



Lake Killarney Board Regular Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2026 at 10:00 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Carolyn Minear, David L. Dickerson, Ellen Hencken, Brian King, Jeanne Wall, William Voecks, Melissa Valley

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability Gloria Eby, Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan, Lakes Division Manager Joseph Cordell, Lakes Specialist Daniel Barber, Administrative Assistant Victoria Tabor, Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities David Zusi (Virtual)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am. The decorum statement was read.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of December 3, 2025

Motion made by Ms. Minear to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Voecks. Motion carried unanimously with a 7- 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.)

5. Action Items

6. Non-Action Items

Ms. Valley introduced herself to the board as a resident of Lake Bell and as having resided in Winter Park for twenty-one years.

7. Staff Updates

- a. Orange County Update

Ms. Volpe was absent. Mr. Cordell provided an update of the Orange County Lake Killarney board meeting, noting its reduction to three times per year.

- b. Prioritization List Review

Ms. Wall explained the prioritization list to the new board member and provided that the board will be attending a prioritization list work session on February 4 at 8:30 am

prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting. Ms. Wall requested staff to share any updates and then reviewed the listed items. The staff either provided updates or indicated there were none.

Ms. Wall asked whether the private lift station agreement had been sent to the board and whether it is currently in effect. Ms. Eby confirmed that the agreement was forwarded to the board, and Mr. Zusi will provide a virtual update.

It was confirmed that the Lake Bell water testing data will be added on a quarterly basis along with the monthly water quality data.

The Imperial Cleaners site was listed on the prioritization list, and Ms. Wall inquired whether the city owns the property. Ms. Monahan confirmed that the city owns it, although the wells on the property are owned and managed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and testing is conducted through an FDEP program. Mr. Marcotte explained that the tops of the wells were knocked off, and the city rebuilt them to restore access. Ms. Monahan further explained that when the new southbound turn lane on Denning Dr. was created, two wells that previously tested under the groundwater cleanup target level and were safely abandoned by FDEP. The two wells mentioned by Mr. Marcotte were redone adjacent to their original locations, maintaining their previous functions. FDEP aims to obtain two or three consecutive testing measurements below the cleanup level. One well is already below the groundwater cleanup target level and FDEP is waiting for the second to follow suit before closing the site. The groundwater cleanup target level is 3 micrograms per liter, and the one well that is not in compliance measured 7 micrograms per liter. FDEP is increasing the frequency of testing on the one well. The groundwater is connected to Lake Rose.

Lake Rose has been sampled with no detected contamination in water or sediment. Water quality data for Lake Rose is included in the Lakes and Waterways Board agenda packet. The Lake Killarney Board receives the quality reports for Lake Killarney and Lake Bell.

Ms. Wall inquired about the drainage basin improvements, requesting a comprehensive report on the stormwater system surrounding Lake Killarney and the Cove. She additionally asked if a column could be incorporated into the prioritization list to indicate the date when each project was added. Ms. Eby responded that this information can be included and clarified that the initial project dates correspond to the work session date. Ms. Monahan reported that there are no updates at this time regarding the condition report for Lake Killarney or the CDS unit/grant project.

The dashboard is still being developed with GIS. Once operational, telemetry data will be accessible for the Winter Park lakes.

Orange County Board Lake Killarney Board meeting – Mr. Dickerson reported that on December 11, the board agreed to hold three meetings annually. They also decided to join in sending a letter of appreciation to volunteers involved in the Lake Killarney cleanup. Overall, they are eager for improvements and are willing to collaborate with

the Winter Park board. Mr. Dickerson encouraged other board members to attend Orange County meetings, as he doesn't want to be the sole representative. The letter of appreciation drafted by Mr. Dickerson was emailed to the Lake Killarney clean-up participants.

Canal improvements – Mr. Cordell advised that there are a few areas that have not been established, and staff will need to return with additional plants.

Better participation from the board, community projects, and communication is listed as a high priority. This effort was spearheaded by former board member Jason Ellison. Mr. Dickerson recommended additional planting sessions to enhance plant growth on the lake.

Staff provided an update on their recommended prioritization items: The 'Welcome to Our Lake' educational program is currently in draft form and awaiting communications completion. Host community meetings, such as the dock party in 2022 being one example. Regarding the septic-to-sewer conversion, there is optimism about applying for a grant, which will require coordination with Orange County.

Victoria will send an email soliciting the board's concerns regarding the prioritization list in advance of the work session.

Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities, Dave Zusi, provided an update on the private lift station. A position was filled to help manage paperwork and improve organization. He is working on amending the ordinance to clarify procedures, which will then be sent to the attorney and city commission for approval. The service area spans 23 square miles, so notifications and inspections will happen in phases. Lake Killarney will receive an early notification of the final product. Mr. Zusi is also working on resolving GIS issues; this will result in a more robust program with improved oversight. He believes the implementation will occur before his retirement. The board expressed their gratitude to Mr. Zusi.

c. Lakes Management

Lake Killarney Data Update – Mr. Cordell informed that algae has been detected on Lake Killarney and will be reported to the FDEP. The algae is widespread and somewhat dense. A precautionary alert will be issued accordingly. The FDEP will be responsible for collecting samples, and if toxins are present, the Department of Health will issue the appropriate alert.

He described it as a neon-green, floating algae that can aggregate to resemble a paint spill. He noted that treating a large lake is beyond the scope of the city and further clarified that it is caused by weather conditions. If the surface temperature matches that of the bottom, nutrients tend to rise. Hazardous algal blooms (HABs) have become increasingly prevalent throughout the state in recent years. It was explained that Cyanobacteria have existed for a long time; however, anthropogenic effects have accelerated the rate of these colonies, resulting in more intense blooms. Ms. Eby further elaborated that the subject of HABs is a highly studied and researched topic at present.

Mr. Cordell noted one rain event in December. He displayed Lake Killarney's elevation through November and water quality parameters (phosphorus, nitrogen, clarity, and Trophic State Index -TSI) through July.

Aquatic Plant Management Treatment Updates - Salvinia and duckweed were treated in the canal, while water hyacinth was addressed in the North lobe. Next week, staff will perform spot treatments of hydrilla in both the Winter Park and Orange County areas.

Maintenance & Efforts - 0 gallons debris and 10 gallons trash removed.

d. Stormwater Management

Ms. Monahan reported that there are no significant updates regarding CIP projects, except that the Killarney Drive Outfall Project has been completed. The cofferdam and leaf trap have been removed. Staff is in design for phase 2 of the killarney drive project.

Lakefront Construction Update - No new construction was included when the presentation was created. However, a few permits are nearing approval or may have been issued as of January 7, 2026. Construction has already started on the Lake Drive project. The map of construction projects will be updated next month.

Follow-up items:

Street Sweeping Map - the schedule for street sweeping occurs every two weeks. The mapping is being finalized, and the only additional task is to document and publish the daily schedule. The contractor's trucks are equipped with GPS. Working area for street sweeping overlaps with garbage collection, therefore, garbage, recycling, and street sweeping are scheduled in accordance with these overlaps.

e. Upcoming Events

MLK Park Clean-up — January 24th 9am @ 1205 Howell Branch Rd.

8. Board Comments

Ms. Minear expressed her gratitude for the removal of the fence and formally commended employee Justin Falk for his leadership skills, technical expertise, interpersonal skills, interactions with the neighbors, and recognized him as an exemplary project leader.

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Upcoming Agenda Items

Ms. Wall reviewed the upcoming agenda items from the previous minutes to ensure the items were covered.

- The selection of Chair will be moved to the February meeting agenda.

- Ms. Monahan was to revise some of the language on the prioritization list, after further review, she found the language to be satisfactory.
- The board will provide Ms. Tabor with comments for the prioritization list before the upcoming February 4th work session.
- Staff received the two addresses from Mr. Voecks.

b. Summary of Meeting Action Items

Mr. Cordell provided a summary for Lakes, noting that a HAB notice will be issued.

For the Stormwater summary, Ms. Monahan included only the items from the prioritization list and the follow-up items in the presentation.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Approved by the board on February 4, 2026

/s/ Bahiyah Layton, Board Coordinator