

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

[www.rocklake.org](http://www.rocklake.org)

Minutes for June 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

## 1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Jim Kerler, John Thode, John Crump, Tom Krejcie

Absent: Candace Diaz, Jim Colegrove

Guests: Keith Clark, Jean Schoeni, Anita Martin, Wendy Catalani-Davies, Cory Nelson

2) **Good News Minute** – Participants shared recent good news, including Candy’ successful efforts to have lake-ecology related classes included in the grade school’s summer curriculum.

3) **Motion to accept the agenda** - Made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

## 4) Secretary’s Report (Mike)–

A) Motion to approve 5/16/22 minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

B) 7/18/22 meeting will be in person, barring any change in CoVid situation.

C) The D&O insurance coverage is from 5/23/22 – 5/23/23 at a cost of \$450/yr.

## 5) Joint Rock Lake Committee Report.

President Wendy Catalani-Davies reported:

- There are now 4 appointed members (2 each from city and town), with one more due from the town.
- They are thinking of combining two of their brochures (one outlining lake recreation rules, the other a welcome). She thought of making them available to local lakefront VRBOs. Susan had contacted the 8 or 9 local VRBOs, three responded.
- The Town chair asked the committee to update the shared ordinance (between the Town and City) which created the JRLC.
- A JRLC member will try to attend all RLIA meetings.
- They would like to participate in the Miljala Tributary Restoration Projects The investigation of channel dredging funding options continues. An Illinois company, which 3 years ago estimated a cost of \$147,000 to dredge from Cedar Lane to the lake, now estimated it would cost > \$300,000, including loading the sediment into trucks but not the disposal costs nor removing and replacing the turbidity curtain at Cedar Lane. The depth of the sediment, estimated at about 3 feet also needs to be determined. The vendor suggested a study to estimate specifics and that the cost of the study would be credited against the total cost of the project if the vendor is selected.
- The Town has a new donation and gifting ordinance to facilitate local businesses and residents’ donations to the dredging effort.
  - The JRLC recommended the creation of Rock Lake citizen monitors, e.g., for early detection of AIS, to the Town Board on 1/22/2022, which has asked all monitors to sign a waiver, good for one year. The Town Board has also requested more details regarding the monitors. This would apply to the efforts to locate and remove yellow iris infestations at Ferry Park launch, for which Susan has applied for a permit via the Diggers’ Hotline at the request of the Town Chair. A Town approved observer will be necessary for the removal and Wendy has volunteered. Susan clarified that the project is looking at invasive species that are not already established, not

ones like garlic mustard which are now basically endemic. Cory has asked about considering removing the willow that continues to encroach upon the beach and launching area at the park.

## **6) Treasure's Report-**

- Motion to approve May, 2022 financial report made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The Miljala Channel tributary grant was received. Jim and Tom are spearheading the membership drive. TBD in July.

## **7) Public Comment(s)/Correspondence –**

A. Guests. Anita asked for timing details of Annual Meeting which will be at 1000, on 8/27 at Korth Park.

B. Mail. Deferred.

C. Email/Facebook. Susan said posts had received good attention, e.g., Legendary Learning (> 1,700), the Girl Scout turtle campaign (1,800). The post on turtle rehab, entitled "I'm not dead, help me," got an amazing 43,124 hits including folks from as far as Oklahoma! There are two turtle rehab centers, in Oconomowoc and Madison. They will try to rehab the turtles but if it's impossible, they will harvest the eggs and euthanize the animal. Given it takes at least 20 years for most turtles to reach sexual maturity, that is significant.

**8) Other Reports** A. County Representative Marisa Ulman. Marisa was absent so Susan gave the report. Marisa just finished her woody habitat survey for the shoreland survey. There will be an aquatic plant point-intercept survey of the entire lake. The data collected in this survey could help us answer, for example, if milfoil has moved, etc. She would like to do it during the weeks of 7/11-7/15 and 7/18-7/22. Planning on AM and PM 4 hour sessions and she needs help, e.g., someone to pilot the boat and ideally another to take notes. John T and Cory volunteered; others will be solicited. She would like to do Mud Lake as well, but that would require an exception to the motorized vessel prohibition.

### A. Miljala Tributary Restoration grant update:

Susan sent an update to the people on the distribution list, including Town Board, DNR, RLIA Board, concerned citizens, LWCD, etc. She will also include the new JRLC members once their emails have been shared with her. The updates are also on the RLIA website. The update includes: selection of REA as our engineering partner, completion of the topo survey, collection of soil borings (the results of which will determine the approach), and a kick-off meeting with the project's planning committee. RLIA is scheduling a meeting with REA and the landowners to meet and discuss issues. Fortunately the upcoming grant timeline has been lengthened, now allowing submission of the preliminary grant until 9/15 and the final in mid-November. During a special meeting, the JRLC went with Marisa to view the tributary to gain an increased understanding of the situation.

B. Early Detection AIS citizen monitoring. Marisa finished training 7 volunteers. One group of volunteers has finished the early summer survey. The group plans to perform surveys in mid-July and again at the end of summer. They will present their findings to the RLIA, town, and city at the end of each season. We are the one of the first lakes in S. Wisconsin to have such a program.

## **9. Old Business.**

A) Supporting County's acquisition of Mud Lake water access plot. Nathan is working with the County's Kevin Wiesmann on this. Susan requested they set up a conference call with Nathan, Kevin, her, and Ralph

DePasquale. Ralph has done some wonderful video work using a drone and she would like to get their input on using these in presentations re the acquisition.

B) Legendary Learning at Korth. The first session, a DNR discussion on the Rock Lake fishery has been rescheduled for 7/6. On 7/20 a UW professor will speak on turtles, and on 8/17 Patricia Cicero and Marisa will discuss aquatic plants.

## **10. New Business.**

A) Turtle campaign.

- A member wrote to ask about posting the info re rehabbing turtles with cracked shells at Sandy Beach and at Battels. City's Erik Schreiner will post it at the Sandy Beach kiosk, but posting it at Bartels remains under discussion.

- The Junior Girl Scout Troop 7468 will receive their Bronze Award, the highest available for that age group, at Korth Park, 6/29 1800-1900. They are planning to make a donation to the RLIA earmarked for turtle activities.

B) Lake Stewardship Award. John C. and Bruce will be on the committee and solicit nominees as well as determining the award.

C) Annual Board Elections. Directors John C., Nathan, and Tom have terms expiring in August. Mike, Jim C, and Jim K are the nominating committee and will report recommendations to Board in July.

D. Making Waves. This program will feature a Board member leading a discussion of various lake-related topics at each meeting. Susan volunteered to be first, and plans to discuss internal loading.

E. Additional discussions included: lake drains and if they need to be cleaned; having an online calendar synced with the Parks Department, Town Board, etc. which would be analogous to the Chamber's Community Calendar; how to encourage members to renew and if it should be explored at the Annual Meeting; whether to have a regular meeting in August; should we provide supplemental E coli testing for beaches that were closed.

**11. Adjourn.** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 7:45 P. M.

Next Board meeting: Monday 7/18/22 at 6:30 P.M. (City Hall).