

Lake Conway Water and Navigation Control District Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
Orange County Facilities Management Training Room
March 13, 2018

Board Members Present: Rabon Vause (Chairman), Bobby Lance (Vice-Chairman), Micky Blackton and Gary Meloon

Board Members Absent: Alvin Luther and Jay Herrington

Staff & Guests: Tara Urbanik, Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD); Corporal Bim Lowers, Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO); Lydia Pisano, Mayor of Belle Isle; Chief Laura Houston, City of Belle Isle Police Department

Residents: David Woods and Cindy Lance

I. Call to Order:

With a quorum present, Rabon (Ray) Vause called the meeting of the Lake Conway Water and Navigation Control District Advisory Board (Advisory Board) to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Approval of the February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Micky Blackton, seconded by Gary Meloon, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote, with Alvin Luther and Jay Herrington being absent; the Advisory Board approved the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

III. Public Comment on Propositions before the Advisory Board

No public comments.

IV. Comments of the Chairman

Chairman Vause stated he has concerns with the hours worked by the off-duty lake patrol. Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) reduced their hours due to less activity on the lake, but the Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD) did not reduce their hours. He also stated the BIPD was originally included in the off-duty patrol to increase patrol presence and public relations on the lake. Chairman Vause requested to reassess the off-duty patrol on the lake when the budget is reviewed for the next fiscal year, and if the extra patrol is still necessary. Chairman Vause mentioned the stormwater study potentially producing costly recommendations for future water quality projects. Ms. Urbanik clarified, the off-duty patrol is above the 40 hour work week already provided by the two agencies. Chairman Vause requested to not vote now on the topic, but to review the budget and discuss options for the next fiscal year.

Chief Houston stated the BIPD does not have the staff to patrol the lake on a regular basis. There are fifteen officers employed by the City, and due to various staffing concerns, they cannot sufficiently respond to the lake related complaints. The BIPD is looking to add two additional officers to enhance the presence on the lake, but they only have one patrol boat that is not in good shape. It was stated the City Council is hopefully looking to purchase another patrol boat, and it is not wise to remove the OCSO from patrolling the lake. Corporal Bim Lowers stated only two hours per week were cut back from the monthly schedule, the hours will increase back to four in April. Chairman Vause requested to verify if all lake law enforcement concerns are the responsibility of the Advisory Board and if they are truly navigation concerns. Ms. Urbanik provided history on the patrol budget and will provide an in depth budget update at the April meeting.

Chairman Vause accepted a public comment request form from resident Cindy Lance. Ms. Lance stated based on the name of Lake Conway Water and Navigation Control District Advisory Board, it seems the Advisory Board should be in control of the lake navigation concerns, and the City of Belle Isle does not own the water or the whole shoreline of the lake, so for the BIPD to be in charge of the whole lake is not suitable, it should be a partnership between BIPD and the Orange County Sheriff's Office (as amended after adoption; by vote on May 8, 2018). Ms. Urbanik requested clarification from Chairman Vause, if his previous comment had the intent to remove one of the agencies from the off-duty lake patrol. Chairman Vause stated no, the intent of his comment is to review the budget and determine what portion of lake patrol the Advisory Board should be funding.

V. Marine Patrol Report

Corporal Lowers presented the marine patrol report. February did not have a lot of activity, but jet ski activity has been increasing based on the weather. Boating activity during the week has been less active than previous months, resulting in a reduced schedule for the Orange County off-duty patrol officers.

Chief Houston advised that Gnarly Sports has increased publicity of offering jet ski rentals on Lake Conway. Discussion ensued.

VI. Orange County EPD Report

Ms. Urbanik stated she has not yet heard back from the Attorney's Office if the taxing district can fund the \$5,000 per year for five years to assist the City in purchasing a patrol boat. Chief Houston stated the BIPD is down to one boat and they are not effective, and asked if the County has one they can loan. Ms. Urbanik stated loaning a County vessel to the City would require an interlocal agreement with a six month timeframe for review. Advisory Board member Mr. Blackton asked, based on the difficulties for staffing and vessel usage, if the BIPD should be included in the off-duty lake patrol, and that OCSO already has the all the necessary resources available. Discussion ensued.

The new kayak/canoe launch at Warren Park is having a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday March 30, 2018 at 1:30 P.M. if the Advisory Board members want to attend.

The Advisory Board reported there were about 700 attendees at the Pioneer Day event.

Ms. Urbanik stated *Melaleuca* seedlings were found north of the Hoffner bridge, on the west bank of the canal. The County contractor was notified and has placed the treatment on their schedule. The Advisory Board requested information on the *Melaleuca* beetle study from 12 years ago.

The engineering firm for the Stormwater Study will provide an update that will be presented at the April meeting.

VII. Advisory Board Member Report

- Chairman Ray Vause: No comment
- Vice Chairman Bobby Lance: No comment
- Micky Blackton: Mr. Blackton stated he was surprised the Curb Inlet Basket report came back as only being a small percentage full. Ms. Urbanik stated they are street sweeping twice a week and removing more leaves. Ms. Urbanik also stated she needs to contact the City of Belle Isle on a storm inlet location that was modified, and the basket cannot be removed for cleaning.

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- Gary Meloon: No comment.

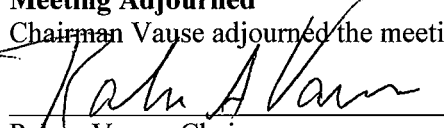
VIII. Lake Conway Water Elevation Report

David Woods presented his Water Elevation report. He stated it appears the lake level is mimicking the lake elevation from 2017. There is still no update on the upcoming hurricane forecast.

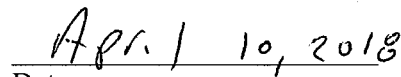
IX. Non-Agenda Items

X. Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Vause adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



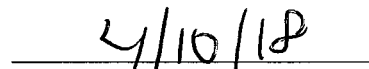
Rabon Vause, Chairman



Date Apr. 10, 2018



Minutes prepared by Tara Urbanik



Date 4/10/18