Lakes & Waterways Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

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

Present

Justin Vermuth, Pamela Saffran, Warren Blood, Ed Webman, and William Swartz.

Absent

George (Trevor) Vietor and David March.

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby; Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan; Lakes Division Manager Joseph Cordell; Winter Park Police Department Officer John Combas; Natural Resources & Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor; Virtually: Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

2) Consent Agenda

a. Approve minutes of the regular meeting June 13, 2023

Motion made by Justin Vermuth to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Warren Bloom. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

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

There were none.

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. Winter Park Police Department

Officer Combas provided various updates, noting that the Police Department is up-to-date on safety inspections. Last year there were a total of 81 safety inspections, and staff have already exceeded that amount this year. The Police Department has been attending public engagement events to educate the public on boat/lake safety.

A brief discussion ensued about acquiring decals and properly parking at the lakes.

b. Lake Management

Mr. Cordell briefly introduced the City of Winter Park's new lake intern from Rollins College.

Staff gave NRCS updates, and highlighted that the vendor is exclusively working on the Winter Park 18 Golf Course to remove sediment buildup as a result of Hurricane Ian. This project is about 80% complete, and once completed, the vendor will move to Lake Killarney, followed by Lake Berry and the chain of lakes. A secondary vendor is coming on board to help with that list, and are also set to work in Lake Killarney first. The board will be kept updated on projects as they move forward.

Hydrilla treatments have been completed on Lake Bell, and staff is seeing good results. The chain of lakes has been receiving spot treatments- mostly on Lake Osceola and Maitland. Eelgrass efforts continue, with staff collecting it from the chain of lakes on a weekly basis. There has been expansion of eelgrass in Lake Virginia (after major loss suffered due to Hurricane Ian), which staff notes is contributing to better clarity in the lake.

Staff is awaiting shipment of the telemetry stations from the manufacturer, at which point installations will begin. The board will be updated with a timeline as more shipping information becomes available.

A brief update was provided on the new online boat decal service, with 44 decals submitted since the launch. Staff is currently working on a graphic to help educate citizens on the availability of this feature- will be advertised on social media and various other platforms. A brief discussion followed.

July is Lakes Appreciation Month- following the North American Lake Management Society- and staff is advertising material on social media, and sharing a lakes appreciation calendar which gives residents various events/activities to do in/around the city lakes. The calendars will be sent to the board after the meeting.

A restoration planting event did occur at MLK Jr. Park, with removal of torpedo grass and planting of natives along the shore. Staff also informed the board that the Loch Haven chain of lakes- which discharges into Lake Sue and the Winter Park chain of lakes- has received legislative appropriation of $1.35 million to conduct a nutrient study and staff is working with the City of Winter Haven on the study.

c. Stormwater Management

Mr. Marcotte provided a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) update, noting that staff will work on pipe failures and the installation of additional inlets. Staff noted that the five-year plan will be analyzed in depth internally, before being brought to this board for review and approval at the August meeting.

A brief update was provided on dredging efforts, with staff identifying priority outfalls.

8) Board Comments

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

No public comments were received; therefore, no discussion was held.

9) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

Ms. Saffran asked for an update about the Mead Garden seawall, and staff noted that as of this meeting, one contractor has provided a cost estimate for the project, and staff is waiting on another contractor for comparison.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes approved by the board on August 08, 2023 .
/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator