



Lakes & Waterways Board Regular Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

David F. March, Ed Webman, George T. Vietor, Matthew Johnson, Clark Sprinkel

Absent

Justin J. Vermuth, Matt Morgan

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability Gloria Eby, Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte, Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan, Lakes Manager Joseph Cordell, Lakes Specialist Daniel Barber, Administrative Assistant Victoria Tabor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of March 11, 2025

**Motion made by Mr. Vietor to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Clark.
Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

- b. Approve the minutes of April 8, 2025

**Motion made by Mr. Clark to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vietor.
Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.**

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

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

- a. Seawall Application (SAP-2024-0022) 721 Virginia Dr.

Mr. Cordell presented the application SAP-2024-0022 for a riprap revetment project at 721 Virginia Drive. He provided an overview of the seawall application, encompassing its background, parameters, photographs, aerial view, and plans. Permitting Agent Diane Arnn from Dragonfly Aquatic Permitting indicated that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) mandates the use of larger stones, specifically those measuring 12 to 18 inches, as opposed to the previously proposed 6 to 18 inches. Additionally, revegetation will be necessary due to existing erosion issues. The 6 to 12-inch stones will be amended in the plans to reflect the requirement for 12 to 18-inch stones. Staff recommends approval.

Motion made by Mr. Vietor to approve a riprap revetment application SAP-2024-0022; seconded by Mr. Johnson. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

5. Action Items

a. Ordinance Amending Boating Regulations

Ms. Eby presented a strike-through version of Chapter 114 Lakes and Waterways Ordinance, concerning the establishment of boating restriction zones. The primary objective is to regulate motorized boats, establish boating restriction zones, and implement emergency management protocols. It is important to note that the process requires the acquisition of a permit through the Florida Uniform Waterway Marker as part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) permitting procedure, which begins with the adoption of a city ordinance that is subsequently submitted to the FWC for approval. Staff are collaborating with the FWC throughout this process to receive feedback early and minimize the likelihood of excessive modifications along the way.

Ms. Eby reeducated the board on the various classifications of the permit criteria. The designation of the ten acre or less zone has been eliminated; the chain of lakes and the informational buoys remain. The slow zones located in the bottleneck of Lake Osceola and Lake Mizell have been retracted. The newly proposed zones include Zone One, North Howell Creek, designated as a slow-speed zone; Zone Two, Venetian Canal, also classified as a slow-speed zone; Zone Three, Fern Canal, identified as a slow-speed zone; Zone Four, Genius Canal, again marked as a slow-speed zone. Additionally, Zone Five pertains to a fueling station, establishing a buffer of 75 feet, while Zone Six is designated as an idle speed no-wake zone in relation to the dock and swimming area, in accordance with the criteria set forth by the FWC.

Additionally, Howell Creek to the south has been designated as an exclusion zone for motorized vessels. It was noted that the raising of the Sterling bridge will not impact the Howell Creek no-motorized zone. There are no modifications to the Lake Killarney zone; the FWC recommends using informational buoys instead of idle speed/no wake zones within 150 feet of shorelines in private waterbodies. These informational buoys facilitate educational campaigns focused on the safety of swimmers and boaters entering and leaving the area.

The ordinance will now include provisions for lake closures during emergency management situations and officially declared emergencies. The FWC will coordinate the placement of the buoys, which will indicate slow speed. A city boating license will no longer be necessary; only a state license will be required.

Mr. Sprinkel mentioned that currently, during any emergency declaration by the Governor, the city manager can close the lakes. He would prefer the ordinance to specify that the emergency declaration is unique to Orange County, rather than any statewide declaration. Additionally, he expressed a desire for the elevation level to be

reinstated. He proposed the wording to state, "if there's a state of emergency specific to Orange County and the water level exceeds 66.1 feet,..." He is concerned about granting undue power to a single individual regarding the lake closures. The board additionally discussed incorporating precise elevation levels and clear language to define authority in instances of emergency. When lakes border other cities and counties, the ordinance includes reciprocal language addressing the closure of the lakes.

Tom Lawton, 1208 N Park Ave on Lake Maitland posed a hypothetical question: if the governor expresses one viewpoint about a lake while the mayor presents a different opinion, who ultimately prevails? He also inquired about the city's current status in terms of enforcement capabilities.

Motion made by Mr. Sprinkel to include the language applicable to Orange County during any declared state of emergency issued by the Governor; seconded by Mr. Vietor. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Motion made by Mr. Sprinkel to include the language on any lake in which the water level is above ordinary high-water elevation; motion was not seconded.

Motion made by Mr. Johnson to approve Ordinance Amending Boating Regulation including the language applicable to Orange County; seconded by Mr. Vietor. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

This ordinance amending boating regulations will be presented to the city commission. If they adopt it, it will proceed to FWC.

6. Non-Action Items

7. Staff Updates

- a. Winter Park Police Department – Sergeant was absent
- b. Lakes Management

Mr. Cordell provided updates on the treatments for Lake Sue, Lake Osceola, Howell Preserve maintenance, and algae treatments at Howell Creek ponds. Mr. Barber introduced the plant of the month, the Coontail plant, which is native to every continent except Antarctica.

Ms. Eby presented hurricane preparedness, noting that June 1 marks the beginning of the season. Preparation is continuous throughout the year, reflecting on prior year and updating the operating manuals. It is essential to ensure that laboratories are ready to handle contaminants, determine the appropriate high-water elevation, install gate closures at Dinky Dock Park ramp, and prepare alerts for flood-prone areas. The Vulnerability Assessment Study has identified critical infrastructures at risk. Furthermore, staff assists public works in citywide stormwater modeling efforts. The flood management guide undergoes regular updates and serves as a living document, incorporating revision dates corresponding to its updates. Telemetry for lake elevations

has been completed for all lakes in Winter Park, and removable grass carp barriers have been installed at Lake Bell and Lake Berry. Additionally, NRCS awarded over \$4.4 million to the city for significant citywide improvements.

c. Past & Upcoming Events

- Shoreline Restoration - 5/3 9am @ Lakes Temple & Tuscany
- Gardening Day - 5/3 9am @ The Winter Park Meadows
- Fix It! Don't Pitch It - 5/17 9am @ Winter Park Events Center
- Ballroom Dance Lessons - Monday Nights @ Community Center (See Attached Flyer)

d. Stormwater Management

Ms. Monahan provided the Comprehensive Improvement Plan (CIP) with an update on the Lake Spier drain well replacement project. The structure of drain wells and their operational mechanisms were explained, essentially comprising of a large pipe that extends to the aquifer; this serves as the sole means for the lakes to discharge excess water and recuperate from occurrences such as hurricanes. Drain wells are present in several lakes including Lake Spier, Lake Killarney, and Lake Sylvan. The site plan for the Lake Spier project included a new maintenance access for city maintenance crews only. Six large trees were removed to create space for the wells. Ms. Monahan explained that the wells are located upland, and the intake is in the lake. The area will be revegetation upon completion.

The findings from the basin studies addressed Mr. Johnson's inquiry, while the FDEP's decision to permit only replacements, not new drain wells, responded to Mr. Webman's question.

8. Board Comments

Mr. Sprinkel proposed a loaner life vest initiative at Dinky Dock aimed at children under six. Mr. Johnson inquired whether local residents around the lakes could collaborate to gather funds for lake improvements. Ms. Eby noted that the main restriction would hinge on whether an ordinance is necessary.

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

It was agreed by consensus to discuss Mr. Sprinkel's idea of the loaner life vests for children and to include the lakes patrol.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Approved by the board on June 10, 2025

/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator