

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES December 11, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Champagne, (Chairman), Kelly Austin, (vice Chairman), Paul Bickford (Secretary), Lloyd Walker, Jason Adams, Rick Yorman, Gracie Turley, Harold Robinson (Committee members)

Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance: Ruth Hatcher, David Brandenburg, Tammie Loyd, Jerry Hover, Jerre Barron, Doug Cash

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart

Guests Present: Bill Ginger, Ellen & Gary Creakbaum, Jim Osetek, Burl Carter, Arell Wasson, Steve Curtis, Terry Gibson

Call to Order: Matt Champagne called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with eight committee members present

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Jug Fishing Rule Change Consideration

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the November 2019 Lakes' JAC meeting were approved as submitted

Management Comments:

1) **Rick Echols:** - Lakes, Parks and Fisheries

- Lake Ann drawdown is in progress but a little behind schedule with the goal of reducing the lake level by 6 feet by December 5th; however, due to incoming flows the new date is December 20th. The lake draining valves will be closed March 16th
- One trout stocking to lake Brittany and another is planned in the near future
- Flood debris cleanup continues periodically at boat ramps and the dog park
- **Champagne:** What is the impact to the Lakes and Park budget if the assessment increase doesn't pass? **Echols:** fish stocking would be curtailed substantially: no hybrid striped bass, catfish or trout stocking. Maintenance on POA docks would be reduced. No repaving of the Brittany roads
- Fall fish sampling is complete. Observed Saugeye from our hatchery were present

POA Board Member Liaison Comments:

- 1) **Jerry Hover:** Reviewed the recent Board decision to approve a second effort seeking voter's approval to increase the monthly assessment to \$37 for improved lots with no increase for unimproved lots

Old Business:

- Members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 11 hours since the November meeting
- **Champagne:** A draft of this committee's Wake Boating rule change recommendations were forwarded to Tom Judson and Doug Cash for consideration. I've attempted to incorporate their wording requirements into the suggested rule change document to be considered and voted on at this meeting; therefore, I now ask for your concerns, comments and questions

- **Turley:** Under “Signage”, I see “100’ all boats no wake.....”. **Champagne:** Sorry, that’s a typo. It should be 200’ for all recreational watercraft from lake wall or dock or other associated shore structures. The 100’ rule applies to non-recreational boating. It was generally agreed to keep the rules wording as simple as possible so they can be clearly understood and better enforced by lake rangers. **Turley:** Bullet #3 under “New Rules”: if the monthly assessment increase isn’t approved by voters, will sufficient funds remain available to produce the educational video wake boat owners must watch (and sign their name they have watched such) at boat registration. **Echols:** yes, we will do all we can to work with Marketing to accomplish this task
- **Bickford:** Is it necessary this wake boating rule change document consider restrictions on the number of such boats on the lake at any point in time? **Champagne:** Doug, is it feasible to legally regulate the number of wake boats operating at the same time? **Cash:** considerably more difficult. **Yorman:** As a result of our community increasing in size other boating parameters issues (engine HP, boat length, etc.) will eventually need to be addressed. **Walker:** Our committee worked diligently in the last year to address the wake boat and other issues and has done well to purpose solutions that are not perfect, but reasonable beneficial to both recreational boating, fishing, and, hopefully, helpful to lake shore residence, and be understandable and enforceable by lake rangers
- **Arell Wasson:** With regard to the 200’ distance rule, how does it relate to kayaks, swimmers, paddle boarders. **Champagne:** The 200’ rule applies to these also; however, kayakers, swimmers, paddle boarders must be responsible in choosing the time to be in their chosen location whenever wake boats, tubers, and skiers are also validly active. **Wasson:** thinks, as many other Windsor and Loman lake residence do, the wake boating rule document under consideration and to be voted on at this meeting is most inadequate
- **Bill Ginger:** Expressed appreciation for the effort the committee has taken to develop new wake boat rule changes; however, does take exception to the rule that allows watercraft, other than wake boats, to navigate within 100’ feet of the shore or shore attached properties. He feels that permitting powered watercraft, other than wake boats, as close as 100’ defeats the purpose of the rules changes under consideration. He recommends the 200’ rule be applied to ALL powered watercraft
- **Turley:** suggests that the boating rule changes under consideration explicitly define the watercraft types that are privileged to the 100’ rule. **Champagne:** I agree
- **Yorman:** If there is no further discussion, I make a motion to recognize/accept the committee’s Wake Boating Rules changes so they can be forwarded to the POA Board for consideration. Motion passed
- **Champagne:** Appointed Rick Yorman to represent the Lakes JAC at the next Board Meeting
- **Brandenburg:** Question: Must all recreational watercraft watch the educational/training video at registration time or only wake boats? **Cash:** Prefers both recreational boating categories to sign off and be required to watch the video in question since both must operate under the same restrictions/rules

- **Urquhart:** The video watch requirement was included primarily to emphasize correct usage of wake boat wedges
- The discussion continued on the “question” above and **Cash** requested additional time to consider it in more depth.
- **Turley:** The wording should be clear about the need for each of the two recreational watercraft categories/types (wake boats and all others) to watch the video.
Champagne: Please remember the spirit of what we are trying to accomplish: new boating rules for wake boats that are reasonable for as many members as possible and can be enforced
- **Echols:** Is concerned how POA personnel can manage a large number of members with boats with large HP engines that must watch the training video at any given time
- **Hatcher:** It’s best to present the wake boating rule change proposal to a Board vote in January due to the nature and complexity of the issues, and the need to provide ample notice to members

Open Forum:

- **Terry Gibson:** Requested the Board to allow *supervised* “jug” fishing during the day on Bella Vista lakes and requested the wording be changed in the fishing rules brochure to allow such. He suggested it would be reasonable to limit such fishing to no-wake lakes or no-wake necks of wake lakes for safety reasons. **Echols:** I personally, approve and supports “active” fishing i.e., fishing with a pole-in-hand and oppose “passive” or unsupervised fishing on a fish population that isn’t self-sustaining. The catfish population in our lakes are maintained primarily through stocking, which costs money that’s often less available, not reproduction. **Yorman:** Catfish do reproduce in our lakes? **Echols:** Yes; however, they are substantially reduced in numbers at the fingerling stage because of predation. Stocked catfish are purchased above predation size (8 to 10 inches). **Turley:** It concerns me catfish may be taken at a rate above a replaceable rate. **Echols:** Arkansas Fish and Game set the rate at which catfish can be harvested (10 per day per person) and it is unlawful for us to change this unless our lakes were administered by a municipality i.e. our city. **Champagne:** As a result of the many possible facets of this issue it will be placed on a future meeting agenda
- **Announcements and next meeting:**
- The next Lakes' JAC meeting will be held at the Bella Vista Village Country Club Board Room at 2 pm on Wednesday, January 8th, 2020

In consideration of the important comments and decisions made about large wake creating watercraft and other concerns expressed at recent meetings, please take some time to view recent videos on these subjects, (with a simple “Ctl+left mouse click), at:

<https://bellavistapoa.com/governance/committees/#lakes>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:08pm

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary