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## Citizen Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 27, 2020

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Parkview

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#### Attendees:

- **CAC Members present:** Christian M, Christopher C, Matt N, Jim W
- **Others present:** District Staff: Kathryn K-M; Board Members: Curt H; Guest: Ben Burnett (potential new member)

- I. **Call meeting to order 6:30 pm** – Chair Christian Morkeberg
- II. **Agenda-Additions-Approval of Agenda & July 2020 meeting minutes.**
  - a. Agenda approved with additions:
    - i. Discussion of possible new CAC member, Ben Burnett
    - ii. Lake vegetation on Spring Lake (Jim W)
  - b. July meeting minutes approved
- III. **CAC Business**
  - a. **New member application for Ben Burnett**
    - i. Ben Burnett gave brief introduction of himself. Lives on the creek that connects Spring and Prior Lakes. Interested in water quality issues and wanted to get more involved. Has a background with 4H. In his professional life he started as a computer programmer and is now a project manager who works in R&D on a lot of defense contracts. He is used to learning about new things quickly and doing research. He doesn't get out on the lake much because he doesn't have a boat but mostly appreciates the nature and wildlife along the creek, visits the beach with his family.
    - ii. CAC voted to recommend Ben Burnett to the Board of Managers for addition to the CAC.
  - b. **Communication with the Board of Managers**
    - i. Christopher – found guidelines helpful
    - ii. Jim – communication should go two ways. How does Board communicate things they want feedback on with the CAC? Several CAC members would like formal method for this.
      1. Some board members direct questions to Christian
      2. Bruce should be the communicator since he is the Board's liaison to the CAC. Will add a spot to the CAC agenda for Bruce to provide updates from the Board and ask for feedback from the CAC.
    - iii. Communications structure approved by CAC.
  - c. **2021 Budget**
    - i. Special board workshop to discuss budget – open to the public. **Sept 9, 4:00-7:30 pm**
    - ii. CAC had no additional budget requests
  - d. **Boat traffic**
    - i. No big updates. Not a lot of appetite for City ordinance to limit boat traffic on the lake. Matt reported that Fish Lake has had a lot of extra boat traffic, including from the

campground this year. Both Matt and Christopher reported that there was a significant drop in the boat traffic on Fish Lake and Spring Lake, respectively, in the last week or two.

- ii. Jim talked to someone from the DNR who said that the DNR doesn't have a position on regulating boat traffic as they have deemed it a local issue.
- e. Matt brought up an additional issue to look into regarding using bacteria cultures to eat up excess nutrients in lakes and ponds to clear up water quality. The original research was on ponds and use originated in wastewater treatment plants. Take natural cultures out of lakes, grow them in a lab and return them to the lake. Comes in pellet form (for homeowners) and liquid form. Approval is state by state. Some types are approved in MN but approval for use on lakes is more unclear. The bacteria eat up nutrients and convert them to gases. Often called "muck digesters." Used to be relatively cheap but price has gone up as marketing has taken off. Are high and low temp varieties available. Need to be careful of fish kills in some locations because the bacteria use oxygen and could deplete water oxygen levels. Bacteria can eat up muck on lake and pond bottoms. Bacteria generally dies off when water temperatures are below 55°F. Can see effect in about 3 weeks. Matt noted that on Fish Lake many homeowners treated curlyleaf pondweed. However, the chemicals used contained copper that killed lake bacteria so the vegetation that died off wasn't being broken down and lake bacteria needed to be rebalanced. Matt could present more on the bacterial cultures at next CAC meeting.

IV. **August Board meeting update** – Woody (sent summary to Christian ahead of time)

- a. Board discussed the 2021 budget; communication with the CAC; Sutton Lake project, hope to start this fall, still need to complete easements; upper watershed blueprint update; summer interns finished and gave presentation; update on fish stocking.
- b. **September Board Meeting attendee** – Ben

V. **Staff Project Updates**

- a. Hike the Watershed going well, was highlighted by the local newspaper. Jim said his coffee group has been rotating between the parks. Christian noted that the prairie flowers by Arctic Lake are beautiful right now and urged everyone to check it out.

VI. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. **50th Anniversary** (Kim)
  - i. Hike the Watershed highlighted by local newspaper. Curt complemented the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary initiatives including the brochure and Hike the Watershed.
- b. **Fish Stocking** (Christian)
  - i. Stocking was approved at the August Board meeting. Will be stocking bluegills and walleye for Spring and Prior Lakes. The stocked walleye will be larger than the ones the DNR stocks. Rotary is in favor of funding but won't approve funds until October meeting. Spring Lake Association upped their contribution to \$2000. PLA is contributing \$2000.
- c. **AIS/Signage** (Jodi)
  - i. Christian, Curt and Diane met with Eric from the company that makes I-LIDS. I-LIDS would be paired with communication with the community. Can be combined with inspectors as well. I-LIDS would be supplemental to other efforts. Cost of I-LIDS would be low compared with costs if lake becomes infested with new AIS. Could make sense to do test site at Spring Lake launch due to AIS currently in (and not in) the lake, though argument could be made for Prior Lake because it is busier. Can use I-LIDS to identify launch patterns and use this to better schedule inspectors. Possible to offer funding to sheriff to pursue violations? How many violations would be sent their way? Some inspectors are good, but others are very passive and not willing to confront people. SLA just posted about boat inspections on Facebook. Could also put together tools for boats to use at launches to clean their boats. CAC keep working on AIS and put together a recommendation to present to the Board.

- d. **Shoreline Restoration** (Christopher, Matt)
  - i. No updates. Christian send them some materials to review.
- e. **Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking** (Woody, Jim, Christopher)
  - i. Waiting for engineering report from upper watershed blueprint.

VII. **Goals & Topics for Upcoming Meeting**

- a. Update of Upper Watershed Blueprint
- b. Quick review of budget
- c. Further discussion on lake bacteria that Matt discussed
- d. Update from Steve McComas on lake vegetation
- e. Continued discussion of AIS prevention strategies and I-LIDS

VIII. **Staff & Other Announcements**

IX. **Adjourn – 8:04 pm**