



THE FRIENDS OF NORTHWEST PARK ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9, 2009

Attendees: Jay Melley, Terry Langevin, Randy Lee, Jim Bennett, Michael Novak, April Vines, Carol MacMullen, Bill Schoner, Alonzo Pelton, Florence Barlow, Vivian J. Cicero, Nancy Taylor, Ann I. Allen, Ford Parker, Randy Lee, Lauren Grimshaw, Chris Alford, Dawn Morgan, Brian Vines, Mickey Mattei, Maureen Mullen, Al Boehm

Regrets: Kate Lange, Chuck Drake, Kate Ferris-Morrell

Absent: Tim Curtis, Linda Alexander, Debby Silliman

After refreshments, the meeting began at 7:10.

Presidents's Report/Opening comments: We are transitioning from founding members to those of us here today. We maintain the same wonderful group to run our large events but we do need fresh thoughts and ideas from new members. Membership is at 152 families with our goal by the end of the summer being 200. I would encourage all of you to encourage those who use the Park to join as Friends.

In terms of what is happening at the Park, the Staff has done a wonderful job in terms of putting on different programs for students and all citizens. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff and we are proud to support them. Our big donation this year is the \$30,000 commitment to a geothermal heating/cooling system for the Nature Center. According to the Town Manager, the plan is to go forward in the Fall. The Town is hoping to get Federal and State funds to lighten the overall load and maybe require less support from the Friends.

We are very lucky to have such wonderful volunteers. One in particular stands out at this time, our outgoing Treasurer, Randy Lee. If you look at what Randy has patiently put together, it's remarkable: the web site with several thousand hits a month which includes a tie in to the weather station, a set of really cool accounting books which we can be proud of, accounting systems which will keep us honest, and an overall sense of fiscal organization. We present this certificate to Randy Lee in recognition of all his efforts on behalf of the Friends. A giant size Chamber Auction Proceeds Check was also presented. Thank-you Randy.

Happenings at Northwest Park: Ford Parker, the Park Manager, presented a summary of events for 2008-2009 followed by a computer presentation depicting all the wonderful things about Northwest Park. We thank both Ford and Steve Ryan for taking such wonderful pictures and putting together a great presentation which is now playing on WIN-TV. OF NOTE: July 12th is the Sensory Saunter Trail dedication. Volunteers needed: Organic garden jobs for groups or individuals: Please contact Ford 285-1886.

The Minutes for May were approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Terry Langevin, Chair presented the class of 2012 slate of Trustees as Chris Alford, Ann Allen, Al Boehm, Chuck Drake, Randy Lee, and Lon Pelton. The Officers up

for election of two year terms are Jay Melley for President and Chris Alford as Treasurer. A motion was made and approved unanimously to accept all candidates.

We wish to thank Kate Ferris-Morrel and Tim Curtis for their service as Trustees. We look forward to their continued support of Northwest Park. We also deeply regret the loss of Dick Dolliver who has been a very active in the Park and a Trustee since 2004. He will be thought of often. We also wish to thank Randy Lee for his outstanding efforts in initiating new accounting systems, completing an accounting review and an overall great job as Treasurer. We look forward to his continuing on as the Friend's super Webmaster!

Treasurer's Report: See our web site for all the Treasurer's Reports. Attached is a new report depicting a short, clear version of the past fiscal year. Our income was \$23,905 and we spent \$17,243. Our current net worth is \$106,795. All reports were unanimously accepted.

Funding Request for NWP FY 2009-2010: The only items left from FY 2008-2009 is stuffing one more specimen, the Great Horned Owl. A Motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$19,000 in specified spending. Discussion included verification of a 5% budget cut for the Park; acknowledgement by elected officials that increased Staffing is imperative at the Park beginning with a full time educator then on to a full time Naturalist. In the meantime, Recreation Staff will help out this summer in keeping the Park open on weekends; Plans to handle books and other "library" materials should be better organized with video/CD's to be put under lock. It was suggested to consult the library for suggestions; Tree exhibits are deteriorating and it was agreed they would be addressed through the Store proceeds which are used for exhibits. The motion to authorize up to \$19,000 was unanimously approved.

Concert Report: Our net proceeds were \$4838. Discussion postponed until September.

Volunteers: Many people volunteer for the Friends. It would be nice to recognize them. Dawn Morgan asked everyone who runs Friends events to keep a log of volunteers and pass it along to her. If you have a list, please provide it to her prior to the September meeting. Discussion ensued of a "Friends Fellowship" group to recognize the special volunteers who have founded the Friends or have been active for a long time but don't want a leadership role as a Trustee. This will be on the agenda for September.

Membership: We wish to thank Lauren Grimshaw for her efforts in running the Committee this past year. We are lucky to have her continue as main correspondent to those who join the Friends. Dawn Morgan will continue to keep our Membership Data Base. We also welcome our new co-chairs of the Membership Committee, Brian and April Vines.

Dick Dolliver Memorials: Modifications will be made to the Pond Trail in Dick's name utilizing donations to the Friends. The area will be named "Dolliver's Crossing" in his honor. Dick's wife is donating his hand made birch bark canoe to Northwest Park. In order to display it properly, the Ontario Canoe Museum has been contacted for help. The location will be in the Nature Center and will include pictures of the actual making of the canoe. Chuck Drake has offered to help Ford with this project.

New Business: All Nature Center doors are being replaced/winterized for \$12,000 and are all re-keyed.

Adjournment: 8:50pm Have a great summer and see you September 8th!

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Langevin, Secretary