

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION**

November 6, 2024

6:00PM

**Regular Board Meeting**

Onekama Township Hall

***OUR MISSION: The Portage Lake Association is a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making the Portage Lake Area a great place in which to live, play and stay.***

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Committee Heads</b>
Roz Jaffe, President VACANT, Vice President Evie McNeil, Treasurer Mary Jo McElroy, Secretary Al Taylor, Past President	Jean Capper Susan Halloran Kathy Loynes David Maylen Mark Miller Carey Stark Joseph Suchocki Diane Wemlinger	Brian Devilling, Mary Jo McElroy, Mary Fairgrieve, Theresa Gimpel, Nancy Dabrowski, Paul Mueller, Nikki Schneider, Justin Sedelmaier, Carrie & Greg Cassagnola, Katy Castillo

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION ITEMS / RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Call to order and welcome	Secretary Mary Jo McElroy called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Present: Kathy Loynes, Nikki Schneider, Mary Jo McElroy, Joe Suchocki, Al Taylor, Roz Jaffe, Diane Wemlinger, Jean Capper.	
Additions to agenda	Car Show, Petunia update, Onekama History Committee	
Consent Agenda	The Consent Agenda consisted of October 2, 2024 minutes and October 2024 financials. Joe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Jean seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.	
Correspondence	Roz received a thank you from the St. Joseph Food Pantry for the contribution of \$493 from the scarecrows.	
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
Fall Festival	Roz is compiling information about suggestions for the fall festival next year. Al asked about getting alpacas for the petting zoo. Diane asked about when the scarecrows should be taken down.	Mary Jo and Samara Hamilton will compile "how to do" the festival for chairpersons in 2025  Jean will send out a reminder to take down scarecrows
Christmas in Onekama: Artisan Market	Nikki announced that both gyms will be used and reserved spaces are full. Artisans will be in larger gym, while bake sales, Santa, gift wrapping, etc. will be in the smaller gym. Cookie bake-off and Grinch will be in the	Al will do a Facebook boost.

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	cafetorium. Nikki asked that the PLA be present from 10 AM to 1 PM for PR and membership information. Nikki needs help taping the gym floors on Friday, November 23 at 4 PM and 6 PM.	Al and Roz volunteered to sit at the PLA table.  Mary Jo will send Santa flyer to Al for posting.
Christmas in Onekama: Celebration of Lights	Kathy stated that everything is set; donation envelopes were mailed out and some were left at the post office and library. Donations as of October 31 are \$1790. Roger Burger showed Kathy and Joe how to turn on the Christmas tree lights. An “after party” will be held at Farr Center with refreshments and music.	
Onekama Days 2025: Flying Toasters	This benefit concert is proposed for Saturday night during Onekama Days. The band will provide stage, light show, and generator. Al Taylor has a committee of 9 persons who will be sub-divided into teams for 1) feasibility, 2) do ability, and 3) fundraising.	
2025 Officers and Board	Votes have been counted. Officers for 2025 are: President Cyndy Wangbichler Vice President vacant Secretary Mary Jo McElroy Treasurer Evie McNeil Past President Al Taylor Board members: Jean Capper, Susan Halloran, Kathy Loynes, Mark Miller, Carey Stark, Joseph Suchocki, Diane Wemlinger, Roz Jaffe. All but one are incumbents so not much orientation will be needed.	
Car Show proposal	Mary Jo McElroy reviewed the revenue and expenses from the Car Show in 2024. She proposed that the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle (\$393) and \$570.01 from net proceeds be dedicated to upcoming Frank English Scholarship Awards. Those amounts will be added to what currently exists in the money set aside. That means we will be able to provide a \$1500 scholarship in 2025 and the same amount in 2026. After that, the fund will be depleted. Mary Jo made a motion to this effect; Joe seconded the motion, and it passed.	Mary Jo will let Evie know the decision and how to reserve funds for scholarships in 2025 and 2026.  Need to find someone to chair the car show in 2025.
Petunia update	Plants have been selected for the large pots and we have received a quote from Pleasanton. Mary Jo is working on the budget for next year. She and Shirley Brooks met with Karen Larsen related to soil replacement next year. The	Mary Jo to send budget info for Petunias and Car Show to Evie, Al, and Roz.

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	quoted price is remarkably high, so we will seek bids. Jason Thompson, Anthony's Outdoor Services, and Field of Dreams were suggested for quotes. Tangentially, there is an upcoming proposal for a Wellness Path in Onekama Village which will affect the petunia plots. A community meeting is planned for November 12 at 7 PM at Farr Center if interested in learning about it. It does have implications for petunias.	Petunia Committee to get more quotes
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
Onekama Consolidated Schools request	OCS may be asking the PLA to help fund college visits for students.	
Strategic Planning	Rox has researched consultants to lead PLA through a strategic planning session this winter. We need a review of our mission statement and need to set some strategic priorities for the next few years. She has spoken to Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran of Blackbird Nonprofit Consulting in Traverse City; Laine Blasch of Blasch Consulting, and will speak with Mary Reilly at MSU Extension. Officers will look at their proposals, then make a recommendation at the December Board meeting to hire a consultant. Dates would be scheduled in January / February time frame.	
Onekama History Committee	The Onekama History Committee is interested in talking to the PLA about being associated with us as a sub-committee within our structure. They are currently authorized by the Park and Recs Committee.	
Fundraising idea	Al suggested that having a gambling / casino night as a fundraiser might be a good source of revenue. Folks present seemed interested in the idea.	Al to investigate companies who provide this as a turnkey event
Newsletter	Newsletter articles are due on December 20 for the January PLA newsletter.	
2025 Budget	Budget preparation is underway.	Send proposed budgets to Evie, Al, and Roz
<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>		
Next meeting	The next meeting will be held on December 4 at 6 PM. There is NO MEETING in January.	
Adjournment	Jean moved to adjourn; Diane seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.	

Submitted by Mary Jo McElroy