

# HUTCHINS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 17, 2020 (Fennville Park)

## HLIA Board

Joe Bianco	1	Allan Kautz	VP
Jill O'Connor	2	Ruthie Malda	Pres
Victoria Barnes	3	Randy Vogelzang	Sect
Maureen Sytsma	3B	Scott Clark	7
John Lerg	4	Ruthie Malda	8
Jim Baird	5	Denise Grimaldi	9A - Treas
Jeff and Kym Zwagerman		Vicki Brink	9B
	6A		
Martha Kautz	6B	Vacancy	10

**Call to Order** – Ruthie Malda called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**Roll Call** – Randy Vogelzang took roll and the following board members were:

Present: Victoria Barnes, Ruthie Malda, Maureen Sytsma, Scott Clark, Allan Kautz, Martha Kautz, John Lerg, and Randy Vogelzang.

Absent: Jim Baird, Joe Bianco, Vicki Brink, Denise Grimaldi, Jill O'Connor, Jeff and Kym Zwagerman .

Randy Vogelzang reported that there was a quorum for the meeting.

## **Additions to Agenda**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Changes to Agenda and Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes from last Meeting- (attachment 1)

MOTION: Maureen Sytsma moved to approve the minutes. Seconded.

Approved (7-0)

3. Treasurer's Report - (attachment 2)

4. Summary of Bills –

**Approval of Consent Agenda – Ruthie Malda**

MOTION: Randy Vogelzang moved to approve the rest of the Consent Agenda items that were not already approved. Seconded. Approved (7-0).

**Correspondence – Randy Vogelzang**

Randy Vogelzang reported no new official correspondence this past quarter, but he noted routine emails by board members related to this meeting and from Denise Grimaldi forwarding the Michigan Waterfront Alliance update.

**Committee and Representative Reports**

CLMP - Sarah Kramer/Victoria Barnes - No report.

Chamber of Commerce – Jim Baird – No report.

Membership – Denise Grimaldi - Ruthie Malda reported she is working on emails to members and Joe Bianco will also work with her to put information online. This project is active.

Public Relations – Jim Baird - No report.

Directory – Martha Kautz - There was discussion that we are not seeking directory ads since we had decided not to print a directory, but we could still use ads for the website when it is ready. There was further discussion about what these web ads and the online directory will look like and what rates we should charge for the ads.

Discovery Camp – Jill O'Connor -no report

Newsletter – Ruthie Malda – Ruthie reported she is working with Joe Bianco on the website, which is a reasonable place for the newsletter material.

Lake Board – John Lerg and Jim Baird – John Lerg reported that the Lake Board has not had any meetings this quarter. There was discussion about the drain commissioner and the role of approving costs for lake weed treatment. John reported that the lake treatments have been done. He also discussed some historical background on the weed and other treatment and testing of the lake. Overall, there was consensus that the lake seemed to be in pretty good shape this year.

## **Area Directors Report/ Remarks**

Ruthie Malda introduced new board members and the other directors looked forward to welcoming them. We expect them at the next meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

Richard Gliwa Memorial – There was discussion that the memorial table and benches are finished and look great.

Vacant Director's Positions – Ruthie is working on getting a board member for District 10 (canal) and she may know more next week. A possible candidate is new to the area and is willing to work on email. We will verify eligibility.

Directory - (See also under new business) -

## **New Business**

Boat Launch Area Development – Dave DeGroot appeared before the board to review his plan for the land he purchased on the northeast side of the lake near the boat launch and to the west. He reported that he has lived on lake since the 1980s as a child. He submitted that the boat launch has become more of a concern to the lake community because of safety concerns, primarily because there is not enough room. He stated that HLIA members have a great lake but the “front door” is not up to standards. This is land situated in Clyde Township and the township will be involved with approving his plan. He owns property from Eagle Point Dr to M89 to 59<sup>th</sup> St., which is 80 acres of land. His plan is to make a donation of some of the land. He thinks the Southwest Land Conservancy could be taking ownership of some land for purpose of public use. He proposes trails for enjoyment of the land and maybe a path to go around the lake. One proposal is to repurpose  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre for boat launch parking. This may encourage HLIA members to better support his plans. Mr. DeGroot stated that it would be helpful for the HLIA board to reach out

to the township to express support for his plan because what he proposes would help security. There were questions about whether the additional parking would simply allow more fishing rigs to park and add more non-resident boats on the lake. There were also questions about the total number of homes to be built on the 80 acres and how much lake access they would have, but Mr. DeGroot was not able to quantify it. He stated it was unknown at this point because the plans are not finished, but later he did discuss the first phase of the project which is planned for 6 homes plus 2 homes for a total of 8 homes. He discussed his thoughts that full capacity for the land could be 16 total home sites, but they would probably not all have access to the lake. He discussed the development taking 10 years and he needed to evaluate how that would work. He also mentioned that the land could handle 10 subdivisions. The board thanked Steve for sharing his plans and thoughts.

Sewer project – Because of the 80 acres that will be developed and multiple additional potential home sites around the lake, many with lake access, there was discussion about the feasibility of a sewer being installed around the lake. There was discussion about whether the board had any preference and whether it should promote it. There was some thinking that adding sewer would result in even more density of homeowners. There was general support that more density in houses was not in the best interest of the lake. This is a policy issue to be considered, but the board had no consensus for any action about the issue at this time.

Membership Letter Plans for January – Ruthie noted her work on preparing for the annual membership solicitation and asked that if anyone had changes for the project to let her know. She plans to present the completed plans at the next meeting. There was discussion about the membership website and including the application and whether to reduce the annual fee to \$25 or leave it at \$30. No motion was made for any action on the fee.

Northern Pike – Ruthie reported that the Pike are not growing in the lake according to her neighbor and if there is testing they can tell why they are not growing. Bruce Graham is looking on it.

Quality of Lake Review – This topic will be discussed at the next meeting

Website Update – There plan is to add the directory to the web site. Joe will help get this done and other improvements to web site. The board members were encouraged that if they have any information for the site to email it to Ruthie and Joe.

Wake Boats – The wakes from these boats can be a problem for the lake boaters, especially for small boats. More wake boats are on the lake, and with 80 acres of new homes there are bound to be more. It was not clear that the board could regulate this and it was determined that the State of Michigan is looking at it. The website would be a good place to highlight the problem.

Politicalizing Boat Parade – There was concern raised that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade is becoming political. However, the board concluded it cannot control this issue since the parade is not an HLIA activity and is not impacting the quality of the water in the lake.

Other Matters – There was also discussion about signs for parking and where people park at the boat launch and other places around the lake. There was also discussion about lights on boats at night that are very bright. It was determined that this may be due to bow fishing.

### **Public Input**

None

**Next Meeting** – December 10, 2020

### **Adjournment**

MOTION: Randy Vogelzang moved to adjourn the meeting. Second. Approved.

(7-0)