



Annual Membership Meeting

May 16, 2019

Harborview Room of the Boat Club Restaurant in the Fitger's Complex

Social Hour and Introduction of Guests

This year's annual business meeting was preceded by a 5:30-6:00 PM social hour. Light hors d'oeuvres were offered. Representatives from Friends of the Lakewalk (FotL) partners, Bag-It and Duluth Monarch Buddies were introduced and had informational tables. Jamie Harvie of the Bag-It campaign gave a brief presentation on progress in other Cities that have banned single-use carry bags and styrene containers. Jamie noted that although there are hundreds of signatories to the request for a Duluth ordinance to control plastic bags, currently no City Councilor will sponsor the ordinance. Bag-It is planning to attend a future City Council meeting to demonstrate the need for an ordinance. The date will be announced on Bag-It Facebook page. Cathy Wood of Duluth Monarch Buddies reported there are 20 planting sites for pollinator gardens on the Lakewalk. She gave an account of FotL's garden sites on the Lakewalk, particularly gardeners whose gardens were accidentally mowed over. Carol Burns of FotL and Buddies has obtained City approval for signs to protect next season's gardens. FotL will provide funds for their production and installation. FotL members are invited to the Duluth Monarch Festival, Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 10 AM – 2 PM at the Coppertop.

Program

Mr. Matt Andrews, formerly Executive Director of Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC), introduced himself as Duluth's new Trails Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department since January 7, 2019. He is looking forward to partnering with groups such as FotL. Mr. Andrews is responsible for way finding and signage. He looks forward to partnering with us updating our interpretive signs. Further in the interest of partnership and the importance of "connectors" to the Lakewalk, Mr. Andrews alerted us to upcoming planning work on the Campus Connector. A survey can be filled out on the City website. The master plan is underway for the link from Congdon to the Lakewalk.

Mr. Erik Birkeland, Property & Facilities Manager for Duluth, made a detailed presentation on the current progress and immediate plans for the restoration of the Lakewalk. Within the past 12 months the Lakewalk has been damaged by three major storms. The first two, October 26, 2017, and April 15, 2018, caused \$600,000 in damages. The storm on October 10, 2018, caused \$20 million worth of damage. \$25 to \$30 million will be the total cost of restoration. The Lakewalk, fortunately, was not damaged when a recent storm, April 11, 2019, blew up an ice wall that protected Canal Park from further damage. Funding for disaster relief for each storm is provided by different governmental levels,

State and Federal. Each governmental level has different reporting and timeline requirements that must be met to obtain the funds. The repair is being completed in three phases. The focus will be to rebuild for a more resilient, sustainable structure, one that will survive for 50 – 75 years.

Phase I closed the trail from the **Canal Park to Leif Erikson Park** detouring the pedestrian and cycling traffic up above. New, larger revêtement (stone cladding) was carefully engineered and placed in the water for a secure structure. The boulder size was increased from 2-4 ton stones to 5-10 ton stones. Behind the stone wall a 300' concrete wall that rests on the bedrock was poured. Only the top edge of which is now visible. Waves loop in through the rock wall, first tier of protection, and are then kicked back out to the lake by the concrete wall.

Phase II will extend the wall from Fitger's to the Northland Vietnam Memorial Park at about Fourth Avenue East as well as replacement of the boardwalk and the asphalt trail behind Fitger's. Construction to take place during the 2019 construction season. It is expected to begin May 28, 2019.

Phase III will extend from the Lakewood Treatment Plant to Canal Park. For the first two storms the City applied only to the state for repair monies. The October storm at \$20 million qualifies the Lakewalk for federal funds that require a complex application process, including more permits for historical and archaeological studies. No construction work can begin until all the studies are complete. FEMA teams will be in Duluth in June 2019 to define damage areas and if all goes well State project managers will be able to administer the FEMA funds. The Canal lost all of its revêtement in the storm surge and will need to be reinstalled. The restoration will change the sightline from the Canal Park motels, which is a political challenge. The goal is to complete major construction at the end of 2020 and completion of all of the work may take two to three years. In the meantime the Lakewalk will continue to be vulnerable to storm damage.

**Annual Meeting - Business Meeting
Minutes
May 16, 2019**

Harborview Room of the Boat Club Restaurant

Board members in attendance: Jackie Falk, Barbara Stark, Barb Crowell, Doug Bennett, Jim Topie

Members in attendance: Jim Topie, Cathy Wood, Sue Isernhagen, Dennis Isernhagen, Arend Sandbulte, Greg Garmer, Mary Garmer, Denny Falk, Jackie Falk, Jody Richards, Barbara Stark, Barbara Crowell, Doug Bennett, Arendt Sandbulte, Henry Roberts, Terry Roberts, Mark Carlos, Matt Andrews, Marlys G. Wilson, Terry Roberts, Bev Bennett, Mary Garner, Tim Carroll, Ken Lindberg,

Others in attendance: Jamie Harvie, Erik Birkeland, Matt Andrews

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by President Jim Topie.

Action on Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting – A motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved. (Terry Roberts/Cathy Wood)

Treasurer's Report - Barbara Stark

Barbara presented the most recent (April 2019) bank statement (copy attached).

Audit Report: Barbara submitted the report of the Audit Committee, Cathy Wood and Greg Gilbert. All was found to be in order. (copy attached).

Barbara reported the receipt of the memorial monies in honor of Claudia Rae Mlodozyniec and the Board of Director's decision to draw on memorial funds to pay for the Pollinator Garden signs. Motion to receive the Treasurer's and Audit reports (Denny Falk/Barb Crowell) was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Retiring Director

Barb Crowell will be leaving the Board of Directors and will continue to administer the FotL Facebook page. We thank Barb for her great enthusiasm and her commitment to the Lakewalk and to FotL.

Affirmation of Continuing Directors and Officers -

President: Jim Topie - continuing

Vice President: Doug Bennett - continuing

Treasurer: Barbara Stark - continuing

Secretary: Jackie Falk - continuing

Presentation of Slate of Nominees -

Director: Jody Richards

Election of Board Members -

Motion (Sue Isernhagen/Cathy Wood) to cast unanimous vote in favor of the proposed slate was unanimously approved. She was excitedly welcomed by the membership.

Reports -

Membership Report – The membership number increase last year, generated to participate in the Mini-master plan for the Lakewalk has shrunk. We will continue seeking renewals and keep the lower membership dues. Outreach is being made to Corporate members.

President's Report – Jim Topie shared his enthusiasm for FotL. He continues conversations with Alison Clark and Kent Worley, long-time friends of the Lakewalk and FotL. He has chosen a focused approach emphasizing communication through an updated website, regular postings on Facebook, and a regular e-mail newsletter reporting activities to our mailing list. Jim with Doug Bennett and Carol Burns are making regular monthly contact with City officials. Their effort is made more difficult by turnover in city staff. His next outreach will be to the incoming and outreach to local businesses. The recent Clean and Green effort was a successful example when Hoops partnered with FotL for the clean up on May 11, 2019 and more than 20 volunteers participated. There will be another such clean-up in the fall partnering with Gardner Builders Duluth. Jim is also reaching out to Visit Duluth and local business associations, Canal Park, Downtown, and Lakeside-Lester Park to strengthen relationships.

Secondly, Jim Topie is seeking to build up the committee strength of the organization by creating an active, working committee structure.

Old Business –

Monarch Buddies – FotL will continue to sponsor pollinator plots and will provide funds to install signage that will protect plots from being cut by mowing. 20 plots are available.

Signage – The commitment to the updating and repair of interpretive signs is awaiting City decisions to be made and communicated.

User Guides – The project, while a good idea, it is on hold until restoration is completed. (Addendum: UMD professor Pete Willemsen is still willing to construct the app if we go forward.)

New Business –

By-Laws Changes

The By-laws changes were presented with rationale and proposal recommended by the Board. (See attached.) Sue Isernhagen requested that the important and frequently voiced concern about safety on the Lakewalk be explicitly stated in the By-laws. Denny Falk proposed a friendly amendment to insert the word “safety” in the Planning Committee description, to read “Support through engagement and advisement to the City, businesses, other entities and public on planning, so the Lakewalk will continue to be preserved protected, improved, and interpreted to provide a **SAFE** world-class experience.”

The amendment was moved/seconded (Denny Falk/Sue Isernhagen) and passed unanimously.

The motion to approve amended and updated By-laws was moved, and seconded (Dana Mattila-Swor/Henry Roberts) passed unanimously.

Committee Sign-up

The sign-up sheet for committee work was distributed. See attached.

Ideas from floor for ways to encourage membership and renewals

The Corporate fee appears to be an obstacle as Continental Ski renewed as a family rather than Corporate. The Board will review the membership fee thresholds based on Jody Richards suggestion to make a Small Business membership status at a reduced rate.

Other new business

- A robust discussion of safety accompanied the discussion of the By-laws changes. Sue Isernhagen pointed out that safety was the number one concern reflected in last year’s survey. Those survey results will be sent to the Parks and Rec Department and Matt Andrews.
- A discussion of the potential danger of motorized scooters on the Lakewalk. Although motorized vehicles are not allowed, people will violate the rule.

- Discussion described the continued danger the crossroads of Water Street and 23rd Avenue East where the bike path spills out into the intersection was underscored. Cyclists do not observe the stop sign before entering the intersection.
- Attendees who operate the carriage business called attention to the convergence of the Carriage trail, the bike path and the pedestrian path into the parking lot at the Canal.
- Discussion for support for the Board to be proactive in seeking relationships with City officials regarding the continued restoration and development of the Lakewalk including Brighton Beach was reiterated.

Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM, motion (Arend Sandbulte/Susan Isernhagen) unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Falk, Secretary**

Attachments:

Agenda for 2019 Annual Meeting
Minutes for 2018 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report
Auditor's Report
Membership Report
Proposed By-law revisions
Committee Sign-up
Membership Sign-in