



Lakes & Waterways Board Regular Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers

401 S. Park Avenue

Present

David F. March, Ed Webman, George T. Vietor, Clark Sprinkel, Nicole Seybold, E Donald Thomas III

Absent

Warren Bloom

Staff Present

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. Mr. Sprinkel is attending virtually.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of March 10, 2026

Motion made by Mr. Webman to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion carried unanimously by a 6-0 vote.

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

No Public Comments.

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

- a. Seawall Application (SAP-2026-0005) 1400 Elizabeth Dr.

Mr. Cordell presented the seawall application with revetment at 1400 Elizabeth Drive, on Lake Osceola. The property to the west is a city-owned stormwater drainage lot. There is an existing seawall in place. The parameters for the new seawall are 40 feet in length with a 2 to 1 slope. The seawall will be vinyl with a concrete cap. The revetment will be natural stone larger than 12 inches. The site currently does not meet vegetation requirements and will need vegetation added. Staff responded to questions advising that the City outflow does not contribute to the erosion at the site and erosion is

occurring in the gaps of the current concrete seawall. Mr. Cordell confirmed the seawall is being replaced behind and to the right of the dock. Ms. Monahan added that a private drainage connection in the vicinity is contributing to the erosion and that Public Works is addressing the issue in correlation with the new construction at this site. Mr. Thomas questioned if the City could tie the City-owned seawall into the proposed seawall. Ms. Monahan stated that could be a topic of discussion.

Motion made by Mr. Thomas to approve permit SAP-2026-0005; seconded by Mr. Vietor. The motion carried unanimously by a 6-0 vote.

5. Action Items

6. Non-Action Items

a. Weedoo Operations

Mr. Cordell presented the Weedoo operations along with a background on the vegetation in the lakes. Eelgrass, or ([*Vallisneria americana*](#)), is beneficial for water quality and helps clean lakes by using the nutrients that are present, but also can be a nuisance due to its tendency to break loose and float to the surface during summer months. Aerial graphics showing the correlation of eelgrass population and water quality were displayed.

Photos were shown of the massive amounts of eelgrass in the lakes. Mr. Cordell explained the debris removal process and schedule. Residents can place up to three cubic yards of eelgrass on their docks for pickup by Lakes staff.

Mr. Cordell described the Weedoo equipment and the intent to proactively remove the eelgrass before it reaches the shoreline and reduce the need for residents to pitchfork the eelgrass onto their docks. Mr. Cordell shared data showing weekly removals from 2021 through the end of 2025 and a comparison of debris removal from "Val runs" and Weedoo operations. Ms. Eby pointed out that the data shows a decline in eelgrass collected during the "Val runs" due to the effectiveness of the Weedoo. Residents can hire a private company to remove the eelgrass once it becomes floating debris without obtaining a permit.

Mr. Cordell provided an explanation between the 2023 and 2024 lake vegetation maps which show more dense growth while still covering about the same area. Responding to questions, Mr. Cordell informed that approximately 10% of residents are currently participating in the Val-run and are primarily located on Lake Maitland and Lake Mizell. Residents are informed of the service via Mailchimp, social media, and newsletters. Addresses are required on the docks and will soon be in violation if not addressed. Mr. Cordell displayed a chart showing a decline in debris removal due to a decline in floating debris.

He reviewed the cost analysis of debris removal efforts with daily operational cost of \$3,600 for servicing 5 acres with an annual average cost of \$40K. With a heavy debris

season anticipated for 2026, cost projections for 2026 exceed \$63K. Discussion followed on eelgrass and the importance of removing the floating debris. Mr. Webman inquired about the Nanobubble technology in the lakes and if it will affect the eelgrass. Ms. Eby informed that it should not have any negative effects and may actually increase the eelgrass due to sunlight reaching greater depths through clearer water. Ms. Seybold left at 12:49pm.

7. Staff Updates

a. Winter Park Police Department Update

Officer Branch provided an update on the patrols which are currently six-hours on Saturday and Sunday.

b. Lakes Management Update

- Lake Killarney - Hydrilla and Water Hyacinth were spot treated.
- Lake Maitland (at the weir) - Hydrilla treated.
- Lake Sue and Lake Berry - Upcoming Hydrilla treatment.
- Lake Virginia and Lake Osceola - Upcoming Crested Floating Heart treatment.
- Lake Killarney - Under a HAB alert from the Department of Health. One more sample before the alert is lifted.
- Genius Canal - Seawall cap repairs are complete.
- Venetian Canal - Seawall cap repairs are underway. Closures are weekdays from 7 am until 5 pm.
- Water Quality was shown for the quarterly samples.
- Lake Spier - Volunteers planted the shoreline and helped educate the community on the benefits of native plants.

c. Upcoming Events

- Run for the Trees/Mother Earth Day, May 9th 7:30 AM @ Ward Park
- Fix It! Don't Pitch It! - May 30th 8 AM @ Community Center
- Paddleboard Clean-up - June 6th 9 AM @ TBD Lake
- Lake Killarney Dock Party - May 2nd.
- Mother Earth Day/ Run for the Trees - May 9th at Ward Park.
- Fix It, Don't Pitch It on May 30th at the Community Center.

Mr. Barber provided the Plant of the Month. Egyptian paspalidium (*Paspalum geminatum*) - native grass primarily on Lake Osceola, but not very populous.

d. Stormwater Management Update

Mr. Thomas inquired about a project on Palmer Ave and Old England. Ms. Monahan informed that there will be no road closures for Phase I on Palmer Ave. Mr. Marcotte stated that the project should take about 4 weeks.

8. Board Comments

- a. Discussion of Public Comments

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

- a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Approved by the board on May 12th, 2026
/s/ Joe Smirti, Board Coordinator