

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes for April 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

## 1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Jim Colegrove

Guests: Patrick Stevens, Patricia Cicero, Anita Martin

## 2) Good News Minute – Participants shared recent good news.

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

## 4) Secretary's Report (Mike)

Motion to approve 2/20/23 minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Mike reported he and Susan Nesemann had delivered new riparian owners' packets and noted several Shorewood Hills addresses were a number of streets away from the lake. One owner had no knowledge of having lake access rights. Another man said there were about 78 members of the Rock Lake Homeowners' Association (RLHA), which has access to a small area adjacent to a public boat launch. Apparently they maintain a repository there for members' kayaks and some other small craft. Mike suggested it would be more effective and efficient to contact the organization's leadership to see if RLIA could give a brief presentation at their next annual meeting. Either way, he recommended we give the leadership some packets rather than distributing to every (RHLA) member. The Board agreed.

## 5) Treasure's Report.

A) Motion to accept treasurer's report from March was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

B) We transferred \$20,000 from our general checking account and purchased a 14-month CD with an interest rate of 4.35% and API of 4.45%. Our other CD matures on 9/10/2023 and is currently valued at \$5,187.

C) The DNR hasn't deposited our returned funding check for the second Miljala Tributary grant. We also "loaned" \$2,000 from general checking to the Lake Grant account to cover expenses until the DNR issues their final payment (received after the meeting). When all is done, we will have \$275 left in the Lake Grant Account.

D) At this time, considering all accounts receivable and payable, RLIA has total funds of about \$41,000.

E) Because of a problem with the purchase of the Trieloff property, we have not yet donated our pledged \$5,000 to Jefferson County

F) Currently, members who pay via PayPal pay most of the service fee – this is something Tom would like to change, and have RLIA absorb that cost. The Board agrees but he would like to start it beginning of next year.

## 6) Public Comment(s)/Correspondence

A. Guests. Patrick Stevens from JRLC (see below).

B. Mail. Nothing to report.

C. Email/Facebook. Nothing to report.

## 7) Other Reports

### A. County Representative Patricia Cicero.

Marisa Wieder has, lamentably, moved on and the County is accepting applications for the position. Patricia is confident there will be several strong candidates. She also said the 2022 Annual Report will soon be finished.

i) Clean Boats/Clean Water program. Both the city and town received grants. In the past, the grants were used in a combined program by the City and Town, with the Town providing managerial support, e.g., keeping track of time, pay, etc. This year the Town declined to perform that service for the city, so now they will run separate programs each with 2 inspectors. This arrangement will limit flexibility in responding to temporary absences or unforeseen circumstances, as no longer will each of the 4 be available for any duty, regardless of location. There may also be issues due to pay inequity between the two entities. Patricia thinks it would be more efficient for the County to administer the combined program and will look into that. In the meantime, there is one returning inspector and 3 new ones so the four positions should be filled. She hopes to have the training completed by Memorial Day.

ii) Properties with erosion. Letters were sent to owners of properties with significant slumping bank issues identified in last year's survey, offering assistance and guidance in addressing their issues. She had 4 owners request additional information and one whose neighbor may be interested.

iii) Phosphorus [P] and chlorophyl testing. Patricia gave a comprehensive review of the current status of Rock Lake, plus the phenomenon of "internal phosphorus loading." This refers to the P "locked" into the lake that internally circulates. It is released by dead and decaying organic matter at the bottom of the lake, but in spring and fall, the lake's layers all get mixed up which releases some of that P. This can lead to early spring algae blooms.

Regarding phosphorous monitoring of inlet streams, she alluded to the need for water flow data to enhance the value of the P data, but said such data would be difficult to collect. She will try to consult with UW Whitewater and UW Madison to see if they would be able to conduct stream flow testing that would allow a reasonable flow estimate to be made from simply observing the depth of the water. This would obviate the need for testers to enter the water. She felt that once we had this year's internal Rock Lake P loading data, testing could be suspended for five years given the stable, acceptable levels found thus far.

Currently, the DNR funds testing for P and chlorophyl in the lake's deep hole. RLIA pays for internal P testing (see above), which will be suspended after this year. She requested that RLIA continue to fund testing for P and chlorophyl in Mud Lake as well as P testing at the Miljala Channel inlet near Cedar Lane, Rock Creek south of Highway A, and Rock Creek by the Hope Lake Road bridge. Some discussion followed re whether to substitute the Lost Lake outlet (in Shorewood Hills) for the testing at Hope Lake Rd., with a decision to follow.

A motion to provide funding up to \$1,500 for the above testing for 2023 was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

B. JRLC. Patrick Stevens said they are short two members after another resignation. They have arranged for a representative of the Lake Water Patrol to attend their next meeting to discuss the program and answer questions. The public is invited. They are considering publishing a series of educational articles in the Leader on subjects like AIS, boating safety, and others. They are also interested in working on Sandy Beach renovation issues. It was pointed out that outside of passing a (reduced) budget, the Town Board has tabled or deferred every JRLC initiative and recommendation since 4/2022.

## 8) Old Business

Discuss Membership Drive. Tom presented the following data:

- a. To date for 2023 we have 13 members and \$1,1170 in donations
- b. 2023 Membership Drive (920 mailings): Leader Printing \$630 - Postage about \$325: bulk rate \$0.35/each
  - i. 764 mailings to 53551
  - ii. 61 mailings to the rest of Wisconsin
- c. 95 mailings outside of Wisconsin

He also pointed out that 2 years ago we spent \$5,000 on mailings to every household in the 53551 zip code, which produced 52 new members, about ½ of whom renewed the following year. Last year we utilized Every Door Direct Mailing for about \$1,000 and got 29 new members. Tom recommended this year we go with regular mailing to all properties within 1,000 feet of Rock Lake plus all those who have paid any dues since 2018. A motion to spend up to \$1,200 for the mailing as outlined above was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

## 9. New Business

A). Spring Clean Up. Bruce outlined his thoughts on this and it was decided to hold it on 5/13. It will be in person this year, with volunteers asked to present to Bartel's Beach, and then either work there or be directed to Korth or Tyranena Park. Leaders for these areas will be designated. He emailed the Town on 4/3 asking if they were interested in our volunteers working on Township property but received no answer. Susan pointed out that a permit is required to do volunteer work on any Township land, so given the time and possible costs involved, plus the Town's seeming lack of interest, volunteers will be directed to avoid Township land. A question was raised whether volunteers should sign a release and Mike will contact our insurance company for advice. Bruce will work with Stan on logistics, asking the City to station a dumpster at Bartel's, and arrange publicity. A motion to spend up to \$150 for pizza, drinks, and garbage bags was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. We will not be using boats to collect garbage this year.

B) RLIA vision/mission. A discussion of the vision, "Our Rock Lake" and mission was held, with the Board agreeing on the vision. It was felt that at the August annual meeting, we should be able to present our recommended Vision, Mission Statement, and SMART goals for municipal collaboration, community engagement, membership, education, data collection/interpretation/dissemination, and the promotion of lake friendly practices.

C) SMART goal for Municipal Collaboration. John T had sent out his suggested SMART goal outline and next steps for Municipal Collaboration, which met with general approval from the Board.

His next Steps:

Get goal approved by Board.

Determine if Patricia is on board with hosting along with a couple of board members.

Decide who would be invited (Council?, PC? ZBA?, Town Board?)

Approach city and Town to determine if they are on board.

Determine agenda of what is to be covered,

Determine the logistics (number of boats (last time it was 2), meeting place, time, date, how we will be communicating to the group).

Alternate weather date.

Last time we did this, it was windy and Marisa was on one boat and Patricia on the other. They covered separate pre-determined subjects, so the boats had to anchor in Korth Bay in order for the guests to hear both presenters. This was not felt to be effective as it would have been better to drive around the lakeshore as different topics are covered.

**10. Propose agenda items for the next scheduled meeting.** Susan reminded Directors, whether able to attend or not, to offer topics they felt should be addressed.

**11. Adjourn.** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:55 P. M.

Next Board meeting: Monday 5/15/2023 at 6:30 P.M. City Hall