



# Lake Orono Improvement Association I N C.

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## Annual Meeting MINUTES March 20, 1997

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Barb Kreuser, who handed the floor over to Vance Zehringer, Vice President.
2. Introductions:
  - a. New members: Jim and Cheryl Snetsinger, District 5; Kris Jarmoluk, District 1.
  - b. Guest: Carol Mills, representing the Guardian Angels, who own property in District 7.

### **II. REPORTS**

1. The minutes of the last meeting on February 27, 1996 were read; minutes stood approved as read.
2. Treasurer's Report was read by Rickie Buttweiler; report was approved.
3. Committee Reports:
  - a. Water Level and Flow: Vance Zehringer. There were a couple of events last summer. In one instance, the City called and informed Vance that they were going to lower the lake 4" to put rip rap by the bridge; the lake dropped 14" instead; Vance is working with the City to correct errors like this.
  - b. Safety Committee: Rickie Buttweiler. Offered video on personal watercraft if anyone was interested. Patrick Plant mentioned that there is currently a bill pending in the MN legislature which proposes a 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. daylight operating limit on personal watercraft.
  - c. Communications: Cindi Edwards-Plant. Cindi developed a web page for our association and put up on Elknet, which was asking for content. Tom Rule asked about publishing email addresses; Cindi said this isn't currently being done.

- d. Pollution: Vance Zehringer. No report.
- e. Conservation: no active members.
- f. Sedimentation Task Force: presentation by Patrick Plant and Vance Zehringer.

Silting was originally the only issue at the creation of this task force; however, now water quality is becoming just as important. Our TSI Index rating compiled by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 1991 was 66, which is considered "swimming impaired". The rating jumped in 1997 to 72. Along with the green color of the lake last summer, there also were clumps of black matter on lake surface, which may be decomposing algae blooms.

Don Granros asked about the harm of algae. Patrick said that if animals and fish die, then we should be concerned. Gloria Klemz wondered where the weeds are. Cindi Edwards-Plant said that there are not many weeds because of lack of sunlight reaching the bottom through low transparency of the water.

Sedimentation Task Force members are Patrick Plant, chair; Vance Zehringer; Barb Kreuser; John Weicht; Doug Stillwell; and Dr. Tony Jarmoluk.

The Task Force has been working closely with Steve Rohlf, Building and Zoning Administrator from the City. This past year we got the go-ahead from the City to do a study, and hired an engineering firm. We have obtained funding from the County, City, and Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the study; have started a watershed-wide coordinated effort with the Elk River Watershed Board; and have continued involvement with various agencies; ie., the MPCA, DNR, Army Corps, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) & SWCD.

The study involves grabbing samples of the core of the lake bed and storm event/runoff samples for a one-year period.

Vance showed a map of where the samples are being taken. The core samples of the lake bed show no contaminants, therefore this matter could be used as fill if we dredge parts of the lake. Samples are also taken during storm events, these indicate the composition of runoff; there are monthly samplings of other areas, which shows general composition of the lake water, and with this data could therefore target certain areas for treatment. The Mayor and Steve Rohlf have been fabulous in working with us.

Patrick said we are starting an educational campaign for watershed awareness of our problem, and to promote the "Best Management Practices" of non-phosphorous fertilizer use and promote buffer zones on lakeshore property.

Don Granros asked about proposing ordinances to make buffer zones mandatory and other controls; Patrick said the City would rather try education first.

Patrick said we are starting to talk with local civic groups to ask for money, as we need \$6-10,000 to finish the study. We have to do the study and provide a plan for continued maintenance in order to get permits to do any dredging. Other avenues for funding are to pursue local, state and federal grants, and increase LOIA membership fees.

Separate from the study is a project that will be done this summer to curtail the erosion from Orono Cemetery. A grant has been submitted; the City would kick in additional funds to complete the job.

We also plan to select and complete a “lake friendly lawn” demonstration site.

Paula Donnelly mentioned concern about flooding this spring, and how this will affect us. Cindi Edwards-Plant said that spring runoff is untreated and nutrient level will be high. Patrick told Paula that he will get back to her on the City’s stance about water level/control of the dam.

Tom Hargreaves mentioned that if we have a 501c classification we could do our own pulltabs to obtain funding, and the State Lottery Environmental Fund may be a source to tap.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Guardian Angels project presentation by Carol Mills.

This development project is west of the Elk Motel. The Guardian Angels is developing 13 1/2 acres for a campus. Joplin Street will go across straight across Highway 10 from its current position into the property. There will be City sewer and water in the development. The Guardian Angels had a market analysis done, and the results indicated a need in our area for more senior housing and assisted living, particularly for those who need more care than independent living but are not ready for nursing homes. There will be assisted living in two phases on the lake, with 22 townhomes. There will be two buildings across from the assisted living with 4 people to a unit for those who need more care, and common space between.

2. Lake Day, a conference sponsored by the SWCD and Sherburne County Extension, is April 5th. Brochures were handed out.

3. Dates were approved for '97-'98 events:

a. Smelt Fry – May 21, 1997

b. Progressive Dinner – July 10, 1997

c. It was voted to have the “Luau on the Lake” instead of the Game Dinner. Date was set for Sept. 13, 1997.

d. Bylaws state that the Annual Meeting is held on the 4th Thursday in February. Because of scheduling conflicts of key officers, this year we held it a month later. Dave Halgren moved to give the Board of Directors the right to change dates as needed, motion was 2nd and approved.

4. Membership. A “member” is not specifically defined in our Bylaws. We also need to increase membership. Sandy Weicht said maybe we should have different levels of membership; maybe have a reduced-fee associate member level, such as those who live across from the lake, who would be given no vote.

Barb Kreuser suggested a reminder notice for dues; Judy Halgren said we should send out invitations to join the Association; Dave Halgren said we should consider giving members a sticker for their mailbox and/or a lakeside sign designating membership.

John Weicht moved to start a Membership Committee, motion was 2nd and carried. Dave Halgren, John MacGibbon and Jim Snetsinger agreed to be on the committee.

5. Dues. We foresee the need for more money to fund education efforts and provide additional membership benefits. John Weicht moved to increase dues to \$35, motion was 2nd and carried.
6. Other New Business:
  - a. Jim Snetsinger asked if we ever had a meeting for the general public. It was replied that no, so far we hadn't.
  - b. Tony Mikols mentioned that the Heritage Festival will be held Aug. 9 & 10th. Events will include log rolling, a canoe race, and a raft race on the lake, and suggested our association do something in conjunction with it. Barb Kreuser, Sandy Weicht, Rickie Buttweiler and Betty Zehringer said they'd be on a committee to pursue our involvement. Dave Halgren moved to have the Board of Directors act on our behalf regarding our involvement in the Heritage Festival, motion was 2nd and carried.
7. Budget. John Weicht moved to pay \$1,000 to the lake study now in progress; motion was 2nd and carried.

8. Election of Officers/Reps.

Vance Zehringer will be President.

Nominations:

Vice President: Jim Mulroy

Treasurer: Rickie Buttweiler

District 6 Rep: Jerry McChesney

District 6 Alternate: Vicki Granros

District 7 Rep: Tom Hartman

Vance asked for a unanimous ballot; moved, seconded, carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindi Edwards-Plant

Secretary