

## BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Boardroom & ZOOM MEETING MINUTES September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Matt Champagne (Chairman), Ross Gerner, Kelly Austin, Paul Bickford (Secretary), Jason Adams, Gracie Turley, Carol Phillips, Arell Wasson, Rick Yorman

**Bella Vista POA Board Liaisons in Attendance:** Tammie Loyd, Jerre Barron, Dave Brandenburg, Sandy Fosdick

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

**Guests Present:** None

**Call to Order:** Matt Champagne called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with 9 committee members present

**Additions/deletions to the Agenda:** None

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

#### **Management Comments:**

- **Tom Judson, POA COO**
  - It's "masks on" for those of us attending the meeting in the Boardroom; therefore, when you desire to speak, please speak close to the microphone
  - Activity card sales (previously called photo ID cards) have increased 41%! When we prepared the 2020 Plan, it was anticipated sales would increase by 10 to 13%. Membership Services reported "guest passes" have increased by 90%, with most purchased for lake access and use
  - Boat registrations are up 18% over the prior year
  - Golf rounds are up 15,300 over prior year. **Champagne:** What's the percentage increase over last year? **Judson:** About 25%. It's difficult to say how Covid-19 influenced the increase. It's probably been 10 years since golf rounds are up and we are happy about that.
  - I've received emails from property owners saying they have heard our lakes are open to the public
    - Rick and his team prepared the following:
      1. Last year, the Lakes and Parks Rangers removed 1354 non-members from our lakes. *This year 3680 non-members have been removed! An increase of 2323 or 171%*
      2. The facts are clear: The Lake Rangers are aggressive in holding to the commitments made in the 2020 Plan
      3. Exceptions have been approved by this committee such as the kayak demo days, and the kids fishing tournament; however, exceptions are few and far between

- **Rick Echols**, Lakes, Parks and Fisheries
  - Lake Rayburn drawdown begins November 9<sup>th</sup> and it's hoped to have the 6-foot drawdown complete by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Lake refilling will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Top Three lake violation occurrences for July and August:
    - **Violation:** non-registered boats: 50 warnings issued in July and 38 in August
    - **Violation:** Inside the 100', 200' limit from lake wall, and no-wake zones: 18 warnings issued in July and 30 in August
    - **Violation:** Towing watercraft devices outside designated skiing zone: 15 warnings issued for both July and August
  - We just hired a new grounds maintenance worker who is a full-time student studying IT
  - August, 2878 contacts were made, and 210 people were removed that shouldn't have been on POA property
  - Boat contacts were 673
  - 198 hours spent on boats. I challenged the team to do better than that, and I think this was accomplished over the Labor Day weekend.
  - Grounds crew continues to work on downed trees on the trails and in lakes
  - Continue working on the London Landing kayak rack. Finished kayak racks at Pontoon Park, and have asked the owners of the kayaks at London Landing to move their kayaks to Pontoon Park
  - Completed our 2<sup>nd</sup> wake boat wave generation testing on Lomond, which was well attended by concerned property owners, and five Lakes JAC members. We appreciate everyone's help. We will be studying the large amount of videoed test results and hope to have a report by the next month's JAC meeting.
 

**Wasson:** I was amazed at how much work you and your staff went to yesterday to prepare and conduct the Wake Boat Wave Generation Study. It was tremendous, and I really appreciate it and all the extra time you and your staff devoted to make it a success.
  - We conducted two kids fishing derby's in August: one on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Surplus fish will be transferred to our other lakes so our membership can try at catching them
  - E. coli testing has been good at all our lakes over the summer months
  - Aquatic weed control efforts continue at Loch Lomond. To help, we have stocked the three big lakes with grass carp. We are going to stock next year's grass carp this Fall because of an anticipated large increase in fish price January 1.
  - Plans are to stock the three big lakes with blue catfish in October which hasn't been done in four years. This will help control the gizzard shad population and provide some variety to the fish species our members catch on these lakes
  - All the lakes will be stocked with channel catfish which hasn't been done in a couple of years
  - Preparing for an intensive Fall fish sampling effort in addition to the routine fish netting project
  - **Bickford:** How is the Granton fish cleaning station construction progressing?  
**Echols:** We are working on it now and anticipate it will be up and operational this coming weekend
  - **Austin:** An article published this weekend in the VISTA about stopping non-members from hunting on POA property, and may use Lake Rangers to enforce this rule. **Echols:** I have money in my budget to keep a fourth ranger employed

through the season; however, it remains somewhat unknown how we are going to monitor the hunting activity. We may request hunters to register with Member Services which may help. Also, as the fishing and boating season winds down, we should have the time to monitor hunting activity

- **Gerner:** How many hours a week did you say the rangers spend on the water versus the ground? **Echols:** Earlier in the season they were averaging around 40 on the water; however, since then, with my challenge to them, that's been upped to 60 to 80. **Gerner:** I appreciate that and feel, as safety ambassadors, it's appropriate and support Lake Rangers spend more time on the lakes than the ground. **Echols:** On the big lakes, we allocate ranger hours per acre of lake. The four small no-wake lakes are patrolled via a trailered boat that visits' most on a weekly basis. Weekends and holidays Ranger presence on lakes is increased
- **Wasson:** Are you going to move the fish stock in the Metfield pond to the other lakes? **Echols:** Yes, when the weather cools somewhat, we will net and move them (mostly catfish) to the other lakes. We can move the (free) fish because we satisfied AFGC requirement they be used first for a public fishing event
- **Turley:** I continue to hear about the algae and weed problem. Do you publish the issues and what you are doing to manage them in the VISTA? **Echols:** No, not in the VISTA; however, we do publish this information in several of the POA's publications and will consider your suggestion next season
- **Bickford:** With the drawdown of Lake Rayburn, which hasn't been done in many years, there will be the need for many of the over 100 property owners to employ a contractor to assist with lake wall and dock repairs. Rick, do you maintain a list of contractors that lake property owners might employ to help with needed repairs? **Echols:** Yes, and this list possibly should be published on the POA website; however, it is only a list i.e., we don't offer recommendations  
**Bickford:** Much appreciated, and will particularly help new Lake Rayburn property owners
- **Old Business:**
  - Members of the Lakes Committee volunteered 58 hours since the August meeting
  - **Champagne:** More questions for Echols? Any comments of questions for Trey Anson or John Urquhart.?
  - **Champagne:** 2021 Lakes JAC – Budget Recommendations: Each of you received a copy (see below) at the last meeting; however, I haven't received any feedback regarding new additions or a change in the priority of presented ones; therefore, I will forward this list to Rick Echols for consideration
- **New Business:**
  - **Lake Norwood Fish Cleaning Station Issues:** **Turley:** The fish cleaning station area at Lake Norwood, at times, is being used as a trash dump. **Echols:** Yes, thanks for bringing this to our attention; as a result, I've asked the grounds maintenance team to step up their efforts to help keep all the lakes fishing cleaning stations clean and functional
  - **Yorman:** I want everyone to know we do have volunteers that inspect our parks regularly including the fish cleaning stations; however, it would be helpful if our memories are refreshed about the locations of all fish cleaning stations.  
**Echols:** At least one is located at each lake, usually on a Dam dock or not far from a boat ramp. With the recently installed Granton fish cleaning station, Lomond has two fish cleaning stations.
    - Incidentally, the fish waste that's collected into fish cleaning station

containers at Lake Winsor's London Landing, as well as at Lake Ann, must be manually emptied; therefore, if not done so in a timely manner, *in the past*, animals invaded these stations and made a big mess; however, this unfortunate periodic occurrence has been remedied:

- I recently presented a "Celebrating Success" award to Fly Tyer Club member **Phil Ward**, a longtime passionate fisherman, for taking the initiative to construct fish scrap containers that are virtually animal invasion proof; therefore, providing an innovative solution to a difficult problem for my department's team to manage
  - **Turley:** While we are on the subject, it sure would help if each station could be accompanied with instructions on the three-switch operation sequence
  - **Phillips:** Has there been a discussion for the need for additional parking at lake Avalon beach park? **Judson:** Additional parking was installed three years ago and discussions have developed, from time to time, for continuing this project; however, there are no plans at this time to add more parking spaces to Avalon Park. *Please visit the POA website to view the video of the discussion on this topic*
- **POA Board Member Liaison Comments:** None
  - **Open Forum:**
    - **Champagne:** Rick Echols received a message from Dave Rubin about the experience he and his wife had while kayaking near the Lomond Marina. Dave tried to remove trash from the water; however, it turned out to be a turtle caught on a "limb line" i.e., a line with a baited hook hanging from a tree branch usually close to shore. The turtle was freed; however, Dave expressed dissatisfaction with this method of catching fish, and asked the Lakes JAC to ban it from our lakes. **Champagne:** We can't resolve this suggestion at this meeting but will consider the complications of doing so at a future meeting.
    - **Gerner:** I've seen between 6 and 12 limb lines on the lake at any given time and didn't actually know what they were. I'm for moving forward to eliminate this type of fishing from our lakes. **Echols:** There are two ways to go about this:
      - The POA could petition for a specific global change with the City
      - The POA could petition the City for a blanket ordinance that would allow the POA to set rules for the lakes
    - **Yorman:** We should table the discussion now, and place the topic on a future meeting agenda for in-depth consideration

#### **Lake Announcements and next meeting:**

- The next Lakes' JAC meeting will occur at 2 pm on Wednesday, October 14, 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 2:50pm

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary

## 2021 Lakes JAC – Capital Budget Recommendations

### **Must Do's (critical to maintain the Bella Vista Lakes)**

1. Maintain an annual budget to maintain all lakes with a balanced mineral enhancement program when and where needed
2. Maximize enforcement of boundaries for water skiing and wake boarding on all wake lakes through continued presence of Lake Rangers and the use of information releases through lake bulletin boards, Lake Updates, press releases, etc.
3. Continue trout stocking program in Lake Brittany
4. Continue fish breeding programs in golf course ponds etc.
5. Continue fish stocking programs in all lakes (is there a need to do more?)
6. Replace on POA truck and one POA boat this year.
7. Fund part time internship program for college students majoring in Fish Biology or related field to help with Summer projects
8. Replace, repair or maintain all POA maintained docks and existing boat launches on an as needed basis
  1. Rayburn - boat ramp in need of maintenance/repair
  2. Treat all docks with perma-seal to ensure to protect docks long term
9. Provided needed maintenance on all POA Parks and facilities
10. Put up additional signage in strategic locations on all wake lakes reminding users of the rules pertaining to skiing, tubing, and wake boarding etc.
11. Resurface/pave the drives and parking lots at the lake areas:
  1. Resurface black top on all POA Lake Dams as needed and when budget permits
  2. Resurface parking and drives - priority is Brittany Dam, and Rayburn
  3. Windsor all pavement needs replacing
12. Consider adding additional parking as needed at Lake Avalon to accommodate increased usage of the beach/swimming area.

### **Nice to Do's (needed to improve the Bella Vista Lakes)**

1. Enclose all POA port-a-potties within lake visibility with a semi-permanent structure (much like city of Bentonville does – see picture)



2. Improve launch access on main Lake Windsor ramp. Pretty tight to pull in and back boat into water.
3. Guard rail with boulders on the backside of Lake Brittany Dam