

SLIA Annual Meeting Minutes - 9/26/2021

Schwerman Park

Meeting called to order at 2:15pm.

Board members present: Dan Trahan, Ed Meltzer, Tom Truffer, Jeri Swanson, Laurie MacKay

Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, motioned by Mike Trahan, seconded by Janice Powell. Member vote approved.

President's Report - D. Trahan

Dan welcomed all the new neighbors that moved to Sylvan Lake in the past year and had those in attendance introduce themselves. Dan talked about the board goals this year, which was to focus on:

- Engaging subject matter experts around the community for projects
- Engaging neighbors when work would be done near their homes
- Increasing communication via the website and eBlasts
- Adding more board oversight when working with third party contractors

Dan then discussed the possibility of the dam project beginning in 2022, which was dependent on federal funding being approved by EOY. If the project was to begin in Spring 2022, then the board wanted to be prepared for future expenses related to the lake being lowered by providing dumpsters, improving shoreline erosion control, and removing pipes known to be around some easement docks.

Dan thanked all the volunteers that helped with projects throughout the year including improving playground safety, drainage, and installing newly donated flag poles.

Vice President's Report - C. Gartner

Not in attendance, but Dan reported that Cliff was able to secure our insurance renewal that resulted in increased coverage and slightly reduced premium.

Parks and Easements Report - J. Swanson

Jeri gave an update with all the work that has been done this year.

- Received a quote from Poul's Landscaping for 2022. It is slightly lower than what we are paying now, but has different services. The new board of directors will need to decide weather this is what we want going forward. Their quote is for \$1,043/month for eight months.
- ILM, integrated Lakes Mgmt, has kept their maintenance fees the same for the past three years. They visit Maple and Ravinia Parks 3x/year, removing non-native species and thinning overcrowding species. Their fee is \$748/visit.
- After inspections of our two playgrounds by Scott Hanson, it was determined they both were in need of at least new hardware as some had corroded. Further inspections revealed the need for possibly complete re-builds. Obvious corroded hardware has already been replaced and some rotted boards. The major replacement work will begin most likely in 2023 and 2024 after lumber prices decrease. Thanks to Scott Hanson, Bob Mihel, Ryan Haukedahl for their time and attention.
- Maple Park: Due to drought and extreme temps this summer, we felt it best to postpone plantings until next spring. We also are concerned about the eventual level of the lake after the dam work is completed. Proper plants based on wet/dry applications need to be determined. Some

seeding will be done this fall/winter. Feedback from residents has also changed the scope of work.

- Ravinia Park: Project completed to reinforce the three ponds originally installed to filter incoming run off. They were failing as all run-off was bypassing the areas. Re-grading of some areas was needed to direct the flow back to ponds. Lots of stone and rip rap were added there as well as at the mouth of the bay. We do have some Russian Elm invading the creeksides. These will be removed by volunteers. Al Grandt is very interested in helping to maintain Ravinia Park.
- Indian Creek Park: Eco Chics worked in this area spreading woodland seed that was donated by the Indian Creek Watershed Project and Tori Trauscht. We also relocated some quality plant species out of harm's way for the upcoming construction of the new dam. Just so happens that our planned work day was also when Lauren Underwood and other Lake County officials visited regarding the dam proposal. Alicia Dodd, Fremont Township Hwy. Dept. has asked that no burning be done in this area as it pollutes the watershed downstream.
- Eco-chics: We worked in Wildflower Terrace, Maple Park, Indian Creek Park and the beach this year. We donated several trees and sedges, and planted them throughout the neighborhood. Sometimes we had one or two guys helps and we hope this continues, so we can change the name to Eco-Lakers. Due to several years of volunteer efforts to remove invasive species such as garlic mustard, Dame's Rocket, and purple loosestrife, we are finally seeing very positive results.
- Adopt-A-Hwy: We are once again responsible for the section on Gilmer between Midlothian and Chevy Chase. Rules are more strict than before. They prefer we do not work on weekends of holidays, or rush hours. Luckily we do have people available during the week. We will send an eBlast to pick up litter. We need to take it home and not leave it on the roadside, as we recycle what we can. Luckily it is in pretty good shape and it won't be a hard job for us.
- Thank you to Al Grandt for donating funds to install flag poles in Point Comfort Park, Water Triangle and possibly Bjorklund Park. Mark Anderson has helped with the installations. Mark also is the person who monitors the dog poop bag dispensers and keeps them well stocked, so we can keep dog waste out of our lake.

Beach Report - P. Lind

Not in attendance, but Dan gave Pete's update:

- We purchased a Lakeshore 8x12 aluminum swim raft with vinyl top.
- We also purchased nine yards of mason sand and nine yards of torpedo sand.
- For 2022, we're looking to replace the 8x8 swim raft blue carpet that was torn by severe storms with vinyl.
- Beyond 2022, we're looking to improve the deck area with possibly a pergola and some lighting.

Lake Management Report - T. Truffer

Tom was happy to report that the state of our lake is very strong. Despite the lack of rain, plant life, algae blooms and bacteria levels have all been at good levels. The growth of aquatic plants has again strengthened the health of the lake.

- Larger aerator heads and pumps have been installed this year to help circulate the lake
- Tom repaired the pier in Wildflower Terrace.
- Tom noted that the Lake County Health departments tests our lake every two weeks and posts the results online. An eBlast was sent out earlier this year describing where to find this data.
- Our lake treatment vendor has been out several times this year managing algae blooms and treating the lake when needed. Currently, the lake clarity is very good.

- In 2022, we have plans on adding new piers in Maple Park for launching boats and adding a fishing area with rock slabs, and adding a new pier at Blue Heron Point

Recreation Report - L. MacKay

- Carp-O-Rama was held with the help of John Rollinger, who provided the kids with lessons on how to bait, catch and hold a carp. Fishing tackle was handed out to kids that had attended. Gary Love and Rich Borst together brought in the largest carp this year.
- The Volleyball season was successful this year with Jen Crow's team winning the championship.
- Oktoberfest will be held on October 9th this year and an eBlast will be sent out with details.

Garden Club and Shoreline

Tammie Trahan talked about all the events, new and old that were able to be held this year and thanked the Garden Club board and all the volunteers that help with all the activities. In the spring, artists from the community will be painting their designs on the five benches around Schwerman Park. An Art Fest will be held to unveil their work.

Donn Hamm thanked all the contributors to the Shoreline and the time they spent writing articles. He also thanked Jeanne Peterson for editing the Shoreline before it gets published. He encouraged everyone to submit pictures or content to him for the Shoreline. The October Shoreline would be published in one week.

Treasurer's Report - E. Meltzer

Ed provided the report on our financials which were in good shape. Assessments were mailed on Jan 1 and members had 60 days to pay before incurring late fees. Ed stated that our main reserve accounts hadn't changed since last year and still hold \$58K, \$54K, and \$20K respectively. The 2022 budget was presented and passed with a motion by Lee Dickinson, and seconded by Tom Powell. Members passed the 2022 budget by a vote.

Secretary's Report - J. Vale

Not in attendance.

Nominations to the Board

Dan thanked Jeri Swanson for serving ~30 years on the board and for her relentless pursuit of improving the neighborhood with an eye on the environment. Renee decided to also leave the board after one year, which left two open positions to fill.

Nominations were taken from the floor and Sarah Owen has decided to join the board. One board position remains open and will hopefully be filled soon.

Members Forum

- Al Grandt asked if we could start killing the lily pads this fall in anticipation of the lake being lowered next spring. He mentioned that he had done similar work years ago and thought it might be appropriate to do something again. Tom Truffer stated that in all the research he had done on lake management and health, having plant life dramatically helped water clarity, oxygen levels, and keeping bacteria levels low. He had read that having at least 20% of the lake covered with plant life was acceptable and that our lake is probably only 10% covered right now. In his opinion, he didn't think any culling was necessary at this time and also didn't want to incur any

expense with removal before the lake was lowered because he anticipated that up to 50% of plant life may die while the lake is lowered.

- There was a healthy discussion on preferences for and against lily pads by multiple members including Betty Neises, Lee Dickinson, and Tom Truffer. After much discussion, Sarah Owen suggested that maybe we should consider having a third-party evaluate the lake and provide guidance. The board agreed to look into this possibility in 2022.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15pm by Jeanne Peterson, seconded by Mike Trahan. Member vote approved.

Next board meeting will be Wed, Oct 20

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Trahan, President