

Gem Lakes Recreation Association Board of Directors July 17, 2004 Meeting Minutes

The Gem Lakes Recreation Association Board of Directors met on the morning of Saturday, July 17, 8:05 a.m. at the Pavilion.

Present: Buddy Brinkley, Gary Bunker, Scott Flickinger, John Kilgo, Gary Marozas, Dennis Saylor, Ed Seufert, and Johnny Spears.

Minutes: The minutes from the May board meeting were approved with no comments.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Seufert has yet to receive turnover from the former treasurer. Dennis Saylor recommended he get in touch with Evelyn Miano, our accountant, to get into the loop.

Recreation Manager's Report: Johnny Spears reported that the lifeguard coverage has been good throughout the summer. A need was identified to replace the basketball court backboard. The dock resurfacing cost was estimated at \$2,700, with labor twice the cost of materials. Gary Marozas will work with Spears on the resurfacing job to see if it could be folded into the fishing dock project. Dennis Saylor reported that the bacterial count for the swimming lake has remained within the acceptable range. Scott Flickinger noted that the grill was rapidly deteriorating, and Saylor volunteered to look for alternatives to be put in place prior to Oktoberfest and with a \$600 limit.

Updates and Status Reports: The downed branches by the tennis courts still need to be removed. The estimated cost for this job is \$350. The summer tennis and swimming lessons have gone well so far. James Brooks will be making a dive later this summer to inspect the dam valve. It was suggested that a siphon be installed to help control the swimming lake level. Buddy Brinkley proposed moving two unused benches to the beach. Scott Flickinger will work to install four beach umbrellas by the lake, and he was authorized \$200 for the tie-ins. The continued problem of dog droppings in the recreation area was noted, as was the new issue of goose droppings on the beach. The continued deterioration of the Springwood Bridge was again brought up, requiring at a minimum redecking, and Spears will investigate the costs.

New Business:

1. Oktoberfest – The tentative date is Saturday, October 23. Gary Marozas will check into the availability of foreign beers and work to ensure no repetition of the tap problem we had on Memorial Day.
2. New Fishing Dock – Gary Marozas received an estimate of \$8,450 for the basic scope of work from Agnew Lake Services. A 10% deposit will be required if we conclude a contract with them. The following additional scope was discussed: rails and benches, a larger fishing area at the end of the dock, a fish cleaning area, and a recirculating pump. Marozas was given authorization to seek estimates for these additions to the basic scope of work, with the understanding that the final estimate can't exceed \$20,000. The board, however, will make the final decision on the scope of work and whether or not to enter into a contract with Agnew Lake Services. The need date for the dock was determined to be the fall of this year.

3. Fish Survey – John Kilgo reported that no formal survey has been done on the lakes since 1998. His preliminary survey, however, indicates that the lower pond is out of balance and that harvest guidelines need to be instituted. The main pond, on the other hand, is balanced but it needs to be limed and fertilized, though this could lead to a weed problem or bloom. This project ties into our goal of lowering the lake level later this fall. A recommendation on the path forward will be made next month.

4. Annexation Issue – Dennis Saylor reported on his meeting with Aiken City Manager Roger Leduc and Larry Morris. While Saylor noted that the meeting went well, several issues have yet to be resolved or clarified. Leduc did say that the Gem Lakes Recreation Area wouldn't be incorporated into the city park system, as it is private property. (It would be treated similar to the River Bluff recreation area or the various privately owned facilities in Woodside Plantation.) Financially, it appeared that the security advantage we thought we'd get will go away as Aiken Public Safety won't patrol a park with a locked gate. Trash collection could also be an issue with the locked gate. The board resolved not to make a decision regarding annexation until additional information was received regarding cost and regulatory/nuisance impacts from city ordinances. If the neighborhood annexation meeting proposed by Mike Davenport is held before our regularly scheduled board meeting, then another meeting will be called prior to the annexation meeting to consider our position.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, 8 a.m. at the Gem Lakes Pavillion. There is a possibility, however, that an additional meeting may be called if so warranted by the ongoing annexation issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.