

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

www.rocklake.org

Minutes for June 19, 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

Absent: Jim Colegrove

Guests: Patricia Cicero, Wendy Catalani-Davies

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

3) **Motion to accept the agenda** - Susan requested adding a discussion of the letter to the City regarding lake water levels be added to the agenda. Tom made the motion, Bruce seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

4) Secretary's Report

Motion to approve 4/17/23 minutes made by Tom, seconded by Bruce, and unanimously approved.

5) Treasure's Report.

Motion to accept the May treasurer's report was made by Mike, seconded by Bruce, and unanimously approved. Tom reviewed several highlights, including the continuing difficulty in getting the BLM to include our CDs in our statements. We have about \$45,000, not including our pending \$5,000 donation to the County for the purchase or rehabilitation of the Trieloff property. Funds we received for the aborted phase 2 Miljala Channel project were returned to the DNR, and they finally cleared the check reimbursing them for the unspent grant money, so that chapter is closed. We have carried over \$275 in the Lake Grant Account. RLIA donated about 100 hours of work but the project did not cost us any money. Memberships are up to 170.

6) Public Comment.

A. Guests. See under Other Reports.

7) Other Reports.

A. County Representative. Patricia Cicero had a number of items to report:

- i) This was Jefferson Co. Water Resources Management Specialist Zach Nagel's first day! He hopes to attend the July RLIA meeting.
- ii) Clean Boats/Clean Water. There were no City Inspectors until last week, but they are now fully staffed with two each for the Town and City. She will approach both entities to encourage them to have the County apply for next year's grant and manage the program. Ideally both would continue to contribute financially to the program, but it would be fully integrated, providing more flexibility in assigning inspectors. They would have to work out tool storage locations.
- iii) Patricia had been contacted by several people concerned about the amount of vegetation being cleared at a new house in Korth Highland. As it is a double lot, they are allowed a 74 ft (30% of lot width) vision and access corridor. An inspector confirmed the dimensions and that the cutting was within permitted limits.

iv) The Jefferson County Soil Builders, Rock River Regenerative Graziers, Jefferson County, DATP, USDA, and Nature Conservancy will be sponsoring a Rainwater Runoff Demonstration on 6/22 at Korth Park before Brew with a View. This demonstration will illustrate the very different absorption capabilities of lawn, native plants, cover crops, etc.

v) The Rock River Coalition will be the recipient of proceeds from the 6/26 Brew with a View.

vi) Susan Trier reported that Eric Schreiner, the City Grounds & Facilities Director, encouraged the RLIA to voice its support for several of his department's projects for inclusion into the final budget request to the City Manager. Projects being considered include shoreline erosion at Tyranena Park, slumping banks at Bartel's Beach, and replacing the Bartel's seawall. We discussed signing it jointly with the JRLC but could not complete the process in time for the budget submittal in September. We will discuss this issue the July meeting.

B. JRLC. Wendy reported that:

i) She has been elected Chair, Kevin Lehner Vice, and Patrick Stevens Secretary

ii) They were disappointed in the sparse turnout at their May meeting, which featured a report from the Water Patrol. The patrol put in 100 hours in 2022 with most citations issued for violations of the Slow No Wake Zone or lack of life preservers that could be thrown to someone in distress. She reiterated that the Water Patrol staffing shortage is primarily due to a lack of interested applicants.

iii) They received approval to put articles in the Leader, and the City asked them to address the pets policy at parks and beaches.

8) New Business.

A. RLIA Representative to the Lake District (LD) Formation Planning Committee. John Thode volunteered to attend the meetings and report back to the Board.

B. SMART GOAL for Data Collection, Interpretation and Dissemination. (See Attachment 1) Jim Colegrove was unable to attend, but Danny will collate Jim's with the others.

C. SMART GOAL FOR FRIENDLY LAKE PRACTICES. Bruce presented his SMART GOAL (See appendix 1), a creel survey to determine the number, size, and species being caught in order to promote better fishing experiences. He shared his concerns about a lack of larger fish because the current limits do not include size restrictions, and has been frustrated by what he felt was the DNR's lack of interest and bureaucratic inertia. Several suggestions re how to attain that goal were offered, including using RLIA volunteers and getting the question included in the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress list of resolutions.

D. 2023 Stewardship Award. We discussed whether to have one every year. Cynthia volunteered to investigate an appropriate award.

E. Board Member Candidate Committee. Mike volunteered to chair this committee, which is required by the bylaws, and Tom and Jim K volunteered to assist.

F. Annual Meeting Committee. Bruce will help. Dates need to be determined a year in advance so the 2024 meeting will be 8/17/24.

9) Old Business.

A. Letter to City Council regarding Lake Levels.

Susan spent considerable time researching historic lake levels and how they might be adjusted. Some important dates cited included the establishment of the fish hatchery in 1960 and the new dam in 2018. In talking with the DNR, it seemed that a change in targeted levels would require environmental studies, evaluation of data since 1959, and new permits; her sense was that the process, if not actually insurmountable, would require years of work. But changing the date when the targeted levels were invoked would be less onerous, i.e., it would require public meetings and a request by the City Council to the DNR. Moving the spring upward adjustment to an earlier date would likely capture more spring runoff and lead to higher summer levels. Given the combination of El Nino and climate change, it seems clear something needs to be done if the lakes' riparian boating community is to be able to continue enjoying access. This process would need to be completed relatively soon to affect the 2024 timing of the spring flow adjustment. There was some concern about community tensions and raising unrealizable expectations, but the general sense was that this was the only realistically attainable path to ameliorate the low summer lake levels. Susan will work on a letter to the Council for Board approval.

B. Legendary Learning Sessions. The Board discussed several potential topics. The next program is about bats and it was decided to donate \$100 to the DNR Endangered Resources Fund. John Thode made a motion to make that donation and allocate up to \$200 to purchase a new easel for use at the various learning sessions, Mike seconded and it was passed unanimously.

C. Discuss RLIA Vision. The Board confirmed the mission statement and Danny presented the 4 choices for our vision. The winner, by ballot, was: Our Rock Lake: Enjoy. Protect. Enhance.

10. Agenda items for the next meeting. Will include the Board's recommended candidates.

11. Next scheduled meeting. 7/17/23. City Hall

11. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:30 P. M.

RLIA Smart Goal (Creel Survey)

Specific: RLIA will collect information to determine the harvest of game fish and promote catch and release practices.

Measurable: This can be measurable with volunteers at boat ramp and a template with specific questions as to species, size, time fished etc.

Attainable: This is attainable with volunteers to take the survey.

Relevant: This is relevant to the health of the fishery as well as fishing recreation. Creel survey, over time will help determine what is harvested and whether size and abundance is improving or decreasing.

Time-bound: The timeline can be summer as well as winter ice fishing.

Submitted by Bruce Ward