

LAHA Picnic & Annual Meeting

June 1, 2025

Outlot A 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Board member not present: John Darnell

After enjoying an extremely tasty variety of dishes, the approximately 60 people who attended were able to socialize before the beginning of the Annual Meeting.

- I. President Joern called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

Arvella Guidotti handed out a folder containing information that would be discussed during the meeting. In addition a signup sheet was circulated to get updated information from those in attendance.

- II. **Secretary's minutes review and approval**

Members were provided with a copy of the 2024 minutes for their review. Member Bob Jaskiewicz made a motion to approve the printed minutes. Mark Matthews seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- III. **Dues and Liens Report**

Mary Jane Ingram, dues collector, provided the following report. To date 121 dues have been received totaling \$14,520. She indicated that normally \$25,000 - \$26,000 is collected by July 1st. Last year the amount that was collected was higher because 7 homeowners paid a late fee of \$120.00.

She also stated that she uses the postmark date when determining if dues are late.

Since the last annual meeting, 3 liens were released. The amount collected for these was \$2,852.55. There are still 4 liens on file at the Recorder of Deeds: 3 have been on file for a long time and 1 new one was filed last year.

Beginning in 2022 when she began this job, 20 liens have been released. This resulted in a collection of \$8,622.85.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Maintenance & Grounds

Ron Matthews provided an update about the damage that occurred at Outlot C a few years ago. He indicated that getting this taken care has been challenging. Both President Joern and he have had numerous contacts about getting this fixed. G & H from Decatur has agreed to begin this repair beginning on June 2nd. When Ron checked on the project he reported that the City of Pekin inspectors were on sight because no permit had been issued.

Because code restrictions have changed over time, what must be done is more involved than what was expected. Both the ramp and the curbing will be replaced. Concrete being poured on the ramp must be 6 inches thick. Outlot C will be shut down for the next 2 weeks.

Ron asked the attendees if he should continue to have the brush in the fence line cleared out at Outlot A to keep the area presentable. He was directed to continue to keep the fence line clear. He indicated that the mower charges \$100 per outlot and has been asked to mow about once every 2-3 weeks.

When asked about the docks, Ron stated that Outlot A's dock needs to be replaced because it was put in about 30 years ago & is not safe.

Homeowner Jourdan asked what can be done with the trees that are hanging into the water at the entrance to the canal. Ron addressed this by stating that the Association spent \$7,500 a few years ago to open up the area. However, homeowner Maquet wasn't willing to let workers back on the property to do additional work.

Mr. Jourdan stated that the homeowner should be required to maintain his property so others using the canal have safe access to the area.

B. Environment Committee

Committee member Mark Leaver provided the report in the absence of Chairperson, John Darnell. Last fall, Herman Brothers from Canton removed about 600 pounds of carp by using electro-shocking. They were allowed to take all shad that they harvested. Thus far, netting of carp has not been successful as just 2,500 pounds have been taken out. Last fall 1620 largemouth bass were put into the lake.

President Joern then spoke to the Scientific Collection permit application that was sent to the State of Illinois in late April. After talking to several individuals at the state level, he learned that the state doesn't support use of electro-shocking. After talking with Sarah Tripp a DNR employee, she thought the Scientific Collection permit should be approved. Normally, it takes about a month to get what is needed but have not received any response.

Homeowner Mark Rizzo suggested that the Association work with colleges in the area that have a marine science program to get some help. Brad indicated that idea has been included in the last permit request so we are waiting to see if that will help get the needed permit.

Because the carp are stirring up the sediment to find food that affects the water quality of the lake. To check on the water quality, the committee has recently taken samples from 5 different areas of the lake. Even though the results have not been received yet, these samples will indicate if the level of E.coli is safe for swimming. Past testing has shown that our water is a mess but safe for swimming. Additional testing will occur just before July 4th and again before Labor Day weekend.

Homeowner Dean Ingram shared information he learned about Lake Evergreen in Bloomington/Normal. T.V. reports stated that the lake has been closed down because of the high E.coli levels there.

Homeowner Keith McKeever asked what the cost of electro-shocking would be. Brad indicate that this is hard to determine but could be as high as \$15,000-\$20,000. To help cover this cost, if the latest Scientific Collection permit is approved any live carp removed could be sold by LAHA.

Kris Meyer asked if the carp should be removed first. She also asked if we should be putting new fish in before the removal. President Joern responded that new fish need to be added because they will serve as scavengers.

Homeowner Andreia Foster added that the street run off coming into the lake is a part of the problem with water quality.

Homeowner Steve Meyer referred to a 2011 report from DNR that there were about 19,000 lbs. of carp in the lake that long ago.

C. Legal

Chairperson Bob Jaskiewicz reported that the board has hired a new legal counsel, Heyl Roster from Peoria. The attorney we have been working with is Brian Mooty. He reviewed the proposed new bylaw language, making recommendations to what was submitted. For the work that has been done thus far, we have been billed for \$663.

D. Information and Communication

Chairperson Bob Jaskiewicz reported that he has been sending out both newsletters and email messages concerning the proposed bylaw changes.

Mary Jane Ingram indicated that when she compared her membership list with the email list there are 87 members who have not been receiving any communication.

Members Jan Darnell and Phyllis DeWitt volunteered to address this issue. They agreed to contact those without emails to get updated information about how they want to receive communications.

E. Safety and Rules

Chairperson Steve Meyer reported that he has been issuing new stickers this spring. If you have questions about what is needed to get a sticker he can be contacted at stevemeyer25@yahoo.com 2000 Alameda Court, , phone # 309-267-4565.

Homeowner Green asked if there is a need for the IL registration numbers since this is a private lake. Steve said that is a requirement from IL DNR.

F. Historical

Chairperson Arvella Guidotti let the group know that she will continue to submit historical information to the lake newsletter. She intends to provide information in 4 year blocks of time.

G. Social

Chairperson Terri Gambetti provided the list of social activities set for this summer:

1. LAHA garage sale June 20th & 21st (Wendy King contact)
2. Poker Run July 7th (needs volunteers to be dealers)

3. Parade of Boats (August 31st)
4. Homeowner Brian Carroll has agreed to play in cove when schedule allows.

Terri provided information about the LOLA group that was formed in the last few years. Jan Darnell and Wendy King lead this group and indicated that any female resident is encouraged to join this social group.

Terri spoke to the Fishing tournament schedule that Mark Leaver has organized. Information about the schedule can be found on LAHA's website.

Members were reminded about Skiing Santa during the Christmas holiday. He will be featured at the lagoon during the Marigold Festival in September.

V. Budget

President Joern led the discussion of the budget that was mailed to the membership in mid-April. This proposal totaled \$66,250. The following information was provided with several line items were highlighted.

The first item discussed was the maintenance item that showed \$24,800 was being proposed. That included repair of outlot A, and building of docks at both Outlot B & C.

Ron Matthews stated that Outlot A's dock needs to be replaced. Estimated cost for that would be around \$7,500. If the two other outlet's needs were to be addressed Ron thinks that installing hooks into the wall at Outlot B so boats can tie off is feasible. Building a dock at Outlot C could be a problem because the area isn't very wide.

Another area that is a high dollar item in the budget is the use of legal counsel. Making sure that bylaw language is written legally must take place. The board was encouraged to use this avenue on a limited basis.

The third budget item that was discussed in detail was what the environment committee was recommending. The dollar amount they were requesting was \$27,500. President Joern broke down the cost into 3 areas, \$15,000 for carp removal, \$5,000 for fish stocking and \$2,500 for water testing. If the amount for carp removal needs to be increased, President Joern indicated that the fish stocking would not occur.

A motion was made by Mark Matthews and seconded by Ian Dawson to approve the budget that was sent to the membership with the dues notices.

Several homeowners suggested things that need to be considered before the vote was taken.

Homeowner Mark Rizzo suggested that the board should put money into a special account each year to cover upcoming projects. Another homeowner,

Keith McKeever, shared that putting money into a CD until the projects are done would help generate additional funds. He also indicated there needs to be more transparency about how the funds were going to be spent.

Homeowner Ian Dawson suggested that moving funds around as needed in the budget would allow for needed changes.

Homeowner Steve Meyer was concerned that the budget that was sent out is 3 times the dollar amount we take in each year.

When the discussion on the budget concluded, Bob Jaskiewicz called for the question to be voted on. The motion to approve the budget that was sent out to the membership was approved 20 to 9.

VI. Bylaw revisions

President Joern opened up this topic by indicating that the new proposed bylaws were not ready to be voted on at this meeting. Most questions and comments that came from the membership show that there is a need to slow down the process.

Board member Mike Rittenhouse indicated that the group doesn't need to panic. The board needs to step back and look at each section and make changes if needed.

A great deal of discussion took place about how to proceed. President Joern proposed that meetings be set up to allow members to react to language in each section. A consensus vote was taken to determine if each section should be voted on when it is finalized. That vote was agreed to with 13 voting yes and 10 voting no.

Mark Matthews suggested that to begin, it would be a sensible idea to transfer the current bylaws into the new format first. By doing this, members can see what exists now. Then at the meetings that President Joern suggested are held, the proposed language can be inserted after the membership agrees with the changes.

Keith McKeever made a motion to table the whole bylaw issue for now. He continued by requesting that subcommittees need to be set up to address numerous concerns the board has received. After several other members'

comments were shared, he amended his motion. His second motion stated that the board & membership need to continue to talk, subcommittees need to be set up to go over each section, membership meetings need to be set to discuss each section, language changes need to be reviewed by attorney when the entire document has been reviewed and a special proxy vote system needs to be created so all membership have a chance to have their voices heard. This motion was seconded by Kris Meyer. This motion passed 20 to 9.

VII. Board elections and Retirement

The following positions on the board were up for election:

Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer

Board members: Arvella Guidotti, Steve Meyer, Kevin Strauss, Michael Rittenhouse

Because there were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Mark Matthews and seconded by Mark Rizzo to reinstate all individuals to their positions for the next 2 years. This motion was approved by those present.

President Joern thanked Terri Gambetti for her years of service to the board. She agreed to take care of the summer social events that are scheduled.

VIII. Input from the membership

Board member Arvella Guidotti addressed the issue of having a appreciation dinner as well as board members getting their dues waived for serving on the board. She indicated that this additional money could be used to offset expenses listed on the budget that was adopted at this meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.