

Austin Lake Riparian Board of Directors
Minutes of September 12, 2012
Wightman & Associates - 9835 Portage Rd. Portage, MI

Present: Kirk Wolf, Gary Hahn, Win Larsen, Dan Peacock, Jim Pearson, Pat Guilford

Also Present: Dani Kinder, Norm Young

Absent: Brian Johnson, Larry Pio, Brett Grossman, Steve Higgins

1. Open

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the conference room of Wightman & Assoc. by Board President Kirk Wolf.

2. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2012 meeting

The minutes from the June 13, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Jim Pearson (2nd by Win Larsen) and will be posted on the website.

3. Treasurer's Report

a. General Fund: The Treasurer's report indicates there is a total of \$4,356.57 in the general fund.

b. Lake Improvement Fund: The Treasurer's report shows \$113.700 in the lake improvement fund after paying for beetles.

c. Social Fund: The social fund shows a balance of \$500.00 due to the profits of the Progressive Dinner.

The Treasurer's Report details activity since the last meeting. It was accepted unanimously upon motion by Dan Peacock (2nd by Gary Hahn) and is attached to these minutes.

4. Newsletter/Website Report (Norm Young)

a. Advertising summary: No advertising sales at present.

b. Resident postings on the website: Norm reported that no riparian has posted anything on our website as yet.

c. Website advertising: We have had no requests to place ads on our website as yet. Norm suggested that one way in which we could market this site is to offer it as an additional possibility to customers when we canvass for advertisers for our Annual Report. He also volunteered to write up

something about resident postings to be emailed to our present ALP email list.

5. Social Committee Report (Dani Kinder)

a. The Progressive Dinner took place on Saturday, August 25. No additional volunteers came forward as was hoped for at our last report. Regardless, the event was a huge success with brunch at Fred & Cathy Haight's home, snacks & salad at Mark & Luisa Alexander's home, taco bar at Kirk & Tiffani Wolf's home with dessert and a live band at Dani Kinder's home. 100 adult tickets were purchased at \$5.00 each. All proceeds were donated to the ALR Social Fund by these generous hosts. Even the winner of the 50/50 raffle donated his winnings to the social fund. The Kim Heimrick band "Raven Downs" also donated their time to this event.

b. Dani Kinder reported that plans are underway to have a social event in February at a local establishment to be determined.

6. Old business

a. Kirk Wolf reported that our previous agreement with Right-Way Rental for pontoon trailer rentals resulted in an annual profit of about \$400. This has been a beneficial arrangement for ALR as RWR had assumed the repairs, liability and administration of our very old trailer.

Dani Kinder of Double L detailed her proposal to provide pontoon rental services for the residents of Austin Lake. She will purchase a newer trailer with funds borrowed from ALR. This will be repaid by giving ALR \$20 of each rental by Austin Lake residents for the life of the trailer. Our only additional expense for this financing arrangement will be advancing monies for potential repair parts. Labor, licensing, road insurance and liability insurance would be covered by the owner of the trailer, Dani Kinder of Double L. This arrangement will provide ALR with an excellent return on investment since many residents already use Double L's services which would now be credited to us. The motion to loan the funds to buy this trailer to Dani Kinder of Double L subject to a purchase agreement was approved unanimously after a motion by Dan Peacock (2nd by Jim Pearson).

b. Riparian mailing list: ALR is attempting to reduce our mailing costs by expanding our list of residents' email addresses. Kirk Wolf established a yahoo account under the name of Austin Lake Riparians. He was able to import the email addresses he already had into an Excel file of Austin lake homeowners names and addresses provided to Pat Guilford by the City of Portage. This list now has about 100 email addresses linked to names and addresses. This represents about 1/4 of the lake owners at present.

c. Governmental Lake Board (GLB): No report from our GLB member, Brian Johnson, as he was absent. Questions that Board members raised on record are: Is the system fully functioning now? When can we see the contract with Lake Savers? How long will the project run since the summer of our first year's assessment was half over before they began? President Wolf reported that all 27 diffusers are currently working.

7. New business:

a. Lake safety: Kirk Wolf opened a discussion as to what we might be able to do to improve lake safety as the tragic accident of this summer serves as a painful reminder of how quickly lives can be changed forever by a careless moment. Suggestions included making boater safety pamphlets available at the DNR site, asking the Marine police to do safety checks of boats at the DNR site on major holidays, encouraging ALR members to approach boaters who are acting in unsafe ways, installing a sign at the DNR launch site which lists the fines related to breaking boating laws. It was agreed that all approaches have merit. At present, we will focus on developing additional signage at the public landing.

b. Recent theft of boat gas: President Wolf reviewed the police contact with him-- two incidents of theft of gas on Austin lake. The perpetrators were boaters on the water. Other thefts occurred on Long Lake as well. President Wolf emailed a copy of the police notice to all ARL members who are currently on our email list.

c. Lake communication system: Secretary Guilford outlined a proposal to divide the lake into 20 neighborhoods and to establish a captain for each neighborhood. The captain would act as a contact person, known in that neighborhood because they live there, whose task would be to gather email and/or telephone numbers for our contact list. Board members graciously accepted the responsibility of finding captains for each of these 20 areas.

d. Board member liability: Secretary Guilford reported that a publication written by attorney Clifford Bloom, a recognized state expert on riparian/water law, said that members of the board of directors and the officers of a lake association can shore up their defense against potential personal liability by having the association set up as a Michigan nonprofit corporation and to purchase proper liability insurance. President Wolf said ALR is already a non-profit corporation. We do not carry a liability policy at present. He will make inquiries regarding risk assessment.

e. Information pathway for residents regarding the GLB: President Wolf advised Members of the Board of ALR to refer lake residents who have questions about the status of the improvement project to our lake board representative, Brian Johnson, and not to the GLB Chairman or Lake Savers.

d. Hazardous waster management license renewal to P& U (now Pfizer): President Wolf said this refers to a license renewal to store hazardous waste in drums in a building on site at Pfizer. He further mentioned that the license requires that the company provide for containment in case of spills.

8. Date/Time/Place of next meeting: Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at Gary Hahn's office at Wightman & Associates, Inc. located at 9835 Portage Road, Portage, MI.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Guilford, Secretary