



Lakes & Waterways Board Regular Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Ed Webman, George T. Vietor, Clark Sprinkel, Nicole Seybold

Absent

David F. March

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, Winter Park Police Officer William Branch, Administrative Assistant Victoria Tabor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm.

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

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

- a. Boathouse/Dock Application (BLDR-2025-0673) 1511 Harris Cir.

Mr. Cordell presented parameters for the dock permit application BLDR-2025-0673 at 1511 Harris Cir. The applicant is James Heller, and the contractor is Boon Docks and Outdoor. The project involves building a new deck structure without a boathouse or roof on Lake Sylvan. Staff recommend approval with the revegetation requirement.

Motion made by Mr. Webman to approve application Bldr-2025-0673; seconded by Mr. Sprinkel. The motion carried unanimously by a 4-0 vote.

4. Action Items

5. Non-Action Items

- a. Nanobubble Treatment to Mitigate Harmful Algae Blooms Presentation

Ms. Eby welcomed Moleaer Global Director Chris Stephan and shared that Winter Park received a \$2.1 million dollar grant from Florida's Innovative Technology Program (FTP), for Lake Virginia.

Mr. Stephan explained that Moleaer is a nine-year-old company with over 4,000 installations across 55 countries. Moleaer invented a nanobubble generator, which

creates both dissolved oxygen and nanobubbles. These nanobubbles stay suspended at the lake bottom, allowing oxygen to penetrate. When oxygen is absent at the bottom, phosphorus is released and rises to the surface, promoting cyanobacteria growth. This cyanobacterium then dominates, impacts the environment, and eventually dies, sinks to the bottom and increases muck accumulation, which further reduces oxygen in a waterbody. The system releases oxygen charged nanobubbles across the entire lake from a single point, rendering the bottom aerobic to prevent the release of phosphorus. It encourages bottom bacteria to decompose muck aerobically, maintaining oxygen levels, reducing nutrient flux, improving water clarity, and balancing the food web for greater resilience. Mr. Stephan also shared several case studies.

The installation on Lake Virginia will be near Rollins College, hidden from most views. Monitoring includes real-time buoys sampling lake water multiple times an hour and analyzing sediments. The barge, 40 x 40, is held by spuds for stability and weather resistance. Discussions covered night visibility and downstream benefits.

Treatment goals include improving dissolved oxygen and oxidation-reduction potential levels, increasing water clarity, and reducing bacteria within months. Long-term goals are reducing blue-green algae and improving sediment. After twelve months, limnologists will provide a PhD-level data set. Moleaer partners with Xylem, the world's largest water tech company.

The aesthetic concern was addressed. The FTP grant does not permit purchases; this will be a twelve-month lease. The city has partnered with Rollins College, which has expressed significant interest in students monitoring the technology. Additionally, it can be permanently installed on land as a future option. This system requires authorization from the state and the Army Corps of Engineers, with an estimated approval time of approximately 8 months once the grant agreement has been executed

6. Staff Updates

a. Winter Park Police Department

Officer Branch stated that enforcement has decreased. The main focus is on the Rollins students without their equipment, such as life jackets and whistles.

b. Lakes Management

Water quality updates for all lakes were presented. Treatment activities included spraying the Lake Killarney canal for salvinia infestation, ongoing hydrilla management at Lake Sylvan, pondweed treatment at Lake Sue, and algae issues at Lake Bell, along with small outfall and invasive species treatments. Monthly treatments continue at Mead Garden and Howell Preserve.

The seawall at Venetian Canal has been completed, along with the restoration work at Dinky Dock, leading to the lifting of all closures. Work has commenced on Genius Canal; currently, there are no closures, and the project is expected to be completed within approximately two weeks.

At the request of the Lake Killarney Advisory Board, the Flood Management Guide was updated to include revised terminology concerning the cone of uncertainty. Additionally, minor updates were incorporated into the adaptive management plan located in the packet for your review.

The discussion on eelgrass covered the costs of controlling its growth and the possible effectiveness of nanobubble technology. Ms. Eby clarified that the specific costs are not currently available, and she emphasized that eelgrass contributes to the good health of the lakes and is a protected species. Staff will present a detailed cost estimate after allocating sufficient time to compile the necessary figures.

The plant of the month is Duck potato (*Sagittaria lancifolia*), recommended for shoreline plantings.

c. Stormwater Management

Ms. Monahan advised the Lake Spier drain wells are both installed, online and functional. The pump has been removed. Additionally, the FEMA floodway map correction was displayed.

d. Upcoming Events – available for review in the packet

Fix It! Don't Pitch it! — September 6th 8am @ Winter Park Community Center Orange County Lake Killarney Advisory Board Meeting — September 11th 5 pm @ Public Safety Building (500 N. Virginia Ave.)

Paddleboard Cleanup — September 13th 9 am @ Kraft Azaela/Lake Maitland

Get Hooked! — October 4th 7 am @ MLK Pond

Paddleboard Cleanup - Fall TBD @ Lake Killarney

7. Board Comments

Ms. Seybold confirmed the previous dock review will return in November and asked for the Orange County, City of Orlando, and City of Winter Park code requirements.

Mr. Sprinkel inquired about who is responsible for maintaining the pedestrian bridge, noting missing vertical pickets that could be hazardous to small children. Ms. Eby will contact the private owner, Mr. Goldman, who owns the bridge, and email Mr. Sprinkel. Mr. Vietor commented that the Rich estate and the new St. Augustine grass down to the water look great.

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Approved by the board on October 14, 2025
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator