

## **SLIA Annual Meeting Minutes - 9/10/23**

Schwerman Park

Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm by Dan Trahan

Board members present: Dan Trahan, Jeremy Vale, Ed Meltzer, Peter Lind, Kim Del Bene. Cliff Gartner, Laurie MacKay, Sarah Owen

Approval of the 2022 minutes motion by Nick, seconded by Janet

### **President's Report - Dan Trahan**

- Opening remarks, thanking the board and the volunteers for their efforts
  - Speed cushions were implemented on the other side of the lake, the flags on the sign are temporary and we can remove them at any time
  - There has been a lot of work done around the easements and playgrounds - Thanks Sarah and Kim

### **Vice President's Report - Cliff Gartner**

- Our longtime carrier for insurance left us this year. We have found a new insurance carrier (Western World), coverage is very similar except we had to add coverage for sports. The cost has gone up \$800.

### **Treasurer's Report and Budget Review/Approval - E. Meltzer**

- The community is in great financial shape, we were able to move money into reserves this year
- Most all members pay their dues on time
- We had 6 different bank accounts, that has been consolidated to 2 accounts, ~\$80K in Checking and ~\$190K in reserves
- Set up Zelle to be able to pay dues
- 2024 budget
  - Leave annual fees at \$400
  - Ed spoke through the different line items that were in the packet passed out to the community
    - Sam Ford asked about the \$1400 survey. Dan explained it is a geographic survey
    - Dan explained that we budgeted for 2 additional sets for speed cushions. We need to make sure that we can reuse the holes with the current cushions and ensure we have the space in the shed to store additional ones
    - Kelly Dickenson -There was a question about the pergola at the beach and if that budget is being moved to solve our grill issue
    - Linda Lou - asked about when the lake will be lowered, what the expense will be. Ed explained that we have a place holder in the special projects for a dumpster, we need to get a sediment test to see if we need to dredge (if the lake is lowered we would want to take advantage of that). We have explored bio dredging but are still looking for more into.
    - Dave Benedict - asked if anyone spoke to someone from Forrest Lake as they had an alternative solution that is done in the winter
    - Kathy - Blue Heron isn't in the budget and that's where water came in. Sarah explained that she put in a place holder for shoreline restoration for Blue Heron and a couple other easements. She doesn't have an exact cost quoted yet but she's going to get those estimates.
  - Jean Peterson moved to approve, Janice Powell seconded - all were in favor of the budget, 2024 budget passed

### **Lake Report - T. Truffer**

- Not present
- Dan gave an update
  - Not all of the aerators are on in the lake, 2 out of 4 are running. We'll try to get the other 2 running as soon as possible
  - We had some algae treatments but less than normal because of the draught
    - 1 blue green algae treatment
    - 2 regular algae treatments

- We did a lily pad treatment for the first time. We had waited on the treatment because we were expecting the dam project to lower the lake. When we found out the dam project wasn't happening we executed on a management plan. We heard the feedback from the community, found out what our options were and made a decision to move forward with a treatment plan. Just prior to the August board meeting we finalized the treatment plan. We voted on the plan in the August meeting and signed the contract the next day. There is a second treatment to be completed shortly. We have determined to have an annual treatment plan. We have future plans to create a lake committee to keep the health of the lake and balance it with the recreational use of the lake.
  - Marlene Kirby - Listed homes that currently still have lily pads crowding their lake space. She also stated that someone went around cutting the heads of lily pads so the treatment would be less effective. Dan responded with the goal of balancing the health of the lake with recreation, this is the first pass and the first year, we are open to making changes to the treatment plan. We will discuss the individual cutting lilies during our next meeting
  - Debbie W - During the treatment of the lake, someone came between her pier and seawall to cut the heads off lilies and she finds it extremely frustrating that one person will take action that directly impacts the board's treatment plan. She explained that this individual took this action with the approval of the lake manager. She stated that the lake manager is not at board meetings 46% of the time. The board was very proactive in 2022 when we needed a sediment study, she is concerned that we haven't gotten any info on a sediment study. She is extremely frustrated by what happened. She wanted to make a motion that the board remove the lake manager.
    - Dan responded he understood the frustration. He referenced the bylaws and how homeowners are not able to vote out a board member.

### **Recreation Report - L. MacKay**

- Volleyball tournament is complete, we had 11 teams which is the most we've had in a while Ben Ford's team won again. It was a great season.
- There are plans this coming year to fix up the baseball diamond and
- We will be adding a second basketball hoop at Bjorkland Park.

### **Beach Report - P. Lind**

- Evicted squirrels from the shed and repaired the roof
- Tammy T repainted the doors of the shed
- We will be repainting the beach sign during fall clean up day
- We've discussed doing a pergola but the grill needs repair, Peter asked for assistance from grill masters

### **Parks and Easements Report - S. Owen & Kim Del Bene**

- Sarah - Parks and Easements
  - We changed from ILM to Tallgrass, this allowed us to come in under budget
    - Briar Terrace - phase 1 is complete
    - Upper Maple - brush removal, seeding and invasive control
    - Hiawatha and Ravinia - brush removal...
    - Maple Park - we still need to put a bridge in (hopefully this fall)
    - Bruno Terrace - would like to clean up the boat storage and add a wooden kayak rack
    - Blue Heron Point -
    - Schwerman Park - garden bed and mulch
    - Eco Lakers (formally Eco Chicks) - official volunteer led committee... raised \$900 this year that was used to buy things in the community. Did ...
    - Question came up about the area on Gilmer that is looking rough, it is not SLIA property but owned by the county. Renee D. has volunteered to spruce it up
    - Fall Clean up day is the 30th and the 31st.
- Kim - Playgrounds
  - Started working on Schwerman Park.
    - The spider web is up
    - Got the silver tube slide and spiral turbo slide installed

- New slides and some of the items will be taken down late fall to be refurbished and painted
  - New decking and handrails will hopefully be replaced this fall, the main structure is solid and not rotting
- The other park
  - Planned to start working on when Schwerman Park is complete
- Oktoberfest will be 10/7. We need volunteers for kids games, servers for food and the bar

### **Garden Club Report - Tammie Trahan**

- This will be Tammyie's last year as the president
- Discussed the events that the garden club runs
- Introduced the board members and their contributions

### **Votes**

- Electric Watercraft
  - Dan gave background on how this discussion began and what research was done. The topic was opened for discussion
    - Mike Trahan - His understanding is that these will be very low power and will not create a wake. Dan confirmed. Mike asked how to effectively manage exceptions
    - Mary Harroun - She has been here for 26 years and the peace and quiet of air wind and paddles has been wonderful. She asked who would control how much electric power is used. She wants to keep the lake with no motors. Sylvan Lake is a wonderful lake as it is. She is voting no. Dan explained how the electric motors will be controlled, the approval will be the same as getting a boat permit and that electric motors are quiet.
    - Mary Lou - She asked if this is approved, how do we protect against the slippery slope of this changing and allowing larger motors. She also asked if trolling motors would change our insurance. Dan explained that any changes to the rules if approved would require the community to vote on them again. No change would need to be made with our insurance.
    - Bob Mihel - Asked why we couldn't make a waiver for members that can't power their own vessels and why 12-18 year olds would need to go through a special training. Dan explained that IL law requires a boat certificate for 12-18 year olds to power a vessel with 10 or more horsepower. Came back up and asked why people want electric motors besides not being physically able to use the lake and fishing.
    - Debbie W - Asked why pontoon boats weren't being considered with this initiative. Dan explained that 50 lbs of thrust would not work well for a pontoon boat, they would need at least 75 lbs of thrust.
    - Brian W - If we do have electric motors will the DNR be on our lake more often. Dan said we don't have an answer for that
    - Andy Poorman - If approved, can we do it for a temporary time. He's concerned with enforcement. What if we tried it out for a year? Dan said it was discussed but it's difficult to remove something that members have already spent money on, he went into detail about approval and enforcement of each motor.
    - Linda Mihel - She was interested to know if this would be 50 people or 10 using trolling motors.
    - Sherrie L - Asked if this affected the winter time if this would allow motors on the lake with sleds. Dan said no. Said it would be easier to enforce the exception rule rather than what size motor is being used on the boats.
    - John P - Stated that this doesn't limit boat size, he's concerned it's a slippery slope.
    - John Rollinger - He's the most traditional person he knows. He is voting yes to this as he has background on electric trolling motors. He discussed how it went with Loch Lomond and how after they passed the approval for electric motors they have not had any issue, Forest Lake as well. He has 4 kids, if he's going out into the lake to fish with 2 of them, it gets very difficult. Explained that the size we're looking at doesn't have an impact on the lake. He thinks it's a good move. Sarah asked about the sound his motor makes, John explained you cannot hear it unless it's pulled out of the water and you're very near it.

- Kathy Rocket - Said that she thinks it should be available to those that have lost the ability to use the lake. She is concerned with people fishing more and it having a larger impact.
- Sam Kindel - He has 2 worries about an exception, how do we make sure the exception is fair and reasonable, what is someone who gets an exception later recovers from the reason they got the exception. He has been around electric motors and confirmed they don't make noise.
- Janice Powell - stated that everyone was on board to put lily pads into the lake and now we're worried about the volume, she is concerned that this could be similar. She doesn't think it's necessary.
- Dave Benedict - Concerned that this is a slippery slope, he does understand some of the benefits. He asked if they would be kept from the beach. Dan explained that there would be a rule to keep motors from the swimming areas.
- Dan Kapaso - asked for clarity on what we were about to vote on.
- Motion to adopt the rules as written to our rules and regulations - Motioned by Marlene Kirby and seconded by Sam K
  - 23 voted yes, 30 voted no (note if the board voted individually, it would have added 7 yes, 1 no).
- Dan asked for a motion to allow exceptions for those
  - 18 voted yes 23 voted no
- The community asked that the board vote to remove the Lake Manager
  - The board decided that it will have a discussion regarding this in the October meeting

## **Elections to the board**

- Peter Lind, Jeremy Vale, Laurie MacKay, Ed Meltzer are all renewing for another 3 years. No one chose to run against them.
- Dan asked for nominations from the community if anyone wanted to join the board if it was needed. No nominations were made and accepted.

## **Alicia Dodd Dam Project Update**

- 2 million dollars have been promised to go towards this project, there is a chance that the bids may come in over \$2 Million. If that's the case, Sylvan Lake would need to pick up that additional amount. If that happens, there is an option to get a 20 year loan. This would add \$ to each household. We could collect the \$ as a board or we could add a line item to the property tax bill.
  - Questions came up about why we would be responsible and what is keeping the county from accepting a really high bid. Dan explained that if we don't cover the additional cost and the dam fails, the county would not rebuild the dam and we would lose the lake.

## **Member Forum**

- Kathy Rocket asked about board transparency with the dam project.
- Nick Kirby - Asked for volunteers to put the tent up on Thursday 10/5 at about 2:00. If it's raining, the rain date would be Friday.

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Closing of meeting: Motioned by Laurie, seconded by Andy P  
 Respectfully submitted, Jeremy Vale, Secretary