

Ohop Lake Improvement Club annual meeting – Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2023

Call to order: 10:05am

- Denny and Jacque, co-chairs
- Recognition of officers and hard work by the board
- Make sure everyone has ballots, for voting

Approval of agenda

- **Moved and seconded, approved**

Approval of minutes – Denny Woyak and Jacque McMahon

- **Moved and seconded, approved**

Denny talked about bylaws, explained their history and purpose

Land acknowledgement by Michelle Cornwell

Financial Report – Steve Mitchell

- Continue to be a non-profit but not tax-exempt
- We manage weed treatment fund through a lawyer
 - Question about where money comes from and where it goes: it's a tax assessment, paid to the lawyer we work with. \$15k assessment paid legal fees and permits, actual treatment was \$9k. Roughly 60 cents per front footage, charge per foot, from annual assessment.
- Fireworks fund: ordnance and insurance
- General fund
- No surprises this year unlike past years (weed district got \$3k back and IRS got \$10k back)

Safety Committee -- Marilyn

- Boat launch and safety pamphlets
- Survey from last year (speed, damaging wakes, theft/arson/squatters)
- Map of lake, law is 200 feet from shore, everything else is 5mph and no wake
- Want to start a blockwatch, need a process to get permission to share with neighbors, probably divide into sections
- Question: what were main issues at boat launch? Improvements? A: We want to get an enforced closure time. People are sleeping there; used to be sunrise/sunset.
- Question: could the picture of the lake be pinned to the website and shared?
- Victim of arson – we need to be connected, they would have lit up entire hill if neighbors hadn't let us know. Marilyn: suggestion to put address on dock.
- Question: continuity of lot number and address? Suggest to use address. Comment: 911 needs the address
- Comment: it's a unique lake – long and narrow and shallow.

- Comment by Aileen: interested in buoy at south end, cost is roughly \$300. Sheriff has to put them in, we purchase them. Denny: We should try to honor the rules, otherwise we'll get restricted by the law.

Fireworks/Activities committee – Alan Krause

- Took over duties last year. \$14k last year, \$16k this year (fully funded) and have \$2k for next year. Will do 50/50 raffle again. If we make \$2k then there are two \$500 winners. Made \$2500 on Poker Run (need 6-ish docks) will do the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Have raffle. Life jackets for sale. Usually have to put half of the money down in April/May, and the rest on day of show. **Fireworks this year is Sat July 1 at dark (usually 10-1030pm) NOTE: the show was actually moved to Tue July 4, as per county restrictions.**
- McKinsey: will have t-shirts and hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts. Shipping delay, not ready today, when here will post on Facebook page, will be up at lake when they do arrive. 100% volunteer effort, and a fundraiser.

Lake Health

- Committee Report – Marilyn/Aileen (standing in for Bruce)
 - Aileen: I'm the water 2x/week year round. Was algae in January. Ohop Lake is part of a larger watershed that's at risk as well. Talked to Aquatechnex and Eutrophix.
 - Presentation (posted to OLIC web page)
 - Mean depth of lake is only 13.7 feet (3ft less than 1954). Depth important because it blooms when shallow. Ohop is Eutrophic.
 - Map from Nisqually watershed. Changes include:
 - Clear cutting
 - Done above lake
 - Landslides
 - Development in watershed
 - Causes more nutrients and runoff and sediment
 - Most urgent problems
 - Algae blooms (4 months) Sept 10 – late Jan
 - Erosion on the shore
 - As phosphorous load increases, more likely to have toxic algae
 - Lake is 75 degrees right now, as it gets warmer the bloom will happen
 - Erosion caused by waves and wake
 - Question: can post powerpoint (yes, done)
 - Question: why are they clear-cutting. 30 acres was to sell wood. More recent 10 acres was done on a denied permit.
 - Video (10min) from Terry McNabb regarding algae blooms and treatment
 - Video (6min) of Kitsap Lake case study – EutroPhix
 - Denny – voted to spend \$2500 on the initial step to do testing
 - Tammy – have been on lake for 4 years, have gotten 12mil in grants from fire department. Lake Kitsap spend \$175k. First step treatment with phosphorous levels etc. DNR has money, fish and wildlife, dept ecology, Nisqually tribe. Have

sent 6-8 letters of interest – Tammy will apply. Top of the lake isn't the problem, it's the bottom.

- Denny: get people to pay into the cause. Get owners involved and get dues paid into that. Initiate a vote, get people back into it and involved, gives us the opportunity to collect addresses as well. We are primarily focused on lake health, per our charter. We know that there are some lake residents who want to change the fast hours on the lake - - we'll send out a ballot in late June. If majority of people say they want it changed, then it will go up to the people who have power to make decision. (NOTE: the eventual result was 5-to-1 in favor of keeping hours as-is).
- Funding and Grant Sources – Tammy Lamb

Board of Trustee Nominations and Elections:

- Bruce Amer (3 years)
- Steve Mitchell (3 years)
- Megan McNair (3 years)
- Dawson Dressel (nominated, but not elected)

New business / good of the order:

- Amy Cruver – if over half of owners put forward a desire to change speed/hours, then we'll put it toward the council. Have been with Spanaway. Did ask Austin Jennings with Health Dept about it, haven't heard back.
- Boating hours
 - Denny Hamlin and Welchs – victims of arson and theft. We love to waterski, we have to manage ourselves and get the kids up. Don't want to open it up because we'll get cased. Tired of chasing down.
 - Cheryl Temple – started petition. Says: There's a reason why a third of the property owners don't pay taxes. I think the board needs to agree to be transparent about the vote. When the ballots are opened and counted, let people watch opening of ballots and counting. Tammy: our process will be handled by Chris Morgan accounting out of University Place, every vote is stamped and validated, she will charge minimum amount, has done this before. They are a third party company that we're hiring to do it.
 - Funding for the lake – what about charging a fee to launch a boat. Secondly, we're all taxpayers, is there a way that taxes can be allocated specifically to lake health.
 - We're region 6 out of mill creek, it's a public boat launch, can't charge
 - Aileen: this is a public lake, we don't have control over the type of boats. Graham and Orting are fast growing, people want recreation. This lake has something for everyone. Not in favor of expanding hours so that residents can profit on AirBnB.
 - Person opposed to hours change: we need to do something to get under control
 - Person opposed to hours change: we all bought on lake knowing the rules
 - Person opposed to hours change: if we increase speed more traffic means more impaction. We are here to share it. It's more difficult for fishing kayaking and slow boating in choppy water.
 - Steve Mitchell (opposed to hours change): Every lake has a wakeboat problem. Recently counted 36 passes.

- Denny: Lake Tapps now has a reservation system, they may just come to our lake.
- Jacque: family on lake since 1960s, have worked to maintain and preserve lake. Depth decreasing every year. Property values will plummet because we live in mud puddle with algae in it.
- Additional comments and side discussion

Meeting adjourned 12:12pm