

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES March 11, 2020

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

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

Management Liaisons in Attendance: Rick Echols, John Urquhart, Trey Anson

Guests Present: Carol Phillips, Sandy Fosdick, Tim, Fosdick, Gene Burkhead, Josh Henderson

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

Additions/deletions to the Agenda: **Yorman:** Secchi disk measurement startup update

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

Management Comments:

- **Judson:** The Board has requested the JAC consider a number of items at this and subsequent meetings
 - The Board requests regular feedback at monthly meetings on the new wake boat operation regulations i.e., how effective are they and are adjustments needed
 - Regarding non-lake events: as of close of business Monday, since March 1st, we have sold 1,250 activity cards and approximately 500 of those were purchased for the first time by residents. Also, about 100 are dependent cards; therefore, its anticipated swimming pools and the Avalon beach will be very busy this season
 - Member services are “slammed” with business: four staff are answering phones and struggling to keep up
 - Last week we had about 50 new residence attend a meeting, and about 45 of those purchased activity cards
 - Tuesday March 17th, a “meet the candidates” event 6 PM Riordan Hall. There are six candidates vying for three board positions. The event is “streamed” live and one can visit the POA website to view the candidate profiles as well as video statements
 - **Turley:** Are wake boat identification procedures/” stickers” in place now, as of March 1st, at boat registration, and if so, what’s the status? **Judson:** wake boats are being identified at registration, and given a unique “sticker” (250 was the minimum order). Registration has just begun; therefore, more time is needed to give a meaningful report on current boat registration status; however, we anticipate about ten wake boats will be registered which is about the same number as last year
 - **Echols:** Boat registrations aren’t delinquent until April 1st. At this time, we will obtain the list of wake boat registrants from member services, contact them,

and set a date to meet, and give a presentation on the new wake boat operation rules

- **Rick Echols**, Lakes, Parks and Fisheries
 - New Membership rule lake usage signage (recommended by the Lakes JAC), with green logo, is now posted at appropriate locations. Please contact me if old POA membership only signage, without the green logo, is spotted, and it will be replaced
 - Trout stocking on Brittany 2/27/20
 - Walleye/Saugeye brood stock collection is complete with the eggs in our hatchery
 - Completed the repair on a Lake Ann drawdown tube, as well as, the repairs on all major projects; therefore, if the anticipated large quantity rainfall occurs during the next week, no attempt will be made to, again, lower the lake
 - Three new lake rangers hired and being trained for the new boating regulations now in place
 - Secchi disk measurements will begin in April. **Yorman:** The 2020 team is intact and has been contacted about meeting with Chris Fuller to review data collection techniques. Secchi measurements will begin April 6th. **Echols:** Monday of each week is preferable for data collection so the Fisheries Department crew can respond in a timely manner to possible lake fertilization needs
 - At the summer season peak there will be 8 lake rangers on duty, six will be part time at 30 hours and two at 40 hours per week
 - March 1st, the first day of the new 2020 plan program was in place, about 25 people were asked to leave the area because of improper POA membership identification
 - Lake rangers can no longer sell any type of POA membership qualification
 - **Bickford:** Which other lakes are you considering to drawn down? **Echols:** Lake Rayburn is the only lake that hasn't been drawn down in recent memory. Both Brittany and Norwood are not likely to be considered for a drawn down because of the time it takes for these lakes to refill
 - **Echols:** Because of the extremely warm temperatures likely to occur soon, Lomond, and other lakes could experience an algae bloom. **Champagne:** Avalon is experiencing one now, in addition to extremely clear water, and the same is true for Rayburn and Norwood

Old Business:

- Members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 17hours since the last meeting

New Business:

- **Adams:** Since 2017 we have been sponsoring national kayak fishing tournaments on our lakes: Two were held in both 2017 and 18, and in 2019, monthly ones were sponsored. Fishermen came for all-over to participate, and fish on our lakes. Since then we have filmed (\$22,000 per event) with Kayak Bass Fishing two shows encouraging fisherman to fish here; however, the new POA membership rules (fisherman must be a POA member or a guest of a member), I believe, developed unintended consequences, and now prohibit public kayak bass fishing tournaments on our lakes. **Turley:** Must tournament participants register prior to a tournament, if so, can they be issued special permits? **Adams:** this was done the past two years. **Echols:** Yes, via a one-day pass, and temporary boat registration.

- Now, restricting our lakes to members only, and their guests i.e., disallowing public use, presents significant issues, in some instances, for the POA Lake and Fishery department, and prevents organizations or groups from holding events on our lakes.
- **Austin:** Can Jason, as a member, purchase a number of guest passes for a given tournament that would allow it to function?
 - **Judson:** Good question! Unfortunately, this conundrum is one of the unintended consequences that arose via the new 2020 plan membership rules; therefore, this committee, the Rules and Regulations (R&R) committee, and possibly the Board will work through the pros and cons of possible exceptions to the new membership requirement rules to resolve, in a prudent way, these “unintended consequences”
- **Hover:** The question I get asked is: why are lakes any different than golf or swimming pools? This question is difficult for me to answer.
 - Members pay for all the POA operations i.e., all employees, all property purchases, and maintenance, etc.; therefore, why should we allow public access, and use of POA properties and resources including catching of fish the POA owns and maintains? Please provide answers.
- **Trey:** We do allow non-member participation within the 2020 plan to some amenities e.g., tennis. The question it seems to me is: are the lakes open to the public like tennis?
 - **Judson:** It’s clear in the 2020 Plan, lakes are only for members and their guests. After the approval of the 2020 plan we don’t want to undermine it.
 - However, exceptions to the “membership only and guest” rule were discussed prior to the 2020 Plan passage e.g., the Gun Range group is allowed to sponsor a “Cancer Challenge” event; however, raises the question: how many contestants should be allowed ... 10 or 75?
 - *Therefore, it’s important membership rule exception limits need to be defined to provide guidelines that permit other POA departments/amenities to plan and implement their activities*
- **Adams:** Back to the kayak fishing tournament consideration: Even though the tournament participant entry fee produces only about \$2000 per event for the POA, some avid fisherman pre-fish tournament lakes two weeks prior to the event; therefore, spend money on gas, hotels, food, etc. which brings in substantial income to local businesses
 - As a result of the new membership rules, Bella Vista businesses will miss-out on a growing income possibility
 - At the Hot Springs, the tournament organization sponsors paid \$250,000 to allow the event to be held there. Kayak fisherman who attend these big events, spread substantial money to local businesses
 - **Champagne:** It’s unfortunate, Bella Vista doesn’t have lodging facilities to support such events
- **Discussion Continued:** A variety of comments continued regarding how, should, and if kayak tournaments can be held on our lakes. **Champagne:** This committee will continue future discussions on the effects of the new membership rules have on lake activities and will monitor the results the R&R committees produce in consideration of such
- **Champagne:** Five committee members service terms are up for renewal in June: Two current members have agreed to serve another three-year term; therefore, I offer a motion to recommend to the Board that Grace Turley, and Paul Bickford to continue their volunteer service to this committee. Motion passed.

- Three committee members, Lloyd Walker, Harold Robinson, and Marvin Macedo will leave the committee in June, and candidate applications to fill those positions have been received, and each of you have a copy (to be kept private); however, we will continue to receive applications until the next meeting. I suggest we invite the applicants to make a presentation at the April meeting and then make our selection of the candidate to recommend to the Board
- **Champagne:** “Begin discussions for regulating the size, horsepower, dimensions, capabilities, speed, and numbers of boats on POA lakes. Do we regulate capabilities or activity?”
 - A discussion developed around the above and **Yorman:** suggested further considerations be tabled at this meeting, and the topic(s) be given to a committee subgroup to develop more detailed boating regulations recommendations to present to the committee for consideration. **Champagne:** I agree, and feel it’s a big controversial issue
- **Hover:** Yes, it will be a big issue; however, the information lacking and needed is hard data e.g., how many people/boats are out on the lakes and when.
 - What we are attempting to do is get ahead of the curve instead of just reacting to problems
 - Now, POA boating regulations allow house boats with toilets that empty into the lakes
 - We are reacting to opinions, sometimes with little or no data to support them
 - Is damage to shore properties more as a result of wind or boat waves? We really don’t know because the lack of supporting data
 - There is an organization I hope you will contact and work with: it is the “**National Association of State Boating Law Administrators**”, and all states belong. This organization deals with boating issues and has data to support their findings
 - I feel it is difficult to regulate boating activities on our lakes but feel the types of boats should be regulated
 - We should setup a “lake watch” program much like a “neighborhood watch” program, at least for Lomond, Winsor, and Ann
 - This effort would allow illegal/offensive events to be observed and even videoed and reported in a timely manner
 - Range finders could be used to determine accurate distances to water craft, to validate or discard possible, distance from shore, violators
 - Let’s work together to implement these ideas ASAP to collect helpful data to help us get ahead of the curve and make better and more timely boating rule decisions
- **Yorman:** I would like to make a motion that this committee form three subcommittees:
 - One: to study and recommend boat size etc. recommendations
 - Two: a lake watch group
 - Three: to monitor the effects of the recent wake boat rule change
- **Champagne:** I agree with the first two recommendations; however, I would like to take a different approach on the third. Question to **Echols:** is it reasonably and possible to collect information on wake boat issues, and report monthly on them at each meeting? **Echols:** Yes.
- **Judson:** I suggest the committee first focus efforts on implementing the lake watch effort since there is a good chance, we can implement it at the beginning of the upcoming boating season.
 - Next focus on the boat size etc. regulations effort since it will be difficult and

time consuming etc.

- **Champagne:** Is there a motion to form the lake watch group? **Bickford:** I make such a motion. Motion passed. **Champagne:** Are there volunteers? **Bickford** is one, **Champagne** is two, and **Anson** is three.
- **Yorman:** Are there volunteers for the boat size etc. group? **Austin** is one, **Yorman** is two, **Macedo** three for three months
- **Champagne:** is there a motion to confirms these two committees? Motion made, second, and passed.
- **Yorman:** Question to Echols: I assume you will report, as best as possible, on how well all of the primary aspects of the wake boat rules are respected as well how the new signage is also being followed. **Echols:** Yes

- **POA Board Member Liaison Comments:**
- **Anson:** As a result of the recent windstorm, the cable to the Marina D dock was broken; however, no damage to the dock or boats

- **Open Forum:**
- **Josh Henderson:** Listened to the meeting conversations and has some comments:
 - Boat weight is the primary source of waves
 - The POA should promote kayak tournaments: fisherman from surrounding counties come to fish these events and enhance the likelihood they will buy a lot which will produce POA income2

- **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, 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 3:15pm

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary

Open Forum Attendee below: