

Austin Lake Riparian Board of Directors

Minutes from Meeting Held June 16, 2010

Present: Kirk Wolf, John Crago, Jim Pearson, Win Larsen, Brett Grossman, Seth Giem, Gary Hahn, and Larry Pio.

Also present: Dani Kinder and Norm Young.

Absent: Don Mordas and Brian Johnson

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Kirk Wolf.

Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2010 Meeting

The minutes from the February 11, 2010 were approved by the Board. The minutes for the Annual Meeting held on May 17, 2010 at Lake Center Elementary will be circulated and potentially approved over e-mail. (The minutes were circulated on June 17, 2010 over email and resent in final form on June 30, 2010).

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report (attached hereto) was circulated by Larry Pio. The report was approved unanimously by the Board. The report details credits and debits since the May 17, 2010 Annual Meeting. The Board's bank account shows a current balance of \$4,936.45.

Election of Officers for Board of Directors

The first order of business was the nomination and election of officers for the Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 calendar year.

After some discussion, no board members (other than the current slate of officers) indicated an interest in serving as an officer for the Board. It was then unanimously agreed that the officers for the 2009-2010 term would again serve for the 2010-2011 term.

The slate of officers for the Board of Directors is as follows:

Kirk Wolf - President
Don Mordas - Vice-President
Larry Pio - Treasurer
Brett Grossman - Secretary

Discussion Concerning Annual Meeting Held on May 17, 2010

Feedback and discussion was had regarding the Annual Meeting. Compared to past years, there was an average turnout of lake residents. Next year the Board will increase efforts to “market” the meeting perhaps by door-to-door solicitation or a phone tree.

Other discussion focused on Kirk’s power point presentation and the set-up of the gymnasium. Given the progress of the south bay aeration project, it was felt that attendance may increase next year at the Annual Meeting.

Discussion concerning Non-Profit/Tax Status

The Board discussed the current corporate status of the Corporation. As previously indicated by Larry Pio, the Corporation needs to file an annual report each year with the state of Michigan to maintain good standing and recognition under state law. Discussion was held as to whether or not the Corporation has a tax identification number with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Based on Larry Pio’s review of materials, no tax identification number was found.

Discussion was then held as to whether or not the Board should obtain a tax identification number. Due in part to the lack of a tax identification number, to the Board’s knowledge, there has been no annual reporting to the IRS. Obtaining a tax identification number would likely trigger an annual reporting of some sort. Discussion was also held regarding the steps necessary to become a non-profit corporation under the IRS Code. Non-profit status may allow the Board to solicit “tax deductible” donations.

Upon Motion, the Board authorized Larry Pio to begin the investigation and procedure for obtaining a tax identification number.

Governmental Lake Board Update

The Governmental Lake Board (GLB) meeting on April 12 focused on ongoing solicitation of engineering firms discussing a feasibility study for the proposed south bay aeration project.

There has been some confusion about the dates of the meetings because the meetings are just posted at City Hall; they are not published in the local paper(s).

Discussion was then held about the importance of keeping property owners abreast of the dates of meetings and progress on the proposed project.

Public Access Issues

Kirk Wolf brought up the possibility of posting a sign from the Austin Lake Riparian Board at the public access site. Several members of the Board acknowledged issues between property owners

and fisherman who have trolled too close to docks or boats. Board members have personally witnessed several instances when fisherman have “dinged” boats by casting too close to docks. Escalating confrontations seem inevitable.

The Board unanimously agreed that this may be an issue to address by the posting of a diplomatic “reminder” sign at the public access. The language of the sign would indicate something to the effect of: “WELCOME FISHERMAN. Please be mindful of property owners and avoid_____”. Kirk indicated that he would work on proposed language for the sign prior to the next meeting. Gary Hahn indicated that he would contact a sign maker to determine the approximate cost of a sign with room enough for 4-5 lines of “polite warning language.”

One other issue regarding the public access is the condition of the seawall. There has been substantial erosion to seawall control logs, some of which have come loose. The Board also believes that it would be helpful to have trash containers at the public access as an increase of litter and debris has been noticed. Kirk indicated he would talk to the DNR about these issues prior to the next meeting.

Donation to Marine Patrol

Discussion was held about whether it would be a prudent idea to donate to the county marine patrol. Jim Pearson explained that the marine patrol consists of deputized patrol officers. Board Members commented on the noticeable increased presence of the marine patrol on the lake.

After this discussion, the Board tabled authorizing a donation. Perhaps this gesture of goodwill will be revisited in the future.

Purple Loostripe

Jim Pearson was informed by city officials at a City of Portage meeting that there is some access to the beetles which assist in controlling the spread of this invasive species. By way of background, the source where beetles were produced (Vicksburg High School) was no longer providing these insects. Jim agreed to look into whether the Board may be able to obtain these beetles through the City.

Social Committee

The Poker Run is scheduled for June 19, 2010 with after party at Kirk’s house.

Dani Kinder discussed the picnic which was held at Lakeview Park on June 5, 2010. There was good attendance despite mediocre weather. The Board authorized payment of approximately \$275.00 to cover supplies for kids games, food and beverage for this event.

A lake brunch is set for July 31, 2010. Bring a dish to pass. The location will be around the public

access site unless wind becomes a factor. In that event, the brunch will be centered in the south bay.

Open Forum

The Board discussed the usefulness of a reusable banner for social events, the Annual Meeting and other public gatherings. The banner or flag would simply state "AUSTIN LAKE RIPARIANS". The Board felt that this would be a prudent investment since the banner/flag could always be reused. Gary and/or Kirk will look into the cost of producing same when checking into the signage for the public access.

Discussion was held regarding the Oakland Weir. Please see the Minutes from the February 11, 2010 meeting for an in-depth historical recap of this ongoing issue and the potential benefit of this Weir as a water source. To the Board's collective knowledge, no further input or decisions have been made by Drain Commissioner Pat Crowley with respect to controlling the Weir. Brett Grossman indicated that he would contact Pat Crowley to try and gauge her level of motivation in addressing this issue.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Grossman
Secretary