



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 9, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Spirit Lake Senior Center, 32564 N 4th Avenue

Call to Order: Paul Sturm 10:08 AM

Attendance: Jerry Peterson, Dustin Thiel Ron Largent, Don Finney, Linda Pendleton, Brad Pendleton

By Phone: Kurt Peterson

Absent: Karen Cowan, excused

Visitor Introductions: Dan Beha, Justin Morrison, Ed Niblock Margie Wilke

Approve Annual Meeting Minutes from, August 12, 2023

Tabled until next meeting

Current Treasures Report

Jerry Peterson provided balance sheet and profit and loss report for the treasurer's report.

It was pointed out that this year shows atypical expenditures due to the cost of lake cleanup and the 50-year anniversary celebration.

Suggestions were offered for forming a committee to focus on fundraising, focused donations (lake cleanup, Brickle Creek project, water quality, erosion control, etc.). A number of suggestions were made to on increasing membership. There was also discussion about forming a development committee to address these two issues.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Ron Largent. Jerry Peterson seconded. There was no more discussion. Motion carried.

Election of Board of Directors Officers

There was discussion about this being a transition year for change of officers especially in regard to Karen indicating that she may not be willing or able to serve after this year. It was suggested that the board seek to identify succession leadership throughout the coming year.

Linda indicated that she would not longer serve as secretary, but would be willing to continue with her current role as co-treasurer. She described the role of secretary. Paul indicated that we need someone to fill the role of secretary. Jane Clark volunteered for the office of Secretary. Jerry Peterson made a motion to elect Karen Cowan president, Paul Sturm vice president, Jerry Peterson and Linda Pendleton co-treasurers and Jane Clark secretary. Brad Pendleton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Linda Pendleton moved to approve. Jerry Peterson seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Old Business:

SLPOA Vision Statement: Develop capacities within our community to provide a sustainable habitat, allowing all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal Spirit Lake experience.



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Review Events:

- **2023 Annual Meeting**

Comments:

The meeting went well, the pace was good and moved along well.

A question was raised about the election of board members. Paul clarified, explaining that appointments to the board are only until the next general meeting at which time appointed board members must be approved by the general membership.

- **50th Anniversary Celebration of SPLOA**

Comments:

It was great to have invited people from the City of Spirit Lake. There were positive interactions among City officials/employees and SLPOA members.

It might be good to have a gathering after the general meeting at Sedlmayer's--perhaps no-host (self-pay) with SLPOA to coordinate the gathering.

Newsletter Plan for 2023/2024 /Paul Sturm

Review of annual meeting, announce officers elected by the board, announce new members appointed by the board. Suggest including pictures of successful projects such as clean-up, dam, etc.

Publish by late October. Discussion about activating a Facebook Page. Jerry Peterson will contact Marc Kroetch who is the current administrator for an inactive SLPOA page. Margie Wilke is a programmer and is currently completing a web design certification. It was suggested that we need to highlight Inland Empire Paper Co. and its efforts to manage the watershed. It was stated that IEPC is a good neighbor of the lake.

Progress Reports on Strategic Plan Items

- **Goal 2: Objective: 2.3 lake quality monitoring**

Jerry Peterson reported on the current water sampling. He missed in July because of surgery. DEQ is no longer funding the analysis of lake samples. Kristen Lowel has left DEQ to take another position. He will connect with Kristen's replacement. Jerry quits sampling after mid-September/early October. Jerry described the analysis that SLPOA is now paying for and the labs he is using.

People have indicated interest in helping with the water quality sampling including Margie Wilke, Jane Clark and Randy Hurst.

- **Goal 3: Objective 3.2 invasive plant and animal species**

Paul Sturm explained that SLPOA contracts with Doug Freeland for a minimal fee to monitor and manage invasive species. He identifies milfoil and removes it. This is a special skill to avoid reintroducing and spreading the plant. Doug has been monitoring Chinese Mystery Snail population growth. There have been reports of an increase in River Otter population, which is concerning for some because of their aggression and leaving a mess on docks. They may actually be a benefit because the River Otters feed on crayfish and snails.

Ron Largent reported that he had seen a Idaho Department of Agriculture boat on the lake. When he asked what they were doing they stated that they were collecting samples to locate invasive species.

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- **Goal 3: Objective 3.1 Action Step 3.1.1 Brickel Creek**

Paul Sturm reported on the work that has taken place in the past to create a more meandering flow to reduce erosion and increase fish spawning habitat.

Hydrologist, Chris Hardy has indicated that he wants to continue these projects. Paul Buckland has stated that IEPC would continue to be involved.

Chris Hardy is working on a restoration project along a Brickel Creek walking trail.

- **Goal 2: Objective: 2.1 weir project**

Good progress is being made. Excavation has been completed, Concrete footings and retaining walls have been poured. The Weir has been widened to the actual width of the culverts. A big advantage was that there was dry ground when excavation was completed. This means that the project avoided the cost of pumping and removing water in order for construction to proceed. In addition, the project is on schedule to be completed by late September or early October avoiding freezing weather costs of curing concrete. The City has discussed installing a water monitoring system at the weir to record data on such things as water flow, height, etc. The survey medallion needs to be transferred from the old dam to the new weir.

- **Goal 1: Objective: 1.1 lake cleanup**

Thanks to Kurt and Ron to coordinate the details of lake cleanup. Dustin was the hero during the actual cleanup days. He used the Boondocks barge to organize the removal debris so that the excavator could more efficiently retrieve it for removal. Wyeth was commended for the care he took to keep material, such as Styrofoam, from discharging back into the lake.

- **Goal 3: Objective 3.3 wake boats - Kootenai Environmental Alliance**

Our goal is to mitigate environmental damage from water craft. Strategies to educate boaters on less impactful practices. There needs to be one or two board members on this committee.

An important consideration was raised after the meeting to include responsible boat operators (e.g., property owners with wake boats) to help educate other operators. An adversarial approach might be counterproductive.

- **Goal 2: Objective: 2.4 Causeway study**

There has been no new activity during the past year. There was discussion about why this is an important issue for the lake.

New Business:

Sink Hole Discussion

A sink hole has been discovered near the boat launch area on the east side of the channel. Doug Freeland estimates that at high water 7-10 CFS was passing into the sink hole from the lake. It presents a serious safety risk.

Doug, Jerry and Paul investigated to find that there was an approximately 3 FT diameter hole. They removed debris from the hole to find that the cause is the old wooden water pipe used to draw water from



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the lake for the early City of Spirit Lake and Mill. The wood is deteriorated to the point that only the cable and steel framing remain. This has created a collapse the soil above the pipe and for water to enter the pipe and surrounding ground.

Jerry will contact Department of Land officials to report the finding and seek assistance and direction.

Questions arose about impact on the aquifer. It was suggested that it may not be entering the aquifer but instead flowing toward Blanchard and creating a small meadow lake near there that didn't exist in the past. There was some discussion about introducing an environmentally approved dye to try to learn where the water is flowing.

Increasing Membership of SLPOA

It was agreed that this topic was discussed earlier in the meeting and so we moved on in the interest of time.

Interview Prospective Board of Directors

The four board nominees introduced themselves and responded to questions about their interests and commitment toward the strategic goals of the association. Each expressed enthusiasm and support the efforts of the board and association. Each indicated unique interests and expertise to offer.

Review By-Laws

The board took action to reinstate the maximum number of board members to 15. Rationale: to create an odd number to avoid a tie vote and impasse. The board does not want to exclude valuable, interested and enthusiastic members from serving on the board.

The Board recessed into executive session

Executive Session:

Discuss and decide on Board of Director appointments

The board discussed each candidate's potential as board members. There was a clear consensus that each bring positive potential to the board.

It was moved by Jerry Peterson and seconded by Linda Pendleton to appoint each of the four nominees join the board of directors. The motion carried.

Paul Sturm will contact each to let them know of the board's decision and to confirm that they still want to join.

Notes taken by Don Finney and Nadine Sturm—compiled by Paul Sturm