BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES February 12, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance: Kelly Austin, (vice Chairman), Marvin Macedo, Paul Bickford (Secretary)**,** Jason Adams, Gracie Turley, Harold Robinson

Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance: Tammie Loyd, David Brandenburg, Jerre Barron, Steve McKee

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart, Trey Anson, Chris Fuller, Jennifer McGriff

Guests Present: Gene Burkhead, Arell Wasson, Steve Curtis, Bill Elias, Greg Sellers, Terry McConnell

Call to Order: Kelly Austin called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with five committee members present

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: Bickford's plea for POA management to give top budget priority to the Lakes and Parks Department

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the January 2020 Lakes JAC meeting were approved as submitted

Old Business:

- Members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 11hours since the last meeting

- ***Austin:*** Requested a POA Board member for an update on the status of the Wake Boat Rule Change proposal
- ***Brandenburg:*** The Rules and Regulations Committee (RRC)reviewed the Lakes JAC proposal 2/10/20 and passed it "pretty much" unchanged. It will be considered by the upcoming Board meetings 2/13 and 2/20. Furthermore, the Board considers the proposed wake boat rule changes that emerged after two years of hard work by the Lakes JAC, a step forward
- ***Turley:*** Question: Were the **Judson/members** wake boat rule recommendations (white paper) ever considered and responded to by this committee?
- ***Brandenburg:*** Yes, the RRC considered them on 2/10; however, the Lakes JAC rule change proposal was favored over the "white paper" recommendations

New Business:

Management Comments:

- **Rick Echols,** Lakes, Parks and Fisheries
    - Continue to monthly stock trout in lake Brittany
    - Lake Ann drawdown is a problem because of the frequent rains. It's down about 50" now but projects like dredging require a dry lake bed; therefore, if the present drawdown effort isn't successful by March end, another attempt will be made next Fall to allow much needed lake and lake wall repairs to be made
    - Blue Cat fish will be harvested from the golf course ponds and the number harvested will be reported next month
    - As a result of the passage of the 2020 Plan, I would like to get the blessing/approval, after a discussion, from this committee for two projects:

        - 1. “Kayak Demo Days” event on lake Ann that’s been held every Spring and open to the public. it’s believed mostly only members attend
            - Representatives from various kayak vendors demonstrate the best features of their boats
        - 2. Catfish fishing derby for children held last year at the Metfield clubhouse pond. It is and must be open to the public in order to receive the free catfish provided by the Arkansas Fish and Game Department
    - ***Turley:*** The Demo Days kayaks have been supplied primarily by Ozark Trading Co. Kayaks … will other vendors be permitted to participate in the event?
    - ***Echols:*** For unfortunate reasons, vendor participants wouldn’t cooperate with each other; as a result, an offer to participate on a different day was given to one of the representatives; however, no response
    - ***Adams/Austin:*** Bass club fisherman who aren’t members must be guests of a member fishing in the same boat. No guest card required.

- ***Robinson:*** Fly Tyer Club hosts two Winsor dam fishing derbies for grade-school youngsters and needs support for these events from Lakes and Fisheries. ***Echols:*** yes, we will include them in the catfish fishing derby qualifying category

- **Trey Anson**, Marina manager
    - The Marina will reopen 3/16 with shortened hours through March and April: 7AM to 1PM weekdays and 9AM to 5PM on weekends
    - Efforts are being made to upgrade the rental bass boats with larger engines
    - Regarding Kayak Demo Days … the vendor provides all the labor for the event. The Marina does benefit financially to some degree from people who rent a kayak to try and help them decide whether or not they would like to purchase one. And, if they do, the annual $15 registration benefits the POA
- ***Bill Mathis:*** In 2010 there were only 4 non-powered boats registered with the POA and now there are over 3000! Question: Kayaks are very susceptible to UV rays which, over time, weakens them and they become brittle; therefore, can the POA provide a low-level shelter for them? ***Echols:*** I’ll give that suggestion consideration
- ***Austin:*** *Made a motion for 2020 to support the Kayak Demo Days, Kids Catfish fishing derby, and the Fly Tyer club grade-school kids fishing derby. The motion was seconded and passed.* ***Adams:*** abstained
- ***Austin:*** Any new merchandise available for sale? ***Anson***: Yes, hats and shirts will be ready for sale
- ***Austin:*** The lake Secchi measurement efforts will begin in April; therefore, please respond to team chairman **Rick Yorman**, if you haven’t already, regarding your intention to perform the volunteer duty this year
- ***Bickford:*** Fly Tyer **Larry Lamar** will replace Jerry Argetsinger for inspection of Lakepoint/Marina, and Fly Tyer **James Ramey** will replace Lloyd Walker as backup to inspect Rayburn dam and park
- ***Bickford:*** Requests the Board to consider the following:

Fourteen years ago, my wife and I visited Bella Vista and viewed it, as a little piece of heaven, and decided to invest in the community and retire here. We have lived on Rayburn both part and now full time since 2007 and have witnessed amazing *positive* changes in the neighborhood, particularly in the past 3 to 4 years.

I’m into my 3rd year as a Lakes JAC member and would like to express some of my views on the enjoyable opportunities our lake amenities provide to our member families.

Our community is in a significant growth phase, as well as, a significant constituent change i.e., Once primarily a senior retirement community is now becoming integrated with young families with children of all ages; Therefore, I want to encourage POA management to give the Lakes and Fisheries Department high, if not the highest, priority to budget consideration for 2020, as well as the future, for the following reasons:

- *It's clear to me, our 7 lakes provide more fun things to do for more of our <u>family</u> members than any other POA amenity*! *Opportunities for enjoyment* include:
    - Swimming
        - Avalon beach is a new big plus for members (2-year-old to 80+)
        - I've witnessed families spending much of a holiday swimming from a Rayburn dam dock,
        - All through the summer, Rayburn lake property resident families swim from their docks
        - My grand & great grand kids love to swim from my dock!
    - Fishing
        - The well managed fisheries provide a good variety of game fish for members to try and catch
        - Any member can fish from the POA docks located on all 7 lakes
        - My granddaughters 5 & 9 enjoy catching Blue Gill each summer when they visit (*as long as I don't ask them put the worm on or take the fish of the hook*!)
    - Boating
        - Kayaks (thousands presently registered)
        - Paddle boards (a fun way to enjoy a low breeze afternoon)
        - Canoeing (another way to enjoy an afternoon)
        - Water skiing, tubing, and wake boarding on designated lakes

Note: of the 30,000 members of our growing community that participate in the present No. 1 supported amenity, I bet at least 100 can participate in the varieties of activities on our 7 lakes. **Why?**

- In general, Lake activities are less expensive e.g.,
    - Fewer and less costly yearly fees
    - Swim from a POA dam dock at no extra fee
    - Catch trophy game fish floating in an inexpensive kayak i.e., no $40,000+ Bass Boat required. Only $15 annual fee for kayak
    - Under aged kids and grandkids can catch nice pan fish with a cane pole line, worm & float from a Marina or dam dock … no fee
- Lakes, in general, are much more convenient and accessible than the present No. 1 supported amenity
    - Lakes are available throughout the year, weather permitting
    - If folks are using the No.1 amenity on a given day, in general, more will be using the No. 2 amenity … lake activities

Bottom Line: I urge POA management to provide top funding consideration to the Lakes and Fisheries Department so it can continue to keep the lakes and associated areas the best they can be for all our member families to enjoy now and into the future

- ***Chris Fuller's*** assistant ***Jennifer McGriff*** gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the pro and cons of the Gizzard Shad as bait fish. It was pointed out that Lakes Brittany and Rayburn don't contain these undesirable fish, and hope was expressed they never will
- ***Urquhart:*** It's estimated that Gizzard shad were introduced accidently (?) in the late 1980s or early 1990s to most of the other POA lakes. Lake Ann was, it seems, infected as recently as 2013
- ***Austin:*** Ask for a volunteer to attend the 2/27 POA Board meeting and Bickford volunteered

POA Board Member Liaison Comments: None

- ***Open F*orum:**

- ***Arell Wasson:*** The Rules and Regulations Committee (RRC) has approved the proposed wake boat rules changes, and I assume the Board will do the same***.*** Question: does this committee consider its job finished on this issue or is there more work under consideration? ***Echols***: My department will continue to perform and video wake size testing, and I'm open to suggestions on how to create the biggest wake possible. ***Austin***: This committee agrees with this statement and will continue to assist with wake creation testing. ***Wasson:*** At the recent RRC meeting a "White Paper" prepared by community members and Board member ***Steve McKee*** was considered. Question: is the Lakes JAC also going to review and consider the contents of this document? ***Austin:*** Yes

- ***Bill Elias:*** Longtime resident of Bella Vista, avid conservator, fly tyer, and fisherman wondered if Rick would consider rescuing a once functioning trout hatchery located near the veterans memorial that was, in the past, part of this community? ***Echols:*** I know about the hatchery but it would require much study to determine if it would be economically feasible to revive and operate it. ***Anson:*** Can we use more trout than we buy now … can we use more than we can afford? ***Echols:*** short answer, yes. But all the trout we stock aren't caught each season

- **Announcements and next meeting:**
- **T**he next Lakes' JAC meeting will be held at the Bella Vista Village Country Club Board Room at 2 pm on Wednesday, March 11th, 2020

- *Lake JAC meeting minutes and videos can be viewed, (with a simple "Ctl+left mouse click), at:* https://bellavistapoa.com/governance/committees/#lakes

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary