

Hugh A. Butler, President, Chautauqua Property Owners Association

RE: Chautauqua Institution Trustees Meetings February 2-4, 2012

Following are my notes from the recent sessions held in the Colonnade and Bellinger Hall with most of the Trustees and senior staff in attendance.

As CPOA President, I enjoy observer status at these meetings. The Trustees who are elected by property owners represent us well and, along with other Trustees who are CPOA members, assure a fair hearing of our concerns.

Items of interest to property owners are the only ones I report here, though I was privileged to hear about program elements and other interesting matters.

Lake Quality

“It’s About the Lake” is a theme which will become familiar to Chautauquans this year as we review the impaired and precarious status of the lake’s health and our impact upon it.

Dean Gowen, a landscape architect who designed the Fletcher Hall rain garden, has been retained to study Chautauqua’s 1.4 mile shoreline and to make recommendations for remediation and best practices.

Dean told us we should at least consider ceasing to mow the lawns near the lake. The resultant higher grasses will slow down runoff somewhat until they can be replaced with native plants and other shoreline mitigation techniques.

The lake association will have a 3 days a week presence. Both harvesting and shoreline clean-up services will be provided during those times in addition to when they would otherwise be in the area. Harvesting will occur on an as needed basis. We could go several weeks without harvesting depending upon growth patterns. Shoreline maintenance is a regular need and will likely consume most of the labor time.

Storm Water Drainage

The grant process is grinding slowly forward but is yet expected to yield perhaps \$699,000 toward the \$1.5M+ efforts over the next three years.

Work on the golf course rain gardens and wetlands will proceed as planned.

\$50,000 was added to the 2012 budget to refurbish the drainage system on Massey near the old fire station.

2012 Capital Improvement Projects

Funding for road work on Park Avenue is in the 2012 budget. Property owners will be notified via US Mail in advance of work done in your neighborhood, where feasible. The primary address used for notification is that used by the County Assessor to send out tax notices.

The “On the Grounds” tab (<http://www.ciweb.org/on-the-grounds/>) is updated periodically to display project status and other items of interest to property owners, including a link to the CPOA website at www.cpoa.ws.

Dean Gowen (see above) also provided a design for Director of Operations, Doug Conroe, which will be used to craft a brickwalk continuation leading from the Garden District northward past McKnight, Lenna and Fletcher to the North parking lot, across the road to the School of Dance. The brickwork will be made more permeable by use of porous bricks.

A “roundabout” appearance (though at grade, not raised) will decorate the intersection there establishing a traffic calming effect. A similar road feature will connect across Prospect to the Hedding walkway. Both

intersections have been marked as hazardous by CPOA Transportation and Safety Committee members in the past. This work will significantly enhance the pedestrian friendliness of this very active area while at the same time alerting automobile and bicycle riders to the presence of pedestrians.

Repairs to the brickwalk at Peck are also included in the 2012 budget enhancements.

ALU Study Group

Bob Jeffrey (CPOA Area 6 representative) delivered the group's report to the Trustees as promised during the retreat sessions. You may read the report on the "On the Grounds" page of www.ciweb.org. Board chair George Snyder thanked Bob and announced the formation of a task force to draft amendments to the current land use regulations for presentation to the full board in November. Public input and feedback will be taken during the season when the recommendations are published. CPOA board members ought to be especially alert to collect and report feedback during the season.

South and North Lot Parking

President Becker announced a new program which is offering spaces in these popular nearby lots to season ticket-holding property owners who currently lack parking options onsite. Early responses have been positive. With a few additional spots also available, the Institution will shortly offer space to property owners who are season ticket holders and who are willing to forgo "white stake" parking spots or second car spots. In future, President Becker hopes to initiate a reserved spot program in the Main Lot close in which will similarly be used to entice homeowners to move vehicles off grounds. CPOA board members should help John Shedd identify and notify persons who fit these descriptions.

Burglaries and Security

New camera heads will enhance security at four gates allowing them to return to the night time closure schedule during the off season. Main and Market gates are open again during the day this week; South and Turner gates thereafter. Elm and Bryant gates will remain closed until May, at least.

Break-ins are rare on the grounds and the swift apprehension of the suspects and the stolen goods is a tribute to the Institution's security team and their close cooperation with the county sheriff.

Amphitheater Study Group

Funding has been obtained for a “design study” which will produce conceptual drawings suitable to enable Chautauquans to visualize the possibilities ahead for this major renovation project. If donors become inspired to support the plan’s \$20M price tag, work could begin as soon as 2013 for the performance and seating area under the 25,000 square foot roof which will remain an iconic symbol of our national treasure.

“Connectivity” is a design concept which refers to the important central nature of this facility to our residential community. While seating inside the “bowl” will not be significantly augmented, standing room features may be added which may alter the nature of the experience inside and outside the gates including the planting squares and parking spaces.

Storm water runoff will receive a makeover as part of the project. Loading/unloading access will be made more neighbor-friendly during the second major phase of the project which will renovate and upsize the “back room” portion of the facility. The current red footbridge will remain, therefore limiting the eastward scope of the project. Area reps should encourage neighbors to attend public outreach meetings during the 2012 season to become informed about the options and to provide feedback to the design team.