



FOCW Annual Meeting

October 19, 2019

Highlights from 2019 Board Minutes

From the January 24, 2019 meeting.

4. Facility improvements –Ruthann made a **motion** to replace planking on bridge from Meadow Lakes golf course with FOCW funds and volunteer labor. 2nd by Jim Peterson, motion passed. Bridge will extend from Legacy Trail to existing steel bridge. Cost is TBD.

5. FOCW updated Kiosk information – information needs updating. Ernie is willing to work with others on the display.

C. Amphitheater Update given by Tom.

HKGI was awarded the contract to design engineering plans. Three sites were proposed following a tour of park with Tom. Preferred site: plateau area between Shelters #2 and #3. They also considered the area to the south of the volleyball area, facing the lake.

Tom emphasized that members of FOCW need to be involved with the plans. Area will have electricity and solar lighting, possibly additional plumbing. Seating will be on large quarry rocks or on ground.

Highlights from 2019 Board Minutes

From the July 29, 2019 meeting.

Old Business

1. Watercraft rental: People wanting to rent same rack (including top rack) for next year need to do that before Jan 1st. After Jan 1, it's 1st come, 1st served. Limestone step rocks will be placed to facilitate reaching upper racks. If someone cannot use their racks for whatever reason, they can be reimbursed only if someone else buys that rack. Board agreed to keep prices the same.
2. Moonlight paddle/hike: need volunteers. Have been washed out d/t bad weather. Next is Aug 17th. Jim P. will help with hike. Day in the Park: Celeste will coordinate.
3. Dam hike review: Donated grill has bad regulator. Used Josh's grill for Dam Hike. Jim P. will look into purchasing small light grille. Dam hike well attended, food all went. Suggestions made for improvements. Need more garbage bags – bags broke. Recycling needed. Need better organization before events – checklist. Communicate with Celeste. Motion: buy grille for max of \$200. Approved
4. Amphitheater: Tom E. met with HKGi; it will be on West side between picnic shelters 3 & 4 facing the lake. Plans will be firmed up. Layout looks good.
5. Legacy trail bridge project. Now at a standstill. Old decking is off for Legacy bridge, but everyone left for farming, lake camps, trips, etc.. Josh is out for medical reasons. Lumber and screws are here. Volunteers needed. Jim P. volunteered to help with decking installation and will lead other volunteers.
6. Signage: Ruthann talked to Sandy Hokanson. Sandy has been too busy to deal with this and will be busy until late fall. Work has begun on wording for signs. High Resolution pictures of forbs needed. Drone pic of maze would be especially nice.

Balance Sheet 10/08/2019

Assets

<u>Assets</u>		\$0.00
<u>Current Assets</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Cash in Wallet</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Business CD</u>	\$8,310.86	
<u>Checking Account</u>	\$2,873.72	
<u>Savings Account</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Imbalance-USD</u>		\$0.00
Total Assets		\$11,184.58

Liabilities

<u>Liabilities</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Credit Card</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Creditors</u>	\$0.00	
Total Liabilities		\$0.00

Equity

<u>Equity</u>	\$0.00	
<u>Opening Balances</u>	\$0.00	
Retained Earnings		\$11,184.58
Total Equity		\$11,184.58

Total Liabilities & Equity		\$11,184.58
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Cash Flow - 12/01/2018 to 10/08/2019

Selected Accounts

- Assets
- Assets:Current Assets and selected subaccounts
- Imbalance-USD

Money into selected accounts comes from

<u>Income:Canoe Rack Rental</u>	\$3,050.00
<u>Income:Gifts Received</u>	\$4,716.00
<u>Income:Interest Income</u>	\$89.10
<u>Income:Membership</u>	\$580.00
Money In	\$8,435.10

Money out of selected accounts goes to

<u>Expenses:Chester Woods Park</u>	\$5,519.23
<u>Expenses:Day in the Park</u>	\$45.00
<u>Expenses:Groceries</u>	\$198.84
<u>Expenses:Internet</u>	\$395.62
<u>Expenses:Internship</u>	\$599.00
<u>Expenses:Miscellaneous</u>	\$35.00
<u>Expenses:Publicity</u>	\$198.20
<u>Expenses:Taxes:State/Province</u>	\$25.00
<u>Income:Canoe Rack Rental</u>	\$0.00
Money Out	\$7,015.89

Difference **\$1,419.21**

Where in the Park. . . Quiz

Take a sheet and write the slide number next to the area of the park that the picture is showing.



Where in the Park

- So Sand Prairie Bridge
- Zieman Tr Lake Overlook
- Kisrow Trail
- Prairie Maze Trail
- Newly Decked Bridge
- Zieman Homestead
- Zieman Bluff
- So. Sand Prairie Trail
- Goat Prairie
- New Canoe In Campsite Location



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Now for the Answers

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Thanks to our volunteers who installed the decking on two bridges.

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Prairie Maze Trail

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Eagle Scout Project installed at Kisrow Trail entrance

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FOCW Sponsored Camper Cabin Update

The Maple Camper Cabin completed one year ago has been operational this entire camping season. Since the cost of construction materials exceeded \$25,000 (the agreed amount that FOCW would contribute) Olmsted County is keeping all proceeds until that excess is paid off. Once that is paid off, ½ of all camper cabin income will be placed into the Chester Woods Donation Account for special projects and programming for the park.



FOCW Watercraft Storage Program

We have 6 watercraft storage racks located adjacent to the boat ramp. Each rack has 6 rental slots for private watercraft. FOCW rents these slots on a seasonal basis for \$100 each (April-October). For 2019, all 36 slots are rented. Our volunteers help with keeping weeds down in this area, improving signage, and other maintenance. Our park staff helps with monitoring and will be placing limestone boulders for improved access to the top racks.



We need
volunteers for
Memorial Day
Hike and
Picnic

We need
volunteers for
Full Moon
Hikes and
Paddles

We need
volunteers for
Chester Woods
25th Anniversary
Celebration

We Need Volunteers

We need
volunteers
for Day in
the Park

We need
volunteers
for Fire Wood
Preparation

We need
volunteers for
Olmsted County
Fair Booth

We need
Volunteers for
Christmas and
Halloween in the
Park (July &
August)

We need volunteer tractor drivers for special programs

Memorial Day Hike and Picnic

The FOCW sponsored Hike and Picnic had a very healthy attendance this year. The weather was ideal, which is always a big factor determining outcomes.

Thanks to our volunteers who organized, set up, cooked, drove for the wagon ride, and explained the FOCW story.



Weed Warriors and Seed Collection



Patty & John Trnka continue to head up the volunteer efforts here at Chester woods for controlling invasive species along with collecting seeds of native prairie plants to be used here and other county locations in Olmsted County.



Olmsted County Parks Quarterly



Link from friendsofchesterwoods.org

[Chester Woods Maps](#)

[Olmsted County Parks Newsletters](#)

[Parks and Trails Council Web Site](#)

Imagining Income

Friends of Chester Woods (FOCW), like most park non-profits, depends on donations for its income. But unlike our other county parks, Chester Woods Park has an entrance fee, making visitors less inclined to offer additional donations.

Faced with this reality, FOCW got creative! The FOCW board came up with some truly innovative ways to help more people enjoy this phenomenal park and bring in a steady stream of funding to enhance and promote the park.

Chester Woods Park is over 7 miles east of Rochester. We realize that a lot of disadvantaged and minority children can not get to the park and we wanted to work

with other groups to get them out here to enjoy all the fun Chester Woods offers. But we needed income.

The success of Chester Woods new camper cabin inspired FOCW to provide a second one, but only if the income could be used by FOCW. We launched our Income for Outreach campaign, successfully applied for grants and received generous donations. However, it required some friendly negotiations with Olmsted County to ensure that the income from this cabin stayed as Chester Woods donations rather than becoming part of the general account like other park revenue. Lots of meetings and

the flexibility of everyone involved led to a first-ever agreement with the County to split the income from the two cabins, with half to stay at Chester Woods Park to be used for FOCW and park projects. Any future donation based projects paid for by a Friends group in Olmsted County parks will benefit from this ground-work done by FOCW!

Stay tuned for more examples of how FOCW successfully partners with the park staff and County Commissioners to bring in reliable income when circumstances do not favor the more conventional methods of fundraising.

-Ruthann Yaeger



Full Moon Hikes and Paddles

Each month, May - September, FOCW sponsors with volunteer guides a full moon paddle and hike on the Saturday nearest to the full moon. Well, 2019 was not very cooperative with the weather. Many of these had to be cancelled. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped this year.

For 2020, we will be exploring with Celeste, our park naturalist, offering fewer of these during these months.



Chester Woods is 25 Years Old in 2020

The FOCW Board has approved a plan to hold a celebration in conjunction with Eyota Days.

What will be included and offered with this celebration is yet to be determined. Your input and volunteer support is greatly appreciated.

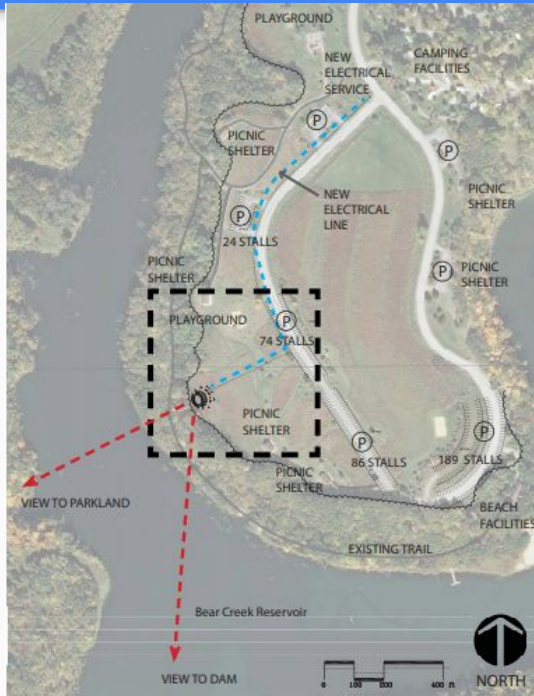
FOCW Board Elections for 2 year term

- ❑ Joel Dunnette as Board Member
- ❑ Ruthann Yaeger as Secretary
- ❑ Patty Trnka as Board Member
- ❑ Mike LaValle as Board Member

Playscape Update



Amphitheater Project Update



Location of proposed Amphitheater. We will be seeking funds for this project from multiple sources including FOCW



Amphitheater Project Update



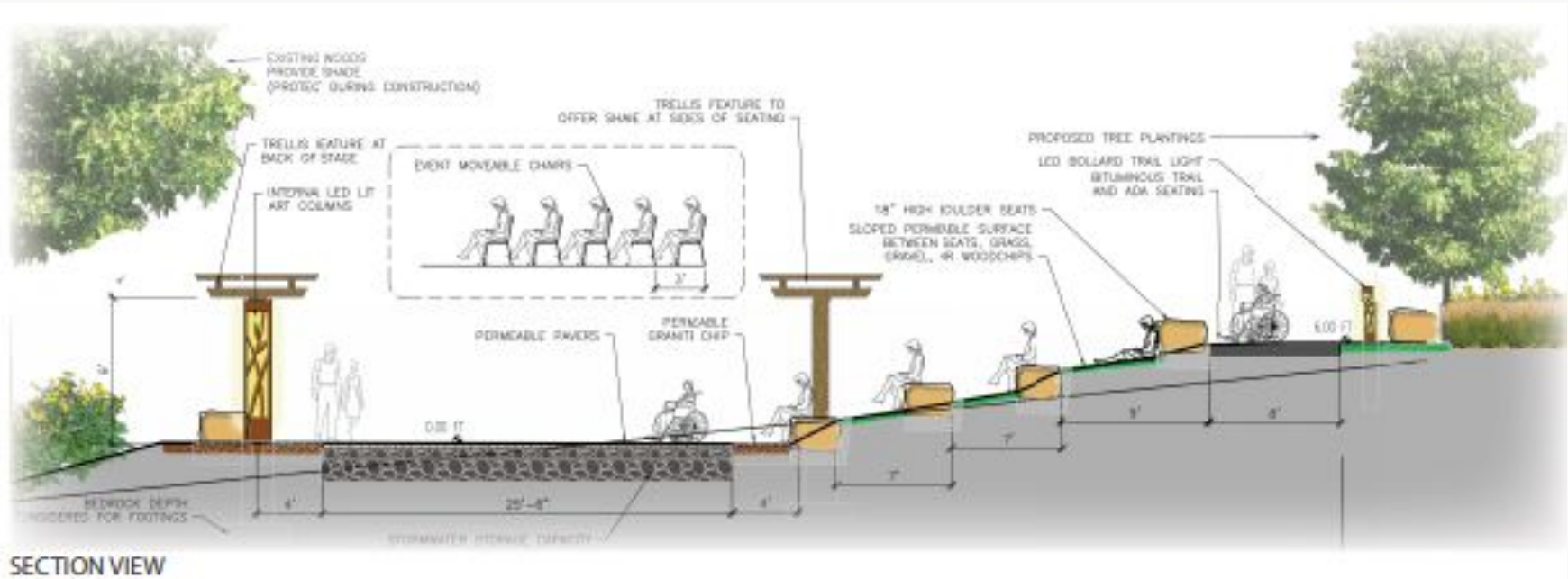
AMPHITHEATER DESIGN



CHARACTERISTICS

- Oval design form graded into slope
- Two rows of limestone seat wall for 25-50 people
- Limestone boulders and grass terraces for 100-200 plus people
- Stage 1300 sf - permeable pavers
- Stage flex space of gravel surface - additional 500 sf
- Limestone boulder set back drop for stage
- ADA route to top and to stage
- Planted shade trees
- Trellis stage backdrop
- Trellis shade options to either side of seating

Section view of Proposed Amphitheater



Work Day Projects

This afternoon we will have a variety of volunteer projects from which to choose. We will organize the groups at the end of the meeting.

- Bag Up Grass Seed
- Make Fire Wood with wood splitter
- Barbed wire retrieval
- Go over flower ID signs with Sharpie (indoor project)
- Shoreline & picnic shelters trash pick-up
- Buckthorn removal east of gate house