



Lakes & Waterways Board Meeting Minutes

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

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

Present

Ed Webman, Warren Bloom, Pamela Saffran, William Swartz, and Justin Vermuth;
Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

Absent

Lindsay Eriksson Siddiqui and Robert Bendick.

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; Director of Planning and Zoning Jeff Briggs; Lakes Division Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor.

1) Call to Order

Chair Ed Webman called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2) Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the meeting minutes of March 14th, 2023

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

Warren Bloom arrived at 12:03 p.m.

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

There were none.

4) Public Hearings

There were none.

5) Action Items

- a. Request for a recommendation on: an ordinance of the City of Winter Park, Florida amending Chapter 58, "land development code", Article III, "zoning regulations" section 58-87 "lakefront lots, canalfront lots,

streamfront lots, repealing the regulations on boathouses and docks and amending chapter 114 “waterways” to incorporate and update the regulations concerning docks and boathouses.

Mr. Briggs gave an update to the ordinance for shifting variance authority for docks and boathouses to Lakes & Waterways and Lake Killarney Boards. Staff has added a new Section (a)(2) to the ordinance and is asking for board approval. The additions are as followed, with some paralleling those of the Orange County ordinance:

- A clear outline of duties and responsibilities upheld by the boards mentioned above such as protecting trees, mitigating impact on neighbor’s views, and preventing erosion.
- Enhancing the outreach of applicants to their adjacent neighbors. More specifically, if an applicant is meeting the Code they are simply encouraged to reach out to their neighbor and inform them of whatever changes will be made. However, if an applicant is asking the city for a variance, they are required to provide a letter of consent from the adjacent affected neighbor.
- A required list of minimum submittal specifications for the applicant.
- Dock and boathouse conditions to be properly maintained and repaired as needed.

The board asked a few questions about the suggested modifications and Mr. Briggs made the necessary clarifications.

Motion made by William Swartz to approve the recommended modifications to the ordinance; seconded by Warren Bloom. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

6) Non-Action Items

There were none.

7) Staff Updates

a. Winter Park Police Department

In the absence of Winter Park Police Department staff, Ms. Eby provided the update. In partnership with the Winter Park Lakes Patrol, staff has put together a map with a possibility of installing no-wake zones for safety and hazard concerns along the chain of lakes. The potential no-wake zones, as indicated on the map, are depicted around canals, pinch points, or any other areas as deemed appropriate for patrons to slow down. Once approved by this board, staff will seek City Commission approval, at which point an at-length process will begin seeking approval of the ordinance by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FWC). Only after the steps above have been successfully taken, and FWC has approved the ordinance, can speed be enforced in these areas.

The floor opened for board questions and a discussion was held about the specifics of the individual zones. Staff highlighted that the no-wake zones will be marked by speed information buoys and will not be specific to any one activity. The board raised a question regarding an existing city ordinance that does not allow board sports on Lake Mizell, however, since that ordinance is not recognized by the FWC, enforceability becomes an issue. Staff noted that what is allowable has been directly extracted from language written by FWC, and been interpolated into the map presented.

A brief discussion followed about coordinating with the City of Maitland on this process, and staff indicated that the City of Winter Park has no jurisdiction of the Maitland's portion of Lake Maitland, and furthermore, the process is municipality independent. The board feels that the draft ordinance needs to be narrowly constructed and have clear standards on what is allowable and what is not.

Head nods were given by the board to move the process forward, and staff will draft the ordinance before presenting to the City Commission for adoption.

Staff will also send the board excerpts of the language from FWC which was used to make conclusions pertaining to the no-wake zone locations.

b. Lakes Management

Ms. Eby updated the board on algae blooms and elevated HAB (harmful algal blooms) levels throughout the lakes. Although HABs are not unusual to Florida, they have been increasing due to changes in climate. Staff has been working with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), and sister agencies like the City of Orlando, City of Maitland and Orange County in HAB response. This included updating the standard operating procedures (SOP), that are operated locally, to include shared language between the agencies listed above. The updated and approved SOP related to HAB's will not involve lake closure, and will focus on notifying the public appropriately.

A discussion followed with the board asking questions about HAB's and whether or not decreasing the amount of chemical weed removal be of benefit to the lakes. Ms. Eby explained that although each removal method (chemical, biological, mechanical) is effective in its own way, and a valuable tool for lake management, using mechanical removal methods in conjunction with chemical and biological is the most effective treatment path. Staff emphasized that chemical removal

methods tend to be more effective in delivering results while simultaneously protecting native vegetation, while mechanical removal might not be as effective because it can cause fragments of the weed to spread throughout the lake.

Mr. Cordell gave a few lake updates. Lake Bell treatment is ongoing and staff is seeing results. A seven-acre treatment was conducted on the southeast shore of Lake Mizell and treatment of hydrilla on Lake Sue will be executed soon. Around 500 grass carp fish were stocked into the chain of lakes by FWC, as well as channel catfish into MLK Jr. Park for fishing.

Purchasing a boat permit is now readily accessible through the City website. Staff has also informed the board that a newsletter (discussed at past meetings), has been drafted, and will provide educational information related to fertilizer use, addressing for boat dock repairs, and other reminders for the community as they relate to lakes. The board asked staff to ensure event dates are up-to-date on the newsletter.

Various project updates were given. Canal closures, for dredging, will start on April 17, beginning with the Venetian canal and moving to Fern canal. The Dinky Dock Park is currently undergoing repairs to rearrange parking and update surfaces. Staff noted that the launch and boat ramp at Dinky Dock is still open, but the parking lot is closed. Staff also gave a brief update on the seawall repairs along the Venetian and Fern Canals. An update was provided regarding leaf trap repairs, and the board gave head-nods to approve the leaf trap repair scope so the procurement department can continue with the RFP.

4.4 million dollars was deemed eligible by NRCS, and the city is currently waiting for a contract to be executed before engaging in projects on the NRCS impairment list, such as outfall sedimentation, weir and Howell Creek damages.

The Lake Killarney Dock Party event is scheduled for April 19, and the board is encouraged to attend.

The board was updated on vendors selected for professional geotechnical and environmental consulting services: NV5, Inc., Pond and Company, and Terracon Consultants, Inc. For professional stormwater management engineering services, Baxter & Woodman, Inc., Geosyntec Consultants, Inc., and Singhofen and Associates, Inc. were selected.

A proposed sign for Dinky Dock was presented and head-nods were given by the board to post the sign in the field. Questions were asked and a brief discussion was held.

Staff has taken note of an increase in shoreline violations, and is working with Code Compliance to resolve these issues, while also following up with violation notices to the parties responsible. Ms. Eby iterated the importance of ensuring the shoreline of lakes is treated responsibly to avoid damages and pollution. A brief discussion followed and Ms. Monahan encouraged the board to send her the names of hired services who are seen blowing debris into the streets or the lakes. A discussion followed on the process of appropriately clearing a shoreline.

c. Stormwater Management

Justin Vermuth left at 12:59 p.m.

Mr. Marcotte provided a few CIP updates. The Nicolet Pond project will continue as staff has already designed it. There is ongoing work on a final design for the Seminole County Ditch Piping project. Staff is also actively working on a redesign and reconstruction of a drain well for Lake Spier.

Staff asked for board help in finding a suitable place along the south side of the Venetian canal, and the south side of the Fern canal, to stage a truck and pump for dredging. Staff will keep the board updated on the progress/dates of dredging. A brief discussion followed.

Lakes and Stormwater Management for Flood Control Proposed Plan was presented to the board, along with the modifications suggested by the Lake Killarney Board.

Motion made by Warren Bloom to approve the Lakes and Stormwater Management for Flood Control Proposed Plan and move forward with it; seconded by Ed Webman. Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

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

No discussion was held.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Minutes approved by the board on May 09, 2023.

/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator.