

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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Minutes for November 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom

1) Call to Order – 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Mike Nesemann, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Jim Kerler, John Thode, Jim Colegrove, Danny Durow, Cynthia Chmell, Tom Krejcie

Absent: Candace Diaz

Guests: Keith Clark, Jean Schoeni, Wendy Catalani-Davies, Stan Smoniewski

2) Good News Minute – Participants shared good tidings.

3) Motion to amend agenda to include treasurer’s report. Made and seconded.

4) Secretary’s Report (Mike)

- Motion to approve 10/17/22 minutes of board meeting made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) Treasurer’s Report (Tom)

- Motion to accept the October Treasurer’s report was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Tom reported that the money from one of our four CDs, which had matured, was transferred to our checking account. Tom also went over payments we made to the State Lab of Hygiene for water testing.

6) Old Business

A. Defining RLIA’s role in advocacy vs enforcement.

Directors discussed the definition of advocacy with major themes being education, persuasion based on facts (including encouraging local government entities to enforce existing rules), supporting studies (such as lake chemical analyses), communication, promotion of beneficial practices and responsible behavior, and sponsoring/engaging in lake related activities. Cynthia’s summed it up as “standing up for the lake since the lake can’t talk,” which seemed to capture the general sense of the board.

The discussion turned to how active the RLIA should be, i.e., where is the line between being enforcers and educators/promoters? Taking the current City Comprehensive Plan Survey as an example, it was pointed out that it contains no reference to the lake and refers to parks only regarding their function as playgrounds. Another example was the difference between explaining to the City Council why enforcement of existing ordinances is important vs speaking on behalf of the RLIA against the issuance of a specific conditional use permit (CUP).

The board agreed that:

1) For advocacy guidelines, the board should vet anything before it is presented as representing the RLIA (organizational voice), and the board must be in full consensus for the presentation of such views.

2. RLIA advocacy to municipal governmental bodies or the DNR is acceptable if we are holding that body accountable for what they said they would do (current zoning ordinances) or have stated as a priority/goal/objective (strategic plan/comprehensive plan, etc). This input would be better as pre-emptive

rather than reacting to a specific situation, but such situations may arise which the board will then need to discuss. The RLIA has done this in the past.

3. It is appropriate for the RLIA to contact individuals *privately* (in person, letter, postcard etc) with specific input to the lake related issue involving that individual, e.g., if their property is noted to be at particular risk for erosion. That communication, which would be cleared by the board in advance, should be educational, supportive, respectful etc.

B. Discuss Board member recruitment. Deferred

C. Coverage of important municipal committees. Deferred.

D. Miljala Tributary Restoration Project update.

Susan had asked our engineering consulting firm, REA, to edit their report, making it more readable and concise. She was surprised at their quoting of \$600 to make such changes, but she pointed out that they had performed several services during the work for which they didn't charge, so she felt this was not an unreasonable price. A discussion ensued over how much of the grant money remained, given that we had to return that portion allocated for the (cancelled) phase two of the project. Tom explained the rather complicated picture, but bottom line was we should have enough left from the initial grant to cover this expense. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to pay ≤\$600 to REA to finish the updated report.

7. New Business.

A) Discussion winter schedule for Board meetings.

In the past we'd had two meetings in January to formalize committee objectives, but it was decided to push those out into February. A regular meeting will be held 1/16. Dates for the February planning sessions will be determined in January. Also, we will tentatively plan on doing all meetings through February by Zoom.

B) Input to City of Lake Mills Comprehensive Plan.

Susan sent all Board members a link to the plan and asked that we provide some input to her promptly. She will collate responses and provide at the 11/10 City Plan Commission meeting.

C) Discuss participation in Knickerbocker Festival.

It was decided to not to participate this year.

8. Propose agenda items for January as there will be no December meeting. Members were encouraged to contact Susan with agenda items.

9. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Neseemann, Secretary