LAKES COMMITTEE
September 9, 2015

Meeting Summary

- Lock boxes for lake access fees are being installed but will not be operational until envelopes are available. Wording for signage will soon be finalized.
- It was suggested that boat sticker surveys be done next March.
- The Lake Cortez drawdown notification letter was mailed September 16th.
- Lake quality issues on Sophia and Isabella were discussed, and a full review will be discussed at the October meeting.
- The Anglers Club has been repairing boat docks and Public Works staff expressed their appreciation for all the great work done by this group.
- Lake Pineda was treated for an algae problem and is much improved.
- Brad is coordinating with Estate Management for fish stocking and with Game & Fish for fall electro-fishing.
- The Balboa Yacht Club would like to install more lights on buoys.
- A team of engineers toured Village lakes to survey dams and spillways and recommend erosion control measures. Dams will be mowed later this year.
- The Lake Cortez dredging project was discussed in length. The lake will be drawn down at least six feet, and areas in need of dredging have been prioritized. However, the limited budget may not allow for a “complete” job.
- The recommendation from the Safety & Enforcement Task Force to establish a lake ranger program was approved by the committee.
- The report on the review of lake policies, rules and regulations was presented, and suggested changes were approved by the committee and presented to staff.
- The recommendation to open up Lake Segovia with road, ramp and parking lot improvements was approved by the committee.
- Bruce Caverly, chair of the Common Property & Forest Committee, presented a report on the Canada goose situation in the Village. He is requesting assistance from several committees to survey populations and identify nesting areas.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Charles Hartmann.

Safety Briefing: Charles Hartmann conducted a safety briefing, asking for volunteers for specific safety assignments.

Members in Attendance: Charles Hartmann, Chairman; Bob Trowbridge, George Maxey, Peter Trabant, Don Petersen, and Rob Bowers.
Members Absent: Len Dombrowski

Others in Attendance: Jason Temple, Brad Meredith, and Katy Harmon, Public Works; Ricky Middleton, Police Chief; Mary Eliades, HSV Voice; Bob Cunningham, Public Works Committee; George Bollier, GAC; Bruce Caverly, Common Property Committee; Maxine Klein, Tammy Potes, Gerald Gordy, Fred Newman, Millie Connelly, Gary Hall, and Joanne Pegler.

Approval of Minutes: Charles Hartmann asked for approval of the August 12, 2015 minutes. They were unanimously approved by the committee.

Board Liaison Comments: There was no Board Liaison in attendance.

POA Staff Reports:

- Brad Meredith reported on the following:
  - Lock Boxes & Signage - The launch ramp lockboxes will be installed by the end of the week but will not be operational until envelopes are available. Wording of the accompanying signs has been approved by the POA’s insurance company and should be finalized soon.
  - Status of Secchi Disk Purchase - The twelve secchi disks have been received and are ready for distribution. These disks measure the clarity of the water.
  - Boat Sticker Survey - Brad felt that doing a boat sticker survey this late in the year would be a waste of time. He suggested that we wait until March to conduct a survey, although several committee members felt it should be sooner.
  - Lake Cortez Drawdown Notification – The letter has been revised and will be mailed soon. (Update: Letters were mailed on September 16th.) The drawdown will not begin until the first part of November this year, and dredging will not begin until January 2016.
  - Lake Quality Issues at Sophia & Isabella – This year the lakes were treated when the algae count was lower than last year, which explains why no dramatic jump in clarity was seen this year. In 2014 the top 5½ feet were treated, and this year only the top foot. Charlie Hartmann told the committee that a full summer review would be on the slate for next month’s meeting.
  - The Anglers Club has done a lot of work on boat docks. You can especially notice a difference at Balboa. A pathway was built from the parking lot to the floating dock on Lake Cortez. Coronado still needs some repairs.
  - Lake Pineda was treated for algae last week and is much improved.
  - We are coordinating with Estate Management for the fish stocking. They will do this when they come to dredge.
  - We are also coordinating with Game & Fish for a fall electro-fishing sometime after October.
The Balboa Yacht Club is interested in installing more lights on buoys. They stated that they would match funds that the POA designates for this project.

Staff is reviewing specifications for hand-holds on boat docks to make them handicap accessible.

- Jason Temple reported on the following:
  - Dams will be mowed later in the year.
  - A team of engineers recently toured Village lakes to survey dams and spillways and recommend erosion control measures. The official report will be submitted soon. Brad added that no failure concerns were noted, but several issues were identified.

**Chairman's Remarks:**

- Charles Hartmann stated that the Five-Year Plan has been completed and distributed. He stressed at his presentation to the Board that we are transitioning from a lake maintenance position to lake management.

**Committee Member Reports & Comments:**

- Lake Data Compilation – George Maxey stated he has data from every lake except Segovia. However, a lot of the data is inconsistent
- Status of Lake Cortez Dredging Survey & Project Plan – Peter Trabant distributed a map showing areas in need of dredging. George Maxey explained that committee members had also identified access spots and compiled detailed information about each cove. He reported that approximately 500,000 cubic yards of silt should be removed. Jason Temple thanked the committee for its extensive work, but warned that the limited budget would not allow for a complete job. The lake will be drawn down at least six feet, and more likely eight to ten feet for better access. Bob Trowbridge emphasized that the goal of the dredging program is to ensure that everyone with a dock has access to the lake. Brad Meredith stated that he has a list of docks in need of repair, and homeowners will be contacted by the ACC if docks are not up to code. Individual dredging work requires a permit, and POA will try to accommodate homeowners with removal of the silt, if possible. The committee is putting together a list of contractors for dredging work.
- Safety and Enforcement Task Force – There has been a lot of discussion and confusion concerning lake safety and compliance, involving the difference between law enforcement and POA policy enforcement.
  - Chief Middleton explained that law enforcement personnel can only approach people through “probable cause” and “reasonable suspicion” of breaking laws. They cannot get involved in POA policy violations.
  - Bob Trowbridge led a task force comprised of members of the Safety, Recreation, ACC, and Lakes Committees, as well as law enforcement to
address resident complaints concerning safety and misconduct on the lakes, as well as compliance with POA policies. They reviewed the lake ranger program currently in place at Bella Vista.

✓ The task force recommends that a lake ranger program be established to have a presence on the lakes, in uniform, in a marked boat. Ranger duties would include ensuring compliance with POA policies, assisting with boat safety issues, checking for POA identification, noting dock and seawall conditions, assisting with special events, keeping lakes free of trash and debris, and assisting in lake management projects. Rangers will not engage in confrontations or potentially volatile situations, and will contact the police department when necessary. This program would be seasonal from the beginning of May through the end of September. The rangers can help educate the boating public regarding laws and rules, which would ensure increased compliance. However, this program will need to be included in the budget before it can begin.

✓ A motion was made to approve the task force recommendations. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the committee.

Old Business:
• Lake Policies – Rob Bowers reported that a sub-committee had reviewed lake policies, rules and regulations, and recommended several changes. He stated that policies pertaining to lakes were not easy to find, and also discussed new state laws and towing rules. He wondered why there were no fines specified for lake violations. Jason Temple stated that he has been reviewing POA policies and procedures for all his divisions, including lakes. Procedures are staff regulated, but policy changes have to be approved by the POA Board. He appreciates the sub-committee recommendations.

✓ A motion was made to make the sub-committee’s suggestions a recommendation to the staff. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the committee.

• Lake Segovia Recommendation – Charlie Hartmann asked for approval of the recommendation for opening up Lake Segovia with a road, ramp and parking lot. The committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

New Business:
• 2016 Lake Management Plan – Charlie Hartmann stated that the committee needs an ongoing editor. The plan needs to be completed by June 2016 for budget purposes.

• Goose Hunt – Common Property & Forest Committee chair Bruce Caverly presented a report on the Canada goose situation in the Village. His report detailed facts about goose fecal matter and the health hazards to humans and animals. Runoff into the lakes causes algae bloom and depletes oxygen. The only effective method of controlling the population is through a very selective controlled hunt by well qualified individuals. Special licenses must be obtained
from the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. He needs help from the lakes committee, golf committee, common property committee, golf department and lake managers to survey populations and identify nesting areas. The committee will discuss the proposal again at the next meeting.

- DeSoto Marina Issues – Don Petersen commented that the silt fence used for the Waypoint construction did not work, causing a lot of debris issues in the lake. He also recommended that parking signage and striping was needed.

Guest Comments:
- A guest complained about the sign for Waypoint. It no longer states that this is a marina and that this is the public access to Lake DeSoto. Jason agreed that an informational sign needs to be installed.
- A question was raised about lake level indicators. Charlie Hartmann stated that levels are measured by volunteers, but not posted anywhere. Don Petersen volunteered to add information to the lakes section of the POA website, including lake level data, if he was given access.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held October 14th at 9:00 a.m. at Coronado Center.