

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
December 3rd, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Roger Cody.

PRESENT: Eric Beeman, Judy Blackmore, Roger Cody, Frank and Linda English, Jane and Paul Mueller, Barb Wolverton , George and Margaret Punches, Dave Combs, Lee LaFleur, Doug Calloway, and Judy Ball

CHILI COOK OFF/CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS: Since Judy wasn't feeling well, she requested that she be able to give her report first so she could go home. Judy reported that there were 13 vendors in the Holiday Bazaar and that she had sent them all a "Thank You" for participating. There were eight entries in the Individual category of the Chili Cook Off and four in the Business. Some suggestions have been made for improvements for next year. Many vendors felt a longer time for the bazaar would be good, and Judy stated that she might add two hours to the schedule for next year. It was also suggested that perhaps the chili cook off should be moved to start at 2:00 or 2:30 and to have it last until 5:30. The hope would be that this might encourage people to stay for the tree lighting ceremony.

MINUTES: Copies of the November minutes were distributed and sent out by email prior to the meeting. Dave Combs moved to approve, Frank English seconded and minutes were approved with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial report was distributed by Treasurer Barb Wolverton. Barb reported that we have 175 members. There was discussion on sending out invoices reminding folks to renew. Barb answered questions from the last meeting. Roger appointed a budget committee composed of Barb, George and Doug to prepare next year's budget. Frank moved the Treasurer's report be approved, Paul seconded, and report was approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Roger reminded everyone that this will be his last meeting as president and thanked everyone for their efforts over the past two years. Roger reported that he and George had met with Laura Heintzelman and Tim Erwin of the Manistee Foundation last Monday to discuss the 501C3 /501C7 question. It was determined that the PLA is clearly non profit but that most of our activities aren't charitable. He stated that they are still investigating, but work would need to be done to clearly identify our charitable activities and keep monies used for those separate.

MANISTEE COUNTY WINTER FESTIVAL: Judy Ball, the Executive Director of the CVB, reported that the first annual Manistee County Winter Festival will be held on January 30, 31 and February 1st. 2009. Judy stated that the festival is still in the beginning planning stage and that the only event that is set is an Ice Fishing Tournament that will be held on Portage Lake. Fred McDonald is the chairman and the plan is to have 20 pre drilled holes that will sell for \$20.00 a piece. Judy also stated that they would like to hold a benefit dinner for the Veterans Endowment Fund to be held at the Portage Point Inn but that they presently do not have a chairman for it. She asked for the PLA's assistance in planning and chairing these and additional events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sign: The Township has agreed to take ownership of the completed north sign, and the projected south sign. The south sign will go where the Shay's sign is presently located (land that is owned by Doug Schultz). Roger is still looking into installing solar lighting.

Web site: Eric Beeman discussed the new site and asked for people to send him additional pictures. He has received Festival of Lights/Chili Cook off photos from Frank and Jeff. There were general comments that everyone likes the look of the new site.

Fund Raiser: Lee passed out the agenda for tomorrow's fund raiser committee meeting. He also discussed a couple of his ideas for new fund raising methods 1.) put envelopes on dining tables at the auction and ask people to make donations to the watershed project (or other specific projects) 2.) ask people to donate \$250.00 to become the "PLA Star Contributor of the Month". The idea would be to get 12 people to donate and then each month one person (or family or business) would be featured on the school sign. He suggested that the PLA would give \$50.00 of the \$250.00 to the school for the use of their sign.

Board Retreat: George reminded everyone that the retreat will be next Monday December 8th from 8:30 -12:00 at the Covenant Bible Camp. Dan Behring will be the facilitator, and it will be a strategy session...and George asked that everyone come without any preconceived ideas.

NEW BUSINESS:

Newsletter: Margaret reported that December 15th. is the deadline for articles for the January Newsletter. She asked for an article from Doug on the sign and one from Lee on the fund raiser.

Further Discussion on 2009 Winter Festival: General discussion and agreement that Judy did not give the PLA enough notice to enable us to have time to plan/ chair events for this year's festival since there will only be one meeting before the proposed festival. It was agreed that Roger will coordinate with Judy to find out if anyone has been asked to sell hot chocolate etc. in the park in connection with the fishing contest. It was suggested that we could enclose the picnic area in plastic or possibly have the Lions food wagon on site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

Submitted by
Jane Mueller
Co Secretary

