



Lake Killarney Board Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers 401
S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Jeanne Wall, William Voecks, David Dickerson, Carolyn Minear, Joyce Cunningham, Jason Ellison, and Ellen Hencken.

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby; Director of Public Works & Transportation Charles Ramdatt; Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan; Interim Lakes Division Manager Jake Allman; Natural Resources & Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor; Virtually: Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

2) Consent Agenda

Ms. Wall briefly spoke about the importance of adding all roll-over items to agendas (as previously voted on by this board). Staff addressed that although not explicitly stated in the agenda packet, many items are a part of broader topics covered and will be discussed nevertheless. Ms. Wall noted to include the Library and Events Center As-Built as a continued follow-up item on agendas moving forward, including lily pad survey and trash signs requested at commercial properties. Amended on October 4, 2023.

a. Approve minutes of the regular meeting August 02, 2023

Paragraph three, of page three, modify the sentence to read as, "the updated Flood Management Guide was provided". On the same page, two paragraphs down, clarify what study is being completed- specifically, the Western Basin study performed by Geosyntec. In the first paragraph, under Board Comments, Ms. Wall suggested including the phone number of the Public Works main line, however; since the phone number was not provided in the August 02 meeting it will not be added to the minutes as it does not show an accurate reflection of the meeting at the time. Include the denial of permit revision based on city code under summary of meeting actions.

Motion made by Jason Ellison to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by David Dickerson. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

3) Public Comments (for items not on the agenda):

Charlie Brenner, 1828 Killarney Dr., spoke about the lake level on Lake Killarney and the wells that were put in by Orange County following Hurricane Donna. He questioned whether the circumference on the wells is adequate enough to control the lakes properly.

Tyven Zalloum, 518 Country Club Dr., voiced concerns regarding current lake level. Specifically, difficulties associated with boat ramps and getting boats into the lake with the low water levels. He also spoke about the high temperature of the lake, which he noted is caused by low water levels and the resulting bloom of algae.

The board asked follow-up questions and a discussion was held about the algae. Staff explained that it is not abnormal for a form of algae to bloom with high temperatures, as it has also been seen in the chain of lakes- not just in Lake Killarney. A further discussion followed.

Jade Malek, 1898 Killarney Dr., also voiced her concerns related to the low lake level. She noted that it would take an increase of about 12 inches in lake level for her to use her boat without any difficulties.

Robert Kunzweiler, 2000 Lake Dr., spoke of his concerns with the low lake level and agreed with the speaker before him and noted that preparing for a 500-year storm/flood is futile, as flooding will be inevitable regardless of how much the lake is lowered.

Chase Tate, 2119 Blossom Ln., noted that he is a resident on the canal and is extremely disappointed in the low lake level. He spoke about the smell and muck that is present by his residence, and how he is not able to use his boat properly as a result.

Scott McCreary, 515 Lake Front Blvd., spoke about the low lake level, mimicking the concerns of those who spoke before him. He also thanked staff for their continued maintenance and care of the lake, and noted that a solution has to be put into place to fix the lake level.

Langdon Stanley, 525 Ololu Dr., voiced concern about the quality and welfare of the lake, as opposed to his own use. He noted that his concern isn't so much the lake level, but the quality of the water.

Alexander Williamson, 2127 Blossom Ln., spoke about the possibility of adding an aeration system to help with increasing oxygen in the lake. He noted that, if needed, his dock could be used as a place to install the system. He asked for staff to follow-up with him regarding this request.

Ms. Wall responded to the comments above and highlighted that the decision to lower lake level during hurricane season was thought out/discussed thoroughly for many months by the board and staff in a public forum. Lowering the lake by .6 ft. was also approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Conrad Necrason, Chairman of the Orange County Lake Killarney Board, helped to explain the context of photographs shown depicting an area where a faulty stormwater pipe is bringing water and sediment from the roads into the lake, which becomes exacerbated with heavy rains. Staff clarified that the photograph provided is of a sandbar by Beachview Ave., and Shoreview Ave., which is one of the two sedimentation removal projects that will be completed under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant funding. More photographs were presented and a discussion about sediment removal and dredging ensued, with staff highlighting the difference between the two. Mr. Necrason continued by speaking about the flooding during Hurricane Ian and stressed that the lack of rain contributed to low lake levels. A brief discussion followed about septic failure and flooding of homes. Amended on October 4, 2023.

Commissioner Todd Weaver spoke briefly about the history of hurricanes in and around Lake Bell and the impacting path Hurricane Ian had on city lakes. He discussed how the storm surge in Jacksonville reversed the flow direction of the St. Johns River creating record flooding levels. He noted that the decision to lower the lake during hurricane season was prudent, thanked the staff and board for their hard work, and urged for patience from the community as staff work through this. Amended on October 4, 2023.

A long discussion continued about the lake level, with the board addressing concerns from the public whilst educating them on the decision that was made. It was reiterated that staff and board underwent a laborious process before making the decision to lower the lake. Staff made a clarification stating that during the various meetings held before making this decision, it was explained that it is extremely challenging for staff to hold the lake at a particular level due to uncontrolled variables present in the environment, such as rainfall.

Mr. Ramdatt noted that in the upcoming week, staff will hold various internal meetings to work through potential solutions/modifications to the policy and lake level and will send those thoughts to the board via email. A discussion followed.

Motion made by David Dickerson that in leu of unanticipated effects of the interim policy, the board allows staff to modify the plan as they see best and notify the board of the changes. Along with communicating changes in lake level to residents; seconded by William Voecks. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

4) Public Hearings (Public participation and comment on these matters must be in-person.)

There were none.

5) Action Items

There were none.

6) Non-Action Items

There were none.

7) Staff Updates

a. Lakes Management

Water quality data was presented, and staff explained how the sampling process works and how results are collected. Phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations are low in the lake but higher in the cove due to its morphology and pointed out effects from Hurricane Ian. Water quality thresholds were provided, as requested by the board at the previous meeting, along with a link for further education.

The side setback variance form/packet will be provided at the next meeting. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) dock regulations were provided and staff explained that FDEP only regulates docks over 1,000 ft., or if they are in outstanding Florida water/aquatic preserves.

Maintenance and efforts continue, with staff monitoring risers multiple times a week to insure desired lake level was reached. Treatment for algae and water hyacinths continues. Staff also removed 35 gallons of vegetation debris off of the grates leading to the drain wells and 165 gallons of debris from leaf traps. The board asked for the lake level log- kept by staff- to be presented as part of the ongoing agenda materials up until the end of hurricane season.

A lily pad survey has yet to be conducted, and staff noted that due to differences in lake management practices between the city and Orange County, different parts of the lake see varied treatment/removal protocols for lily pads.

A brief update was provided on sediment removal using NRCS funding, with staff highlighting that the contractor is currently working on the Winter Park 18 Golf Course and will move into Lake Killarney as soon as the golf course is complete. Machinery is expected to begin moving into Lake Killarney in about a week and a half. A discussion followed about NRCS funding and what projects are being done directly related to that grant.

The telemetry station gateway is scheduled for delivery by the end of August and the sensors to these stations are still in the 'order' status. A brief discussion followed.

b. Stormwater Management

The Lake Bell weir project is moving along and is in the process of a purchase order (PO). Staff is looking to meet with the St. Johns Water Management to understand what is needed to move forward with the Nicolet Pond project.

Mr. Ramdatt gave an update on street sweeping and noted staff is looking to piggy back on another arrangement with the current contractor, and then proceed to go out for bids to select a contractor for the city on a standard contract.

There is no new lakefront construction to report on. The Best Management Practices (BMP) feasibility study and the outfall consolidation updates will continue to be follow up items.

Staff also provided the public works main line phone number, as requested by the board at the last meeting: 407-599-3233. A brief discussion followed about budgeting for any dredging and staff noted that dredging is part of the overall maintenance budget.

c. Orange County Update

Staff is actively procuring a vendor to execute the removal of the sandbar on Blue Heron Dr.

8) Board Comments

Mr. Ellison asked about his boat lift and removing it for purposes of dredging the canal. Staff will work with him on coordinating the logistics of this once the canal dredging begins.

Ms. Wall asked about the Library and Event Center Stormwater As-Builts zip-drive and staff noted it will be sent to all board members. Ms. Wall asked her fellow board members to review the As-Builts and send any questions/comments/concerns to staff before addressing and discussing the topic in full at the next meeting. A brief discussion followed.

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

Public comments were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

9) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Upcoming Agenda Items

- Water quality updates with the lake level graph included.
- Variance packet related to permit applications with all attachments asked for by the board.
- Lakes maintenance and efforts.
- Sediment removal update for NRCS.
- Telemetry station update.
- Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) update/Infrastructure projects.
- Hurricane Flood Management Guide.
- Street sweeping update.
- Lakefront construction.
- BMP feasibility study.
- Outfall condition update.
- Library and Events Center As-Builts.

b. Summary of Meeting Action Items

Minutes from the previous meeting have been approved with amendments made.

A motion was passed for staff to modify the interim hurricane flood control draft as they see fit to account for the low lake level.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes approved by the board on October 4, 2023.

/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator.