

Friends of Lake Eau Claire  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2021 via Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Meeting called to order by President Lori Bechtel. Members Present: Lori Bechtel, Duane Ives, Nathan Smith, Tad Ries, Joe Vydrzal, Angel Zimmerman, Pam Hanson, Al Hendricks, Fred Poss, Cathy Lea and Al Weisenbeck. Absent: Todd Hanson, Dale Zank, Chad White, and Dan Marcheske. Guest: Mike Lea
2. Review of previous minutes dated March 15, 2021. A motion was made by Duane Ives with a second from Fred Poss to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote, minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report - Report was presented by Joe Vydrzal. Funds are up \$8,400 and has been a good year for sponsorship. \$6,000 has been committed to bank stabilization. \$20,000 in projected revenue from currently scheduled fundraisers. A motion to approve the report was presented by Fred Poss with a second by Lori Bechtel. Vote was unanimous and the report was approved.
4. Public Comment:
  - a. Fred Poss informed the board that the Eau Claire County Historic Sign was approved and will be placed. It was accepted by the Wisconsin Historical Society.
  - b. Joe Vydrzal informed the board of Rosie Berger's intent to do something in memory of her late husband, Al, who passed away with Covid. Joe will work with her to determine a viable project.
5. Lake District Update
  - a. Mike Lea gave an update on the river bank stabilization project. He informed the board that a partial grant of \$49,500 was approved. The project will cost approximately \$80,000. A motion was made to approve a commitment of \$30,000 towards bank stabilization by Joe Vydrzal and seconded by Fred Poss. Vote was unanimous, motion approved. Bids will be taken July 1 for installation of geo-textile and rock for stabilization of over a 600-foot stretch. Lori Bechtel reinforced the need to promote this project on social media and let the public know that hopefully our next project will be our largest at Skid Row.
6. Jen Mason applied for a grant from Thrivent for \$250 to purchase life jackets for a life jacket station(s) at the public boat landings. Duane Ives mentioned that the Eau Claire Water Safety Program could assist with a building material list. The association will organize labor for construction and project costs will be determined. Lori will connect Duane with Jen Mason to keep the project moving forward.
7. Fireworks
  - a. Fireworks have been ordered. The association approved \$4,600 for the fireworks and the permit is with the Augusta Lions.

- b. Joe Bechtel and Nate Smith will launch the LECA pontoon and Nate will drive the shooter to the island. Tad Ries and Fred Poss also volunteered to assist that day/night.
- c. Pam and Todd Hanson will prepare the island with “no camping” signage the evening of the fireworks, and perform clean-up the following day.

8. Board Member Skill Analysis, Board Agreement, Board Engagement - Lori informed the board that more help is needed. Board members should participate, encourage family and friends to participate, and crowdsource by recruiting members of the community. To that end, board members will be given specific information about the responsibilities and specific skills required for various committee membership. Board members can look over the descriptions, review what is required, and rank potential committee assignments based upon each member’s interests and skills. Duane reminded the board that the association must now move from a “sustain mode” to a “growth mode” in order to complete the big upcoming projects. A shared drive with a rankable committee list will be sent out to members.

#### 9. Fundraising

- a. Calendar raffle is in progress. To date, \$3800 has been collected/deposited and we have 45 days to collect and sell, sell, sell! Duane will send an invite asking for volunteers. All board members are asked to sell their 20 calendars and potentially pick up more and turn in collected money and stubs.
- b. Gun raffle is in progress with 2 guns currently at the Woodland. Raffle winners will be drawn on July 4th.
- c. Sponsor-update commitments of \$10,850/collected \$8,550.
- d. Lori asked for ideas regarding a fundraiser at Mulligan’s in Augusta. Ideas included: cornhole tournament, card tournament, and bingo.
- e. Volunteers and a date are needed for another cornhole tournament at Mike’s Buckhorn. Lori asked members to pass along any other fundraising ideas, volunteer for current fundraisers, and will send future event ideas via email.
- f. Golf Outing will be held July 17th

#### 10. Other Business:

- a. A motion was made to officially approve the insurance policy for LECA by Cathy Lea and seconded by Nate Smith. Vote was unanimous and the motion was approved.
- b. Lori will continue to print 300 paper newsletters to supplement the digital newsletters.
- c. Lori informed the committee that lake residents Chad and Carrie White own a design company and will approach them about possibly revamping/refreshing the LECA logo to help potentially increase declining clothing sales.
- d. The issue of website management and revision was tabled for a future time.
- e. Annual Picnic will be held in-person this year, on August 21st. Angel Zimmerman will chair and plan the picnic and meeting. Pam Hanson and Cathy Lea will assist.
- f. Volunteers are needed to place postcards at boat landing and other lake locations. The postcards are available at The Woodland and members are encouraged to pick them up and hand them out at the boat landings or place them on windshields. Todd and Pam Hanson will do it in the upcoming weekend.

11. Other

- a. Suggestions were made to start pushing fireworks donations via social media.
- b. Suggestion about the possibility of holding an “Ice Cream Social” on Pirates Island, on a weekend, was discussed as a way to garner donations and encourage new membership. The idea will be discussed in the future.
- c. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 27th via Zoom

President Lori Bechtel adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Nate Smith