

September 19, 2023
Wesley Lake Commission Minutes
Minutes Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Robert Bianchini
Dr. James Brown
Eileen Chapman
Ed Lacombe
Joe Leone
Barbara Lesinski
Gail Rosewater
Jennifer Schimpf

Gail Rosewater opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with member roll call and reading of the Open Public Records Act.

Special Guest

Gail introduced Carrie Turner from the Asbury Park Arts Council. Carrie presented a project she wanted the Commission to support. After the completion of last year's beautification of light pole bases along Lake Avenue the Council was approached by representatives of the City's Green Team who were considering launching an Adopt-A-Drain program to encourage residents or businesses to adopt storm drains to keep trash and debris from clogging or otherwise infiltrating the drains to the lakes. The Green Team asked if APAC could beautify several storm drains to help draw attention to the effort.

The Council is proposing to have artists paint on two storm drains along the Wesley Lake side of Lake Avenue between Grand Avenue and Emory Street; these drains were selected **in consultation with the** Director of Planning and Redevelopment due to the high volume of foot traffic along this block. **APAC** would underwrite the cost of the painting with grant funds, as well as assume responsibility for periodic paint touch up. **The idea** would be to complete the **project before the end of the year.**

Barbara moved to support the project and Eileen seconded to support the project. All voted in favor. Ed asked if any artwork could be done around the dock. Carrie said she would look into it.

Open Public Portion

No members of the public were present.

Standard Reports:

Membership:

Gail said she attended a Neptune Environmental Shade Tree Commission Meeting since our work overlaps and discussed the work of our Commission. One member indicated they would consider submitting an application to our Commission. Neptune has one vacancy.

Treasurer:

Ed reported the balance is \$17,617.72. Eileen moved and Dr Brown seconded to approve Treasurers Report. All approved.

Ed requested \$400.00 to repair lights in lake that deter geese. Ed asked Robert to let him know when the aerators were to be removed and perhaps they could work together to do repairs. Barbara asked if we needed to do a purchase order through municipalities and Robert said no since we were using Commission money. Ed moved and Dr. Brown seconded the \$400.00 expense. All approved.

DPW:

Neptune Business Administrator received a complaint about water spraying from an aerator on Ocean Grove side and sent it to Gail. Both Gail and Robert walked over to see the issue. No water spray was observed on that day. Gail replied to Neptune's Business Manager's email about the complaint and explained the aerator was far from the house, and the water per Monmouth University was not harmful unless there was prolonged exposure. Robert spoke to a resident who complained and gave similar information. The aerator must be placed in a deep part of lake, near electricity and provides important oxygen to water per Barbara. The aerator

was shut off a few days later and Gail requested Robert to look into putting a lock on the on/off switch.

Joe reported they cleaned the cages on the west end last week.

He was not clear who mowed the rain garden near the Founders Park but has instructed Neptune not to. Gail consulted Steve Souza, 319HGrant Consultant about the mowing. He said:

“The rain gardens use specialized plants with deep roots. What we are looking to achieve is not only the uptake of nutrients by the plants, but also the filtering of sediment by the plants. Mowing the plants down limits the utility of the Rain Garden and compromises its functionality. These only need to be mowed once a year in the winter. The other thing with mowing them on a regular basis is the mowing will compact the soil which impacts the ability of the Rain Garden to infiltrate. You are negatively affecting the plants as well as the property of the soil. These are not designed to look like manicured detention basins, they will have more of a naturalized look which some people may think is weedy and unkempt. But for them to function and function properly, that has to be the case. It’s a totally different paradigm.”

Gail will remind OGCMA not to mow the Rain Gardens. Gail, Ed and Jenn will meet in mid-October to clean up rain gardens and remove plastic.

Joe explained that all trash cans on OGCMA property are emptied by the OGCMA. Gail reported she requested trash cans to be placed between Founders Park and the Ocean as there is a lot of trash.

Robert explained the per Gails request and Tom Pavinski’s approval, a rusted bench was removed by the Heck Street bridge as it could cause harm. Gail suggested any benches installed along the Lake be approved by the City for safety and durability.

Approval of Minutes

Barbara moved and Ed seconded to approve minutes of July 2023. All Commissioners approved the minutes. They will be sent to the municipalities to be posted on the websites.

Old Business

319 H Grant

Gail wrote two press release/informational pieces about the floating islands and rain gardens and sent them with pictures other municipalities to post on the website.

Signs

Barbara got a price for an educational sign (that matches the ones we have) to inform the public about the rain gardens. Gail sent her wording, and she will work with Keith on artwork, design editing. Price is \$1001.72. Gail moved and Dr Brown seconded to move forward with the sign. All approved.

New Business:

Gail distributed 2024 meeting dates. Dr. Brown moved and Ed seconded to approve 2024 meeting dates, the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM with the exception of November. There is no meeting in November.

Dr. Brown moved and Ed seconded to close the meeting at 8:15 PM. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Gail Rosewater