Silver Lake Commission

Meeting minutes
February 22, 2011
Dover City Hall—Conference room

Members present:
Dean Holden, Chair
David Edgell
Zachary Carter
Cheryl Biddle
Nancy Wagner
Robert Gorkin

Non-Members Present:
Lyle Jones, DNREC
Lara Allison, DNREC
Carolyn Courtney, City of Dover
Brittany Benson, City of Dover
Jennifer Bowman, City of Dover

Absent:
Jim Burcham

Agenda item:

I. The meeting of the Silver Lake Commission was called to order at 5:35pm on February 22, 2001 in the conference room in Dover City Hall by Chairman Dean Holden.

II. *Review and approval of August meeting minutes*
Ms. Biddle found a spelling error in Mr. Carter's name and asked that it be corrected. Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes contingent on the suggested correction and Mr. Edgell seconded. Motion passed based on the impending corrections.

III. *Lowering Silver Lake water level for clean-up*
Chairman Holden noted that the City was able to lower the water level of Silver Lake 8 inches. Mr. Carter felt that it wasn't enough to impact the shoreline and that it is getting harder to lower the level at that time of year. Chairman Holden noted that members from the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU) attempted to clean up the lake on Sunday, December 5th, using 2 boats and filling up 4 large trash bins with debris. Chairman Holden was impressed by the efforts made by DU members and hopes we can do more events like these. A letter of thanks was sent to the DU chapter.

IV. *Boating regulations*
Chairman Holden stated that we've talked about this previously and have since conducted further discussion with Mr. Carter and Mr. Burcham. There is an older document that differs from the previous one the Silver Lake Commission (SLC) reviewed. Differences between the two documents need to be addressed. Some terminology and other points in the document are outdated. Some discussion on the terminology and practice of "beaching" and a kayak launch took place.
Chairman Holden asked for comments on the second page of the document, specifically the language referencing personal airboat and hovercraft. Ms. Wagner expressed interest in prohibiting their use in Silver Lake.

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Chairman Holden asked if anyone had any concerns about requiring a second boating permit to be displayed on the trailer of the boat that is registered. No objections were made. Mr. Carter suggested the SLC work with Administrative Services to see what else is required to accommodate this.

Chairman Holden asked for comments concerning the terminology used to prohibit the use of ski ramps, parachutes, or other similar devices. Ms. Wagner suggested that the wording be changed to prohibit devices that are designed to propel rider, passenger, or participant into the air. All were in agreement.

A discussion ensued about personal flotation devices that should be required for various activities on the Lake.

Chairman Holden asked for comments regarding permissible boat length or horse power. Mr. Gorkin, Ms. Wagner, and Mr. Carter agreed with the current status of the document. Mr. Edgell expressed concern that the lake isn't big enough for larger boats or higher speeds, and the document should remain the way it is. Mr. Carter agreed and added that we don't have capability to monitor and enforce speed on the Lake. The Chair stated the he will come to the next meeting with a draft that addresses the previous topics. Once a new draft is completed, it will go to Parks and Recreation for the next approval.

Mr. Gorkin requested clarification in wording of section D. Ms. Courtney confirmed that it was a typing error and wording needs to be changed.

Mr. Gorkin inquired about who owns the lake. Chairman Holden comments that he has always assumed that the City of Dover owns the Lake, and Mr. Carter confirms the City of Dover owns the water and the State of Delaware owns the land underneath it.

Some discussion took place about the fees that are required to use the Lake. Chairman Holden mentioned changing the $100 fine to an adjustable amount depending upon the illegal activity. Ms. Wagner spoke about having consistency with the fines; Mr. Edgell agreed and suggested creating a fee schedule. As it currently stands, the penalty for not permitting a boat is the same amount as the permit itself. Ms. Courtney, Ms. Wagner, and Mr. Edgell agreed that the fee should be significantly increased. Ms. Wagner motioned that Mr. Carter look at comparable lakes and come up with a fine schedule for various offenses, Mr. Edgell seconded it and all were in favor.

V. *Project updates*

Ms. Allison explained the progress to date on several current projects, starting with Dover High School. Ms. Allison noted that URS Corporation has completed plans for the rain garden, and construction is expected to start this spring or fall. Ms. Wagner expressed concern that money is not being utilized properly because of possible destruction of the high school in the near future. Mr. Jones stated that per a previous discussion with the Capitol School District, the parking lot will stay in place and will be operational. Mr. Carter inquired about a cost estimate to construct the rain garden; Mr. Jones confirmed that

it is in the process of being calculated but he thinks that the project will be in the price range of $25,000-$30,000. A discussion occurred about when the plantings should take place, and Ms. Allison noted that the planting will most likely happen in the fall in order to utilize the help from students.

Ms. Allison mentioned that the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for the St. Jones River Stabilization Project was received on 2/22/2011. She then noted that bidding the project out to contractors will be the next step. Mr. Jones mentioned a conversation with Mr. Carter where they agreed that the selected contractor will have to be flexible with their working schedule and be willing to temporarily shut down their work because of special events that are planned in Silver Lake Park. Mr. Jones expressed concern that the selected contractor must have experience with constructing the proposed elements. Chairman Holden added that Mr. Jones should work in conjunction with Mr. Carter when creating the bid proposal and construction schedule. Mr. Carter noted that the park is utilized the most in June, July, and August. More discussion about construction time frame occurred.

Ms. Allison stated that the Kent Conservation District (KCD) has already identified several water quality improvement projects to do on the Del Tech Community College campus. She explained that the allocated 21st Century Funds may not be enough to fully cover the costs, so they are seeking additional funding from the Clean Water Council. KCD is currently in the process of creating a maintenance plan for current and future structures.

Ms. Allison explained that the St. Jones riparian buffer zone will be extended below Division Street on the City's annual Earth/Arbor Day event. She mentioned that 77 trees have been donated and will be planted in the oxbow area. Concerns were expressed from Mr. Carter and Ms. Wagner that it was too many trees. Chairman Holden suggested that an outreach workshop be offered to residents to get their opinion of the plantings; Mr. Jones agreed and will coordinate with the City to setup a meeting in March.

Ms. Allison explained that she submitted an application for a DE Land & Water Grant from the State Parks and Recreation division for over $18,000 for improvements along the St. Jones riparian buffer. The funds will provide 5 park benches, 1 large interpretive sign, 20-30 plant ID signs, and plant material used for the Earth/Arbor Day event.

Ms. Allison mentioned that the water levels at Mirror Lake and check-dam are currently being surveyed and analyzed by DNREC. She added that the reassessment of sediments in Mirror Lake was completed by a DNREC hydrologist and is currently in draft form.

Mr. Jones explained that he is seeking funds for treating the stormwater runoff of the DNREC R&R building. Ms. Wagner expressed concern that the money should be used for projects that are needed, and Mr. Jones replied that this improvement is necessary because the stormwater and pollutants currently run off the DNREC parking lot and directly into Mirror Lake. Ms. Wagner questioned where the money to fund the project is coming from, and Mr. Jones stated that no funding is secured at this moment, but penalty funds and future grants will most likely fund the project.

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More discussion ensued about the planting of 77 trees along the St. Jones riparian zone. Mr. Edgell expressed concern and mentioned that he would like to see a drawing of the area. Chairman Holden agreed and reiterated that communication with the residents will be imperative.

VI. *Delaware State University*

Ms. Wagner expressed concern that Delaware State University be considered when creating projects that improve the water quality. Mr. Jones replied that the University is not currently a priority for improving water quality based on the assessment done by Duffield Associates. Chairman Holden expressed interest in involving students and staff in a project, if one opportunistically comes up, at the Ag Museum to improve water quality.

Chairman Holden then mentioned that he'd like to talk more project updates, and Ms. Allison introduced the Rain Gardens for the Bays Campaign. She explained that the Campaign consists of hundreds, possibly thousands, of rain gardens that'll be utilized to better water quality. Ms. Allison also mentioned that there will be training specifically targeted towards landscapers to teach them how to create and install rain gardens. The training will take place on March 30th at the St. Jones Reserve and the Rain Gardens for the Bays Campaign will cover the costs.

VII. *Watershed Implementation Strategy*

Ms. Allison has renamed the Watershed Implementation Strategy to the Silver Lake Sub-Watershed Implementation Strategy for the Silver Lake Commission. She explained that the Strategy discusses information about Silver Lake, past projects, and provides a future outlook for the sub-watershed. Ms. Allison offered to send an electronic copy for those interested. All Committee members are interested in an electronic copy, except for Ms. Wagner.

Ms. Allison then mentioned that plans are currently being designed by the landscape architect for the project involving the Wyoming Lake Park buffer.

Chairman Holden stated that Ms. Allison has accepted a new position with the State of Delaware and will continue to work closely with the new St. Jones watershed coordinators. Mr. Jones explained that Ms. Allison's replacements, Ms. Benson and Ms. Bowman, are funded through February.

There was discussion about the projects that will be transferred over to Ms. Benson and Ms. Bowman.

Mr. Edgell expressed his gratitude for the excellent job that Ms. Allison has done.

VIII. *Skatespot*

Chairman Holden discussed possible locations for a future skatespot in Silver Lake Park. He specifically talked about two areas that were shown in two maps that he handed out. Mr. Jones suggested that a soil scientist do soil borings to test the drainage capacity of the soil before a location is decided upon. Mr. Edgell inquired about the size of the skatespot,

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and Chairman Holden replied that it will be a relatively small area with a few small features; he gave the example that it will take up as much space as a swing set. Chairman Holden affirms that the use of the area will not negatively impact other park visitors. He also explained that the next step will be to design the skate spot and figure out where it's going.

IX. *Old business*

No old business was discussed.

X. *New business*

Ms. Biddle mentioned three events that the State Parks and & Rec are incorporating into their new campaign to help children become more involved with nature. She gave specific dates and locations for the events.

Ms. Biddle also mentioned an article in the newspaper that discussed a resource center for teens struggling with mental illness that was co-created from an Archmere high school student.

Chairman Holden and Mr. Carter suggested that the next four SLC meetings be scheduled. The next four quarterly meetings were arranged for May 18th, August 17th, November 16th, and February 15th. An additional meeting on March 29th was suggested by Mr. Carter to discuss current topics that require immediate attention.

Chairman Holden requested to Mr. Jones that one person be the contact person for the Silver Lake Commission.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Holden, Mr. Carter offered a second, and all were in favor. The next meeting will be at 5:30pm on March 29th, 2011 in the Council's Chambers.

Minutes submitted by: Brittany Benson

Approved by: [**Type name here**]

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