



Birch Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2019

Board Members XX = Present							
XX	Paul Blomgren - President	XX	Tim Funkmeyer – Asst. Treasurer	XX	Steve Hanneman - Secretary		Denny Harnstrom
	Sue Holthaus	XX	Shirley Johnson - Treasurer	XX	Mary Knautz		Gary Krimmel
XX	Mark Larison	XX	Jim Madland	XX	Betty Martin	XX	Gary Martin – Vice President
	Jackie Schumacher		Rick Zaske				

Call to Order: President Paul Blomgren

Secretary's Report: Steve Hanneman

- 9/14/2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Prepared by Steve Hanneman (Secretary)
With no revisions, the minutes were submitted and approved - M/S/P Mary / Betty

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Johnson

- Discussion was held about what the target cash balance is. Presently, there isn't a defined target. The current balance of \$25,983.51 is believed to be a record high. The typical annual operating budget is <\$3,000. Holding extra cash can be justified because an invasive species event would cost at least \$25,000.
- Discussion was held about starting to map and graph expenditures.
- Membership dues is currently \$25 annually. There was no pushback when it was increased from \$20 annually.
- Treasurer's Report approved – M/S/P – Gary M. / Mark

OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS

Membership Update:

- Currently at 49 business memberships and 213 family memberships
- Last year, there were 56 business memberships and 222 family memberships

Memorial Garden:

- Shirley Frederick has decided to go out on her own regarding bench and space. Therefore, the BLA designed space no longer needs to be wheelchair accessible which is a requirement put forth by Shirley Frederick.
- Tim Chmielewski attended the BLA board meeting and has offered to donate up to \$2,300 for a bench. If a bench costs less than \$2,300, the balance will be donated to other garden related expenses. The bench will need a cement pad. He indicated that some additional funds may be available if needed.
- The Hackensack City Council would like to have BLA's Memorial Garden plans by February 2020. If pavers are used, a permit will be required.
- It's not known how refurbishment of the library will impact the garden. It's unlikely that material damage would be incurred.
- A proposal from Landsburg Landscape Nursery totaled \$17,800 which includes removal of existing landscaping, installation of concrete edgers, installation of paver walkway, installation of fieldstone boulder outcroppings and installation of new plants / wood mulch. Other options:
 - Paver installation only: \$10,140
 - Mulch, edging, transplanting only: \$4,930
 - Design fee: \$500
 - 25% down payment with balance due upon project completion
- Without pavers, project cost would be \$7,660
- Crushed would look nicer than mulch. Shirley will get a quote from Landsburg.
- Paul will contact Landsburg to negotiate elimination of the design fee of \$500.
- There is \$2,465 currently allocated to the project:
 - \$1,165 of designated funds
 - \$1,300 approved 2020 budget
- This leaves \$5,195 to be accounted for (\$7,660 (without pavers) - \$1,165 (designated funds) - \$1,300 (2020 budget)).
- The \$5,195 balance could change:
 - Decrease by donated labor
 - Decrease by mitigation or elimination of the design fee
 - Increase by using crushed granite instead of mulch.
- Approved to proceed – M/S/P – Gary / Mark

Chainsaw Event Recap

- Many people stopped by the tent.
- 192 entries were received for the drawing.
- Sold 1 t-shirt and 1 hat.
- Donna Harger donated \$20.
- Staffing went well.

- Jim did a great job with setup.
- Good feedback was received about the invasive species material.
- Positive comments were received about how engaged BLA is with lake management and in the community.
- Prefer to keep the same spot for 2020 – it worked well.

371 Project Update

- Tim is BLA's representative.
- Reconstruction targeted for 2023. 371 detour will be 1st Street. 1st Street will also be reconstructed, before 371.
- About 20 people attended a presentation given by MNDOT engineers the 1st week of September. Participants included businesses, non-profits and individuals. The next meeting is at the end of October.
- Top 3 priorities based on constituent feedback:
 - 1) Pedestrian safety
 - 2) Economic vitality
 - 3) Aesthetics
- Likely to be curbed and guttered.
- Will be a more 'formal' road – 80' wide. Pull in parking will be eliminated
- Much discussion about the County Road 5 intersection – it could possibly be a roundabout.
- We should think about what we want BLA's input to be and give Tim 3 top priorities. Ideas:
 - Runoff / drainage protection. Curbs will make runoff more concentrated which will go into the Little Boy River which goes into Poquet Lake.
 - Greenspace / trees / aesthetics.
 - Pedestrian safety.

Technology Task Force

- Possible work over the winter.

Lake Management Plan

- Possible work over the winter.

Membership Complaints

- There is a way to submit complaints anonymously.
- BLA exists to protect the lake.
- BLA shouldn't 'advertise' that we will police. Member complaints will be handled as they come in.
 - In scope: zoning laws and lake management plan.

- If outside of zoning laws, should refer to Cass County.

Newsletter:

- The next newsletter will be published at the end of October.
- Will include a reminder about checking for invasive species and cleaning boats / trailers when moving between lakes.
- Will include 371 Project recap.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hackensack Chamber dinner – October 23. Jim and wife will attend. \$15 per person, BLA will pay

Next Board Meeting Date / Time: Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 9:00a at Paul Blomgren's place – 245 Murray Ave., Hackensack

Revised to Zoom meeting due to COVID-19. Same date and time.

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hanneman - Secretary