

BELLA VISTA VILLAGE LAKES JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Boardroom & ZOOM Meeting Minutes October 14th, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Champagne (Chairman), Ross Gerner (Vice Chairman), 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, Sandy Fosdick, Mike Abb, Mary Sinkus

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 September 2020 Lakes JAC meeting were approved as submitted

Management Comments:

- **Rick Echols, Lakes, Parks and Fisheries**
 - Fish and Ecology Department is close to wrapping up weed control for this year
 - We purchased next year's grass carp for the season to avoid a sizeable price increase
 - Lakes Windsor, Lomond, and Ann have been stocked with Blue catfish this fall for the first time in 6 years. Also, stocking all lakes with channel catfish
 - Intensive fish sampling continued this Fall, and we are wrapping up our electrofishing tonight.
 - Trap and gill netting will extend into November, and ask members to be patient and on the lookout for buoys that mark their location and to stay clear so they won't get their boat engine propellers entangled in the nets
 - The lake drawdown on lake Rayburn is still on schedule; however, we learned the intake valve is buried in about 10 feet of silt and debris; therefore, it won't be opened for fear it can't be closed; therefore, a syphon system will be used to drain the lake into its overflow column
 - The drawdown will begin 11/9 and complete on 12/4 and refill will begin 3/1/21
 - Seasonal cooling has resulted in reduced lake usage; therefore, our lake rangers are transitioning into a winter schedule, and the staff will be reduced from 8 to 4 rangers
 - 2629 contacts were made and 250 people removed from POA property
 - 626 contacts by boat and 166 hours on the water
 - Last year 1535 people were removed from POA property, and this year we have removed 3930 thru 9/30/20. By now we are probably over 4000. *We are doing our best to comply with the spirit of the 2020 Plan*
 - At the only dog park, it's been observed members aren't following the rules for socializing small and large dogs on different days; therefore, many small dog owners won't now bring their dogs to the park for fear of big dog attacks; as a result, rangers are now monitoring the park more frequently asking all owners to be courteous, and follow respective dog socialization day rules

- The kayak rack at London Landing has been replaced, and racks will be added to Lake Ann next
 - **Urquhart: Video presentation of the “Wake Boat Wave Study”**
 - **Turley:** Do most boats travel at 22 mph? Was there consideration given to testing boats traveling faster or would it make much difference? **Champagne:** I’ll attempt to answer your question from a bass boat operation perspective: as the boat moves faster rising toward “plaining or leveling” the smaller the wave it makes. **Gerner:** it’s rare for boats pulling skiers to move much above 22 mph. The Study was extremely well done and documented
 - **Austin:** Social media reported a capsized sail boat in Lake Rayburn. **Echols:** Unfortunately, the incident was reported as an emergency but no injuries were reported
 - **Yorman:** Can we now disseminate the Wake Boat Wave Study event results? **Urquhart:** We will determine how this can be done. **Echols:** We may have to add narration to the video before any distribution. **Turley:** This video might be helpful to incorporate into the yearly wake boat owner registration training event
 - **Yorman:** What conclusions can we derive and retain from the Study for future reference. **Champagne:** I’m not sure there are any hard and fast conclusions that can be drawn, but the 200’ wake boat navigation rule has shown to be effective along with the wedge pointing to the center of the lake; however, we can continue to discuss where to permanently retain, and how share the results, for future reference, of this important project that has consumed much time and effort, off and on, over the past two years of the Lakes and Fisheries Department, community members, and this committee
- **Old Business:**
 - **Champagne:** We now must go over some proposed boating rule changes with suggestions being offered by Arell and Paul. After a discussion of several paragraph wording change suggestions, **Austin** reminded the committee that any wording changes must be approved by the POA legal department.
 - Much discussion followed. **Wasson:** Time is running out for changes to be incorporated into the next boating rule pamphlet printing; therefore, I suggest the final proposed changes be emailed to committee members for a vote approval to facilitate “approved” paragraph wording changes reach the Board in a timely manner for their approval. **Champagne:** I don’t believe the Board is required to approve the changes, and I plan to pass these changes to Tom tomorrow. The revised paragraphs forwarded are as follows:
 - 4. All watercraft are encouraged to follow a counterclockwise rotation when traversing the lakes, whether the watercraft is towing a skier or not. Similar to the rules of the road, watercraft should travel on the righthand side of the lake to avoid a head-on collision.
 - 9. Motorized watercraft measuring 26 feet in length or longer, are prohibited on all POA Lakes, including the three wake lakes. Any motorized watercraft registered with the POA as of December 31, 2020 that are 26 feet in length or longer will be allowed to continue to renew their annual registration until the watercraft is sold, provided the POA annual registration never lapses.

9. On Lake Ann, Lake Windsor, and Loch Lomond, watercraft that stop and have individuals swimming by the watercraft are encouraged to take advantage of the no-wake sections of the lakes. Swimming is discouraged in the section of the lake where water skiing and the towing of individuals is allowed, even when the swimming takes place close to a stopped watercraft.

10. When a watercraft is towing a person or persons, the watercraft must turn left when retrieving the person or persons after they have fallen into the water. Watercraft must follow at a safe distance when following a watercraft that is towing a person or persons. Persons being towed can fall unexpectedly. Therefore, observe caution by maintaining a safe distance of at least 150 feet from the watercraft in front of you.

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- **Gerner:** I noticed jugs in the middle of a channel and wondered if the distance from the shore can be regulated? **Echols:** Again, this is an activity we can't regulate without City law modification. **Yorman:** There is an avenue to change the law. I like to jug fish, but concerned that fish the POA has purchased is caught with a *passive* method; therefore, feel this topic should be placed on a future meeting agenda for consideration. **Champagne:** Understand, there are many people who jug fish on our lakes; therefore, I'm sure there will be much push-back
- **Carol Phillips** has agreed to assume committee secretarial duties beginning January 2021

- **New Business:** None

- **POA Board Member Liaison Comments:**
 - **Anson:** The Marina will close on Sunday October 18th. The Marina kayak launch, near the parking lot, is under construction, and we hope to have it ready for use at the beginning of the 2021 fishing season

- **Open Forum: Terry McConnel:**
 - I was happy to be able to help with the "wake boat wave study" effort using my property and (state-of-the-art) wake boat.
 - I hope the results of the study will cease efforts by some lake property owners to disallow wake boat recreational sports.
 - Lomond is sufficiently large for this sport; therefore, one can always navigate a wake boat farther from shore than the 200 marker buoys designate.
 - From my observations living on the lake, any boat near the size of mine, following navigation rules, traveling at about 20 mph 100' from shore creates a *larger* wave than a wake boat following navigation and operation rules

Lake Announcements and next meeting:

- The next Lakes' JAC meeting will occur at 2 pm on Wednesday, December 9th, 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 3:25pm

Respectively Submitted, Paul Bickford, Secretary