

Annual Meeting of the Sylvan Lake Improvement Association

Tuesday, September 16th, 2014

Meeting start time: 7:03pm

Board members in attendance: Sam Ford, Doug MacKay, Risa Weiss, Jeanne Peterson, Gary Goldblatt, Chris Molsen, Lee Dickenson, Jeri Swanson, Laurie MacKay

- Call to order and welcome
 - Sam called the meeting to order at 7:03
- Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting minutes
 - Janice Powell motion to approve
 - Christine Seidner seconded
 - Motion passed on voice vote
- Introduction (Sam Ford)
 - Sam talked about what a great community this is
- Welcome All/New Residents
 - All residents introduced themselves. 48 people in attendance
- Treasurer's Report and the proposed 2015 Budget (Doug MacKay)
 - Doug says that we are in good shape financially. He thanked Risa Weiss and Jeanne Peterson for their work with collections. Thanked the board for being financially responsible and stay within budget. Thanked Gary for his diligence and hard work. Indicated that we will see a slight increase in parks. Currently undergoing audit with Cantey Associates. All 2013 documents have been turned over to the auditor. Wendy asked if it is typical to have an audit, was it being done to be prudent.
 - Doug was asked about how we are collecting dues when house is being sold. Doug indicated that we are issuing a letter at the time of closing and collecting the balance.
 - Don Hamm question about mowing. Why is mowing projected at \$8000 since the current cost is less than \$5000
 - Bob Mihel asked to verify the cost of the aerator to be replaced in the 2015 budget.
- Doug explained that our escrow amount is from two different accounts. Why is it still in two accounts? First escrow goes back to about 1980 for Lake Maintenance. The second escrow was set up for environmental work in about 2001. Both are set up so that fees will not be upset. At one point community wanted \$150k in the escrow. The escrow account is being held for big repairs such as bench install at the beach, lake dredging and playground equipment.
 - Bob Mihel moved to accept budget. Don Hamm seconded.
- Collections (Risa Weiss) –
 - 2014 brought in \$56,000. 2013 brought in \$35,829. Currently have outstanding balance \$31,229. 41 homes have not yet paid dues. Collections will be done through personal phone calls, post card reminders and letters from the board. Each year we should be collecting approx. \$53,000 from 187-192 homes [\$50K in 300-dollar payments and \$3K for grandfathered retirees.]
- Committee Reports
 - Parks/Easements (Gary Goldblatt)
 - Gary began by thanking the board, Bill Grinnell, Township Highway Commissioner and Poul's Landscaping. Thanks to ILM taking care of herbicides, Dunlop Tree Service, Don Hamm for the Shoreline preparation, Mary Harroun for fantastic activities arrangements in 2014, Warren Young for last year's motion to increase the tree planting budget, Mark Anderson for proper military disposal of old tattered American flag at Schwerman park, as it was replaced, and Laurie MacKay for great garden club involvement this year
 - 2014 – There was increased participation of Spring Cleanup day. The day it was scheduled it snowed, so the cleanup day was rescheduled and had about 50-60 people in attendance.

- Fall cleanup – painted the park – lots of hours! Replaced American Flag in Port Comfort, reset the large stone by the Erdmans. The old trees are continuing to come down. The ash and elm will be extinct in Illinois. To plan ahead, several trees have been taken out so that trees do not fall on houses. \$2100 trees are going into Bjorklund Park. Several trees will be moved for safety reasons in October.
- Clean up day this year – work at highland pump house, collect wood for Octoberfest (Ravinia, Maple Park), Fremont township will clean up from the streets afterwards. Gary is emailing a list of projects and captains in the next week. There will be a burn in Ravinia. Thank you to Jeri Swanson for the \$3000 gift from Indian Creek Watershed. Sylvan Lake is a sub-watershed. The group felt that they had done what they set out to do and identified that Sylvan needed \$3000 to do a burn/conservation – scheduled for fall (weather permitting). ILM will do the work and the replant native plugs. We have the permit to do the work. Three burns have been previously done. One was done as an accident but proved the value of the conservation. As soon as Gary knows about the date of the burn he will eblast it out. There are some increases in the budget to anticipate for additional trees. Prices with vendors have not been increased in three or four years. We need to spend money on parks and paths, erosion near the creeks. Schwerman Park will be contracted out for painting. Gary asked that volunteerism continue to grow. Volunteers can work whenever, not just clean up days. Dave Weiss asked about the stumps that are remaining when the big trees came down. The township is removing the stumps and they do not charge for work.
- Beach (Chris Molsen)
 - The money typically goes towards the rafts. Thanks to Gary Love for helping to rebuild the large raft. The ladders are in need of replacement. Piers were purchased 12 years ago and are in good shape. One of the issues at the beach were the weeds. ILM is says that it is too late in the year to take care of the weeds, will take care of weeds in spring. Very few kids causing issues at the beach. Mary Harroun says that the children got splinters from the plank benching at the beach. The bad boards need to be repaired, we were waiting until the lake got lowered, but next year we will address the issues. Wendy asked what contributed to the lack of troublemakers at the lake.
- Lake (Lee Dickinson)
 - Big thank you to Roger Halvorsen who helped to build motors several times. Two of the three motors will be replaced and there will be repair for the third. Fish stocking will not be done this year since the fish will die when we lower the lake. John Hynds has put in several hundred bass this year free of charge. Lily pad control is an issue; we have a quote to spot control and do a double service to kill them off. ILM can kill the tuber so that the lilies will not continue to spread. Lilies are important for the fish and oxygenation. The cattails are becoming a bit aggressive, so we are seeking a quote to take care of them. Water clarity has been an issue because of the rain and run off. Liss asked about what does dropping the lake mean. It is suggested that when the lake is lowered, it will be easier to remove tubers. Mary Harroun said that kids have pulled the lily leaves and think they got them out. Jill Wetteland indicated that she thinks that all the lilies need to be out. Lee presented the importance of weeds for the fish life. John says that the lilies are not yet on his side of his lake. He commented that the lake life seems healthier this year. Jeri talked about the ILM meeting where they talk about the damage of too much herbicide. Roger Halvorsen suggested going through a project to hand-harvest the lilies. ILM says that we can pull out the bulbs, but Roger thinks residents can begin by pulling out the lilies themselves. Al Grandt says that he has used a rake to pull out 5 ft area it takes about an hour. He feels it is very important to pull out tubers at this time. Gary suggested that a committee form to discuss a plan. Jeri suggested perhaps a committee can discuss a plan to temporarily lower the lake. Dan said that he had cattails in the backyard – two last year, this year 40. He says that he pulled out the cattails and have not seen them back. Bob Mihel suggested that we make a day out of

pulling the invasive plants. Janice Powell asked if we are a fisher lake or a swimmer lake. Jeri mentioned how important the cattails are the air quality.

- Sam suggested that we keep the meeting moving. If anyone is interested in contributing to the conversation, they should join the committee.
- Recreation (Dave Kruse) – Spring & Summer is a busy season for Recreation. Coinciding with Spring Cleanup we completed year two of a planned three year project to overhaul the three volleyball courts. The second court in Schwerman Park was completed this spring. Overhaul includes replacing worn nets and pole assembly. The court in Bjorklund will be updated this spring. We add sand only when necessary, typically every 3 years. Poul's Nursery & Landscaping kindly donated sand this year.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up, till & maintain the courts. (Bob Mihel, Dan Kjeldbjerg, John Scharff, Pete Graham, Dave Benedeck, Dan Washburn, Doug MacKay & Sam Ford. I apologize if I left anyone off the list.)

The Sylvan Lake Volleyball league played a successful 8-week season followed by an end-of-season tournament Saturday August 9th. Congratulations to Pete Graham's team for winning back-to-back championships. Thanks to the Garden Club for providing the hot dog social & all the neighbors that came out to cheer. Neighborhood support for the end-of-year tournament has continued to grow the past 3 years. In a concerted effort to generate excitement & participation, any residents with an interest in learning / participating in the 2015 season were encouraged to attend the tournament.

Looking towards 2015, Dave is considering a volleyball introduction workshop in late April/early May in hopes of adding at least one team. To captain a team, a minimum of six players and a maximum of 8 are needed. If you know of someone interested in captaining a team or playing, please encourage them reach out in April or early May. As always Shoreline posting will begin in April.

When John Hynds stepped down from managing the lake, Sylvan was in danger of losing Carp-O-Rama. Recreation spearheaded an effort to keep Carp-O-Rama alive. A group effort spread the word through the eblast and organized the weigh-in. Residents' ended up pulling over 50 carp from the lake despite less than stellar weather conditions. Thanks to Chris Molsen for assisting with the weigh-in. The event was recapped in the June Shoreline. Congratulations to the Molsens, Grahams, Mirocks & Slatterys for taking home cash prizes. Recreation will continue to organize Carp-O-Rama in 2015.

- Jeri asked about horseshoes. Lee tried to revitalize the horseshoes.
- Linda Mihel asked if we can get a pickleball court with lines and net.
- Garden Club (Laurie MacKay)
 - Sylvan Lake book club sponsored the treats. Laurie has a sign up form for Octoberfest. Last event was at Denise Goldblatt's house. Sandy Washburn will host the Holiday party. Easter bunny hunt was a huge hit. Wendy ran the hot dog event at the Volleyball. Kathy Ford will be in charge of the Turkey Trot again. Santa will come to visit again. Meals on wheels is run by Barbara Erdman. Barbara is stepping down and looking for a new replacement. Rita has been welcoming neighbors for over 50 years. She is grooming Kelly Dickenson for welcoming committee. Patsy is running Octoberfest, please volunteer.
- Environmental (Jeri Swanson)
 - Every year involves treatments in Maple. Honeysuckle is an issue in our woodland area. Jeri says an issue in Ravinia area is that there are too many trees down at once. She is seeking volunteers to remove trees/wood from the parks. She says we will continue with ILM since we have good contracts with them. Jeri has talked about the issue of the invasive species on private properties. She says that on every newsletter she talks about the need to remove the plants since each

flower is dropping 1000s of seeds. She says that we need to pull wild mustard and buckthorn. The land bridge needs work. There is a huge overgrowth in our wooded area. Donn Hamm asked about the Virginia Creeper. Wildflower terrace has a catamaran boat making it very difficult for other boats to get in or out of easement. Jeri suggested that jewel weed is planted since it has a cute flower; it's not a bad weed. Pat Zenner indicated that the pier in Ravinia is unsteady and needs to be fixed. Jeri said that Rich Mirock wanted to know if we were going to talk over the flow of water when the new developments are built. Rich is worried that we are going to lose supply of water, so he will contact Storm water management. Most of the development is not in our watershed. The new development will be required to have retention area and Jeri anticipates that we will get better quality water than before. Donn indicated that he has spoken with Hawthorn Woods about water retention. There will be ongoing water testing and they will be responsible for the quality of the water.

- Shoreline (Don Hamm) – send pictures and articles. Requested that the board establish a calendar of events.
- Website (Dave Weiss) – Old website still exists. New website is archives.SLIA.net
 - Meeting minutes 2013
 - Lots of 1940-1942 minutes and synopsis, invasive species gallery on the website,
 - Links to Facebook page Sylvan Lake IL
 - Twitter account – Sylvan Lake IL –post events like flotillas, bringing in the docks.
 - Pintrest account.
 - Pull people in through social networking
- New Business
 - Gloria Larson has a question about a mosquito spraying. We do not typically look into abatement. We could explore what types of chemicals are used, what the costs are and how effective the abatements are with ticks. Jeri mentioned that Barrington stopped doing abatement because of the concern about bees dying off.
 - Janice Powell wants a status on the dam – Sam says that the township has gone through several revisions. At this point it is not about bureaucracy based on the Chief Engineer veto. Bill Grinnell say the plan is still moving forward.
 - Bob Mihel asked about road repairs – Gary says next year we are on the list for more additional road repairs. No definite date and time. Quite a bit of patching was done this past summer.
 - John Pakledinaz made a comment about the renewed interest in Rt 53.
 - Gary brought up the roundabout and indicated that the topic is dead. There are plans to change the Midlothian Gilmer intersection, but no roundabout.
 - Gary suggested that when the dam is rebuilt, there may need to be some work on the Sylvan entrances.
 - Alex Grandt asked about the development on Gilmer – Sam says that he is not sure if the new houses would be part of our subdivision. The Rubino family still owns the large 4.5 acre property at S. Sylvan and Gilmer. Sam says he has checked with the attorneys and the empty lots cannot be made as an easement to new
- Questions / Concerns from the Residents -
- Elections to the board – Three openings
 - Dave Weiss made a nomination to himself
 - Mary Harroun nominated Cliff Seidner for the board
 - Janice Powell nominated herself
 - Incumbents Dave Kruse and Gary Goldblatt were also nominated
 - A paper ballot vote was held, with one ballot for each household attending the meeting. Results were tallied. The winners were Dave Weiss, Dave Kruse and Gary Goldblatt
- Alex Grandt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Powell. Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm

Respectfully submitted by Risa Weiss, SLIA Secretary