

LAHA Board Meeting
September 8, 2025
Mike Rittenhouse's home, Alameda Court

All board members were present. Bud Grimm from the Drainage District was in attendance also.

President Joern brought the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Secretary's Minutes review and approval

Secretary Ingram indicated that the minutes from the July 14th board meeting were emailed prior to this meeting.

President Joern had submitted proposed changes in writing that he wanted the board to review. Hard copies of his suggestions were provided so the board could review those suggestions.

Discussion of these suggestions followed. Concerns were voiced about being transparent with the membership by recording sensitive information. Making changes of what was discussed was debated. It was suggested that a shorter version of the minutes be posted on the website. This suggestion was not adopted.

Limited corrections were agreed to before a motion was made by John Darnell and seconded by Ron Matthews to approve minutes that reflected the corrections. The vote was 9 -2. Steve Meyer voted against the motion and Mark Leaver abstained from voting. The remainder of the board approved the motion.

Once corrections are entered into the minutes they will be sent out to the board.

Dues and Liens Report

Dues collector Ingram gave a detailed report about what has been collected by September 1st.

Dues were paid by 209 members. 9 members were assessed a \$120 late fee because the July 1st deadline was not met. Total amount collected by September 1st was \$26,040.00.

One new lien was filed on September 2nd because of non-payment.

At present there are 5 liens on file. Three liens are from 2013, 2014, and 2020. One was filed last year and a new one was filed this year.

We were able to collect 2 late fees from 2018 and 2021 when a property was sold on Mitchell Street on September 2nd.

During the dues collection process 3 payments were lost in the mail. All members issued new checks. Two of the original checks were received, anywhere from 1 to 2 months later. It is interesting these lost checks occurred on either 18th Street or W. Shore Drive.

Member Ingram asked for clarification on dues being paid by renters rather than the property owner. She asked that the board address this issue for future dues collections.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kris Meyer provided a hard copy of the report. Only 4 checks have been written since the July meeting.

Additional information was given by Mike Rittenhouse about the no wake sign repair. Apparently what had been in place didn't hold up so a substantially stronger frame was designed and placed in the south end of the lake.

A motion was made by John Darnell and seconded by Steve Meyer to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was approved and the full written report will be posted on LAHA's website.

Committee Reports

Legal, Political and Public Relations

Bob Jaskiewicz spoke about the upcoming renewal of LAHA's insurance policy with State Farm. Since the final cost had not been received to date, the board discussed determining a ceiling cost for our coverage. A motion was made by Brad Joern and seconded by Bob Jaskiewicz that \$3,800 should be set to cover the cost. The motion was approved by a vote of 9 -2, with Arvella Guidotti and Steve Meyer voting against the motion.

Information and Communication

Bob Jaskiewicz will be finalizing the contents of the newsletter within the next week. If there is a board member who has information to submit please supply it to him right away.

Safety and Rules

Steve Meyer reported that he has issued 2 boat stickers, 2 jet ski stickers, and 1 key.

Board member Ingram asked if the letters have been sent to the homeowners discussed at a previous meeting. There have been reports that they are not following the safety rules outlined in the bylaws. They have not been written as President Joern has been ill. Mary Jane Ingram indicated that the use of letters have been effective in the past.

Ground and Maintenance

Ron Matthews spoke about the dock at Outlot A. Homeowners Jeff and Holli Henline have donated an aluminum dock to the Association. The dock was being moved to the outlot today. During the meeting Ron received a call that the move had been completed by G & H.

When the old dock was removed the drain under that dock was found to be rotten. At this point Ron was not sure what to do with this problem. John Darnell suggested that the dock be moved to the other side of the boat ramp and to fill in the damaged drain with rock.

The board also discussed building a new dock at Outlot A because of the volume of members who use this launch. If that was done the donated dock may be used at Outlot C. After further discussion a motion was made by Mike Rittenhouse and seconded by Kris Meyer to use G & H to construct a 4ft. wide by 30ft. long steel dock at Outlot A and spend up to \$20,000 for the project. The motion was passed.

Ron also brought the board up to date about the problems that arose when Outlot C was repaired by G & H. Because the city inspector had to approve what was done, we learned that it did not meet city standards. Fines of \$350 a day were issued to G & H, the subcontractor who did the work, and LAHA because we own the property.

When the hearing was held in August LAHA's fines were dropped.

Environment

John Darnell divided the committee report into two sections, water testing and carp removal.

First, the Board learned that water testing occurred before the Labor Day weekend. The results were the best that have been seen for a long time.

The second part about carp removal was covered by President Joern. He reported that Mark Leaver and he met with Vaskar Nepal from Western Illinois University. Because the state has denied two permits for carp removal, Dr. Nepal will apply for a Scientific Collector Permit to compare different techniques, including various netting approaches and electrofishing, to determine the most effective way to remove the carp.

Brad suggested that John Darnell, Mark Leaver, and he should apply for a commercial fishing license so the netting can be done throughout the year.

The cost for the 3 licenses would be about \$180. By doing the netting ourselves, the project will be less costly. Netting and netting tags would have to be purchased. Ron Matthews said that he had a John boat they could use. Brad said he will donate a motor to use.

A motion was made by Mike Rittenhouse and seconded by Bob Jaskiewicz to allow up to \$1,500 for the project to cover the cost of licenses and equipment. The motion was approved. Brad is expecting to hear from Vaskar again within a week on next steps.

At this point, Bud Grimm spoke to the group about what the Drainage District will be focusing on. A survey of the silt build-up will be done this fall. This will be done by a company called MaurerStutz and will cost \$3,500.

The committee membership consists of Bud Grimm, Ken Wehr, and city Employee, Nick Maquet. Ken Wehr indicated that he is retiring from his position of treasurer. Bud indicated that he will be leaving the area by 2027, so his position will need to be filled as well. All committee members must be approved by the County Board.

The Drainage District has asked if LAHA could help them keep the silt basin cleared of debris. When asked why a cover was never placed over the culvert at the north end of the basin, the board was told that the city thought that it would cause the water flow into the lake to back up. The Drainage District plans to dredge the silt basin again with 2 years.

The board agreed to include a report from the Drainage District in the upcoming fall newsletter.

Historical

Arvella Guidotti has supplied information to Bob Jaskiewicz to put into the next newsletter. He can use his discretion about how much to put in.

President Joern wants information from storage unit organized so a digital record can be made. In addition, he asked that hard copies be bound at Staples.

Attempts will be made to find dredging records in the storage unit to review.

Old Business

Facebook page

John Darnell reported that he has declined 12 requests to join the Facebook page. Six new members have been added. Because Terri Gambetti has left the board, Kevin Strauss will be added to the committee to help with the approval process.

Bylaw revisions

Mike Rittenhouse will chair the committee. Dates need to be finalized so Ron Matthews can secure our meeting location. LAHA members will be notified once the meeting details are set.

Carp removal update

This was covered in the environment report.

Social Committee

A discussion took place about how to organize social activities from this point forward. It was noted that use of the Ladies of Lake Arlann (LOLA) might be able to help. Brad Joern and Ron Matthews agreed to work together to get activities in place for the coming year.

New Business

Board member Arvella Guidotti addressed the trees in the canal issue. To date these are falling into the water. She suggested that we need to get them removed. Being able to address this issue has been difficult because we have not been able to get permission from a property owner to enter the area to do the removal.

A motion was by Ron Matthews and seconded by Mark Leaver to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The motion was approved.

The next meeting of the board will be held on November 10th at Kevin Strauss's home located at 2009 Alameda Court.