

Parks and Lake Commission Minutes
Village of Island Lake
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
Join via Zoom or by Phone; see directions below
October 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m.



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Eric Acevado, Chair, Lisa Norland, Stacey Pyne, Sarah Wiora, Trevor Mock.
Absent: Dave Sobieski
3. **Approval of September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Lisa Norland made a motion to approve September minutes as written, Sarah Wiora seconded, all approved.
4. **Public Comment:** Questions regarding the newly purchase Gator were addressed. The Gator was purchased in August and right now one person is trained to operate it which makes getting it on the water every day difficult. Next year we will work with Public Works to have a schedule based on high need areas of the lake. Residents expressed interest in volunteering to run it. Liability issues are being addressed with MCMRMA the Village's insurance provider. Public Works is open to volunteer operation once insurance and training concerns are addressed. Vegetation removed by the Gator is currently being put at Park Beach to dry out before disposal. As operators become more familiar with the machine capabilities, alternative disposal plans will be worked out. Concerns about Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and the odor were expressed. The Parks and Lake Commission has a HAB notification protocol that still needs to be updated. Currently HAB warnings go on the Parks Lake Facebook page, the Village Website and marquee. Beaches are closed by Public Works for HAB and E. coli. Discussion ensued on how the public can be better notified. The Parks and Lake Commission previously investigated a flag system, text notification and bulletin board notification. It was recommended that emails be sent to lake residents when there is an active HAB bloom. At this time the Village has no list of email addresses for people on the lake but does have physical addresses. The Commission will look into ways to gather emails and better ways to notify residents of active blooms. Residents can report suspected blooms on the Lake County Health Department website which should initiate testing. Testing strips were also purchased this year so Public Works can test more quickly and make notification to the Health Department for verification.

Old Business

5. **2024 Calendar of Events Planning:** Converse Park equipment will be removed before winter. It is currently two feet below grade which requires a fill that needs to overwinter before new equipment can be installed in the spring. The Parks and Lake Commission will have banners made for a Goodbye to "Castle" Converse Park to be held in conjunction with the Lion's Fall Fest on October 14. Lisa contacted Algonquin Park District as they recently removed an older wood playground and got ideas to help the community celebrate the old park and welcome a new park. Pavers and engraved fence poles will be retained in the new build to continue honoring that Converse was built through community donation and effort over twenty years ago.

The Cardboard Sled Race will be held again this year with potential dates of January 20, 27 or February 10. Multiple dates are necessary due to the need for snow. Stacey and Lisa will take the lead on this event.

The Earth Day Expo will be held on April 20, 2024. Contact of all vendors from last year, food trucks and other planning will begin in January.

Carp Fest will be held June 7-9 or June 21-23, 2024. Stacey will check with IDNR to verify when free fishing days are. This will be the third year of bringing back this event and the Commission

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is planning on expanding it to gain sponsorship, add a children's fishing derby and add more activities.

Fox River Day is a newer event taking place locally and will be on September 16. Contacts will be made to determine what kind of event could be held to be part of this.

Fall Fest/Haunted Trail in October is still something the Commission would like to plan for next year.

Converse Park Grand Opening – Dates, activities and planning to take place late spring or early summer depending on installation.

Illinois Lake Management Association (ILMA) Conference will be held in Champaign March 4-6. A representative from Island Lake should attend and details will be looked into.

6. **Update on Odor from Lake:** The Parks Lake Commission worked with Wauconda Fire Department, Lake County Health Department, Integrated Lakes Management (ILM), NICOR and the EPA to verify if Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) were the sole cause of the recent odor on the lake. Many potential causes were questioned, including if there was a gas leak or if the change in lake treatment chemicals could be responsible. The consensus was that HAB can have an extremely foul odor and was the most likely culprit. The Commission is reassessing aeration and will work closely with ILM on early treatment and shoreline treatment to hopefully mitigate blooms next year.
 7. **North Channel Park property:** Midlakes Survey visually staked park property. Trustee Lewis is researching ingress, right of way issues to better clarify park boundaries so that a fence can be installed.
 8. **Aerator Repair/Replacement:** Multiple aeration companies looked at the placement of aeration equipment on the lake and agreed that the current set up might not be the best due to sediment build up and drought conditions. A company will be hired next year to address concerns in the bays and channel including possibly reinstalling the fence at the channel to catch what is coming in from upstream.
 9. **Sediment Study:** A new Sediment Study price was requested from Integrated Lakes Management and will be part of the conversation regarding budget monies this year. It will give information on how and where to plan for dredging so the idea can be moved forward to the Village Board.
 10. **2024 Budget Planning for Lake Treatment:** Treatment with Sonar1 needs to take place in early March so that additional spot treatment can be priced and determined. Use of the Gator will be scheduled once plants are identified as “not good” and in need of removal. November 18 at 10am. may be a Clean-up Day on the Channel to remove debris starting at the bridge.
- New Business**
11. **PLC Open Seat Needs:** A request was made to the mayor to add more seats to the Parks Lake Commission but this needs to be done by resolution. Residents specifically interested in the park side and a Recording Secretary are needed.

Closing

- 12. Commission Member Comments:** Trevor reported that a firm date has not been set for fish shocking and carp removal but will take place the end of October. He and Ed Venner will be looking more closely at fish and vegetation with a new camera Ed purchased. The Lion's Ice Fishing Derby is scheduled for 2/4/24. Lisa is happy with the direction lake management is going and with park upgrades. Sarah commented on what a good job the Commission has done pulling filamentous algae out of the lake and that we went longer this year without a reported HAB. She has seen significant improvements at parks, especially Channel Park with the Native Buffer Project plans. Stacey expressed concern about the amount of reported bullying and vandalism at the parks. She will contact Chief Paulus about ways to reduce this through cameras, anonymous text reporting, calling non-emergency and community service for those apprehended. She also submitted minutes and receipts to procure conference and meeting attendance monies. Eric stressed that the lake plan is on target and that momentum on playground equipment replacement is taking place. The Commission will continue working with other towns to acquire information on park upgrades and changes. He thanked Public Works for the cooperative relationship and for those present and on Zoom for attending the meeting. He stressed the need for the Adopt-a-Park program to continue.
- 13. Public Comment:** Questions regarding shoreline stabilization and erosion were explained. The Spring Expo will help provide further information and resources on how individuals can assist with this. Shoreline treatment of vegetation has been done in the past but is very expensive. Residents need to be surveyed to see how they feel about making donations or if there are other fundraising ideas. Potentially a QR code could be placed that allows for donations for lake management. It was noted that trees are down, piers in disrepair and seawalls need to be fixed to help with erosion. Code enforcement has begun looking at the lake side and 25 citations were issued. Residents with concerns about neighboring property need to make a report so code enforcement can respond. Questions regarding the aerations system and placement were made. All the bays will be looked at including Little Island Bay. Additional piers may be added to Eastway, Big Island and at Veteran's for a kayak launch. Once plans are complete Village Board approval is needed. Suggestions for starting a dredging fundraiser and a 501C3 for park monies were made. Little Island needs a Clean-up Day. Tagging a carp for \$10,000 through an insurance policy for Carp Fest was suggested. It was reported that a sediment study was done around 7 years ago and a that a lidar study should be done instead. The exact date of the last sediment study will be researched to determine if another one is needed. Use of the Gator was again questioned. The Commission reported that lake professionals recommended that our PW staff not be out in an active bloom and that removing algae during an active bloom may not be best practices but the Gator will be back out as able. Volunteer training and insurance issues are being researched so that we can have the Gator out more next year. What data was taken to put in an 18-hole Frisbee golf course at Veteran's was questioned including the impact to neighboring properties. A request for email blasts was again made. Eric made a commitment to looking into a way to do this with the understanding that permission has to be given for people to opt in.
- 14. Adjournment:** Lisa motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Sarah seconded with all approving. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Submitted by Stacey Pyne