current sign's depiction of a log end did not look like the cut end of the log. The group decided that the new design depiction of a cut log was an improvement, but the new design's tree rings need to be modified to not look like a bull's eye. The current design's arrowhead which is multi-colored was changed to a stone texture and was raised. After much discussion Chairman Hoffman noted that the current design was selected from a design contest, and that he felt that the replacement sign's design should be as close to the original as possible. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the overall sign flat, but with a textured finish. It was suggested to have the arrowhead raised slightly, but to maintain the color pattern of the original sign. Board Member Nelson was to go back to the sign design company with the board's input, and would bring additional design concepts prior to the next meeting. It was pointed out that new design was made from a very durable material that could be repainted when it becomes weathered.

Page Four – Nature Sanctuary Board Minutes – November 3, 2014

TOUR UPDATE – OCTOBER 19 TOUR RESULTS

Board Member Fink stated that the last tour was fun and they had great weather. The people loved the trees that were handed out.

She noted that she put a little spin on it this time, different direction, difference activities. Board Member Itin stated that it was very entertaining. There were some young children in attendance and they were discovering things along the way. She also noted that the people on her tours really like the rocks along the trails and that she found very little litter in the Sanctuary.

There were refreshments that were provided by City Hall, apple cider and cookies. Chairman Hoffman asked if there was a count of the people in attendance. Board Member Fink said that she always has a sign in sheet and she believes that there were about 44 people there.

PROPERTY SITE MANAGEMENT – DISCUSSION – LABOR DAY CLOSING

Chairman Hoffman stated that they did close the Nature Sanctuary over the Labor Day weekend, with no negative feedback. He recommended that the city continue to close the Sanctuary for Memorial Day, Labor Day and Fourth of July weekends.

DPW ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

Summary of Latest Activities – Definition of New Growth in “Old Woods”

As stated above - the new growth in the “old woods” was determined to be pokeweed.

Fall/Winter Activities/Needs

Board Member Nelson said that there was a big maple tree recently cut down in the Nature Sanctuary because it was decaying on one side. He also has been cutting down trees around the pavilion to reduce future damage to the pavilion roof from falling limbs (he has had to make numerous repairs recently). He also spoke with Gerry about replacing the roof on the pavilion, but since it is not leaking, and made of cedar they decided that it still has a long life left (having it open underneath helps). He also commented that they didn't get as much accomplished this year as far as the trails being chipped noting that some sections are muddy. Board Member Smiley commented that putting down wood chips sometimes makes it muddier since they decompose so rapidly. Chairman Hoffman suggested that the parking lot condition, reducing the amount of wood chips on the trails and looking at what West Bloomfield uses on their trails for their low/wet areas are items to be added and discussed at the next meeting.

Page Five – Nature Sanctuary Board Minutes – November 3, 2014

FINANCIAL REPORT

Clerk McClellan stated that we still have available in the budget \$13,103.05 until June 30, 2015. Chairman Hoffman commented that the budget as of now looks fine moving forward.

2014-15 MEETING SCHEDULE REVIEW


Our next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2015 and the following meetings are in May, August and November (the 1st Monday of the month).

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:17 P.M. BOARD MEMBER GRAHAM SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIED 9-0


Mark Hoffman
Chairman


Rhonda R. McClellan
City Clerk