



Lakes & Waterways Board Meeting Minutes

May 09, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

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

Present

Justin Vermuth, George (Trevor) Vietor, Pamela Saffran, William Swartz; Virtually: Ed Webman; Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

Absent

Warren Bloom 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; Natural Resources & Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor.

1) Call to Order

Chair Ed Webman called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

2) Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of regular meeting April 11, 2023

Item moved to the bottom of agenda due to lack of quorum.

Motion made by Justin Vermuth to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Pamela Saffran. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

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

There were none.

4) Public Hearings

- a. Boathouse / Dock Application (BLDR-2022-1221) 926 Palmer Ave

Item moved to the bottom of agenda due to lack of quorum.

William Swartz arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Mr. Cordell presented the details of the dock permit application, including location and parameters. There is a 10 ft setback and vegetation criteria has been met,

along with no impact to trees or root structures. Staff recommends to approve with the condition that no trees are damaged or removed in the build.

Discussion followed and photographs and site plan of the proposed area were shown, including that of the shoreline. It is to be noted that there was opposition from the neighbor, however, they were not in attendance at this meeting to speak.

Sheila Cichra, Streamline Permitting, spoke on behalf of the applicant. She explained that an additional 10 ft of walkway is being added in order to account for adequate water depth due to an ingrowth of vegetation along the shore. A brief discussion was held.

Motion made by William Swartz to approve the application with the condition that no trees are damaged or removed; seconded by Pamela Saffran. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

5) Action Items

There were none.

6) Non-Action Items

There were none.

7) Staff Updates

a. Winter Park Police Department

John Gomez gave a brief update on behalf of the Winter Park Police Department. Due to dock closures in the month of April, activity was relatedly low. There were 23 stops, 21 safety inspections, and 5 citations, with a total of 105 hours worked. For the month of May, as of the time of this meeting, 13 hours were worked with 19 stops, 2 citations, and 6 warnings.

Jeff Briggs, Director of Planning & Zoning, gave an update on the dock and boathouse ordinance. He explained that the item was tabled by the City Commission at a previous meeting for further review by staff in terms of approving/denying instances in which the applicant wants to move their dock/boathouse. After further discussion and analysis of the language, staff is recommending this board to continue approving/denying requests to move docks/boathouses and taking into consideration the reason posed by the applicant for wanting to move them.

b. Lakes Management

Ms. Eby gave a brief update on a meeting held with the City of Maitland related to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) work plan. The work plan was to go over needs, issues, and team responses in relation to the chain of lakes. The City of Maitland hired an environmental specialist, who might be joining staff during these meetings. Staff may also work collectively with the City of Maitland to implement idle wake safety zones within the Maitland side of Lake Maitland.

An update was provided on hazardous algae bloom (HAB) that has been occurring throughout the chain of lakes and Central Florida. Staff has been actively updating the website and working alongside a coalition of Central Florida cities and entities, including the Department of Health, to manage the problem. A cautionary sign was created and placed at Dinky Dock, and it is up to patrons to heed the warnings and act accordingly. Once HAB's goes away, staff will remove the signage. The board asked a few questions about the algae bloom and its toxicity, and staff explained that the toxins are dangerous to humans, and more so, canines. Further explanation was given on how staff handles HAB's and closures associated with it.

NRCS funding was received in the quantity of 4.4 million dollars, dedicated to sedimentation removal. The contract has been awarded, an initial meeting with the agents was held, and the first NRCS project has begun in Winter Park Pines. Staff will keep the board updated on the projects as they move forward.

Staff briefly reminded the board of the Lake Sylvan Dock Party Engagement Event on May 20 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mr. Cordell gave lake treatment updates. Staff is on month three of the Lake Bell treatment for hydrilla, and will confirm concentration levels in the following week. It was highlighted that this is part of a long-term, five-year, treatment plan. A few treatments were conducted on Lake Nina and Lake Minnehaha for navigational purposes. A 35-acre treatment of hydrilla was conducted on Lake Sue, on the Winter Park Side, and staff is seeing positive results. Ms. Eby gave a brief update on the Orange County MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Units) as it relates to Lake Sue. Smaller spot treatments are being executed on the chain of lakes, as needed.

Ms. Monahan provided brief updates to canal closures due to dredging, with Venetian Canal scheduled to be completed sometime in the upcoming week. About 2 to 3 feet will be added to canal depths, depending on the area.

Parking at Dinky Dock is under repair, and although the ramp is open, the parking is not. A brief discussion ensued about a floating dock (sailing platform) on the Rollins College Campus.

Staff informed the board of an upcoming community meeting, on May 23, held to discuss utility projects and hurricane preparedness. There is also a City Commission Work Session planned for June 29 to discuss hurricane preparedness policies. Staff also noted that the Lake Killarney Board had asked for there to be a section in the hurricane preparedness plan specific to Lake Killarney. The document is currently being modified, and will be presented back to this board for review.

Staff has identified a new invasive Asian Swamp Eel in Lake Sue and Virginia, and is in communication with FWC. Electrofishing is being conducted to confirm their presence, with 12 being captured in Lake Virginia and 2 at the mouth of Lake Sue. There is not a plan set in place for the eradication of the eel, as everything is in the research phase as of right now.

Trend data from August 2021 to December 2022 for the chain of lakes was provided. A brief discussion about lake clarity ensued and the potential of displaying clarity levels for the public to see on the website.

c. Stormwater Management

CIP updates were provided. The Seminole Ditch Piping Project is moving along, with staff having applied for the pre-application meeting with St. Johns Water. Staff is also applying for a permit exemption for the Nicolet Ave. Stormwater Pond project, as well as preparing documents for bidding out for construction. The 5-year plan will be brought before this board for review at next months meeting, to ensure all needed projects are accounted for in the budget cycle. Staff is engaging in a large number of flood studies to help in developing the flood control draft document.

8) Board Comments

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

There were no public comments, therefore, no discussion took place.

9) Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

Staff will continue to provide content as needed.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Minutes approved by the board on June 13, 2023.
/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator.