

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, September 30, 2009
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on September 30, 2009 by Chairperson Micki O'Connell.

Roll Call: Trustee Micki O'Connell, Robert Chanson, Ed Snyder, Rick Pappas, Joel Bikowski

Absent: Lee Eakright, Steve Beers

Also Present: Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Kevin Kirkland, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Brookwood Association President Doug Peterson, Eddie Snyder

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes – August 26, 2009

Pappas/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to approve the August 26, 2009 minutes as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Kevin Kirkland Proposal for Floating Ramp/Dock

Lake Geneva Marine owner Kevin Kirkland distributed a proposal to operate a kayaking and rowing club/rental operation at the Village's lakefront building next season. Kirkland leases the building from the Village. Kirkland stated that if approved, the club/rental equipment will be stored in the room that he currently uses as a show room for boat sales. Kirkland stated that he is working on the plan in conjunction with the Big Foot Recreation Department. Kirkland stated that he wanted to present to the committee his proposal to have a floating ramp/dock installed next season for people to launch their rented kayaks and rowing shells into the lake. Kirkland presented various options to add the 6-by-12-foot floating ramp/dock to the current pier he leases from the Village. The installation of the floating ramp/dock will have to be approved by the DNR prior to Lakefront and Harbor Committee and Village Board consideration. Snyder stated that an option Kirkland could pursue is attaching the floating ramp/dock to the end of the current pier. Bikowski stated that he has safety concerns with the proposal. Bikowski stated that the west end of Geneva Lake is very busy during the summer, and people using kayaks and rowing shells could be killed in accidents on the lake. Bikowski stated that Kirkland's concept is more appropriate for Lake Como. Kirkland stated that safety is also a concern of his and required training and non-primetime hours of operation are part of the proposal to address those concerns. Kirkland stated that people will not be allowed to rent the non-motorized watercraft unless they are properly certified, and the club activities will be scheduled for weekdays and very early in the morning and late in the evening, when the boating traffic is not as congested as it gets on weekends and holidays. Snyder stated that he understands the safety concerns; however, he supports the proposal and he thinks it's a good idea if the club holds its outings from 6:00 to 7:30 am. Snyder stated he wouldn't recommend the smaller non-motorized crafts be out on the lake on weekends or holidays, but kayaking and rowing are becoming more popular sports each year. Pappas stated that the Lakefront and Harbor Committee is charged with considering the placement of docks and piers, and the safety issues are up to the owners and users of all the lakefront businesses. Pappas stated that it is not the committee's charge to make business operation recommendations, they are supposed to determine if the floating dock is appropriate.

Pappas stated that if the floating dock is approved by the DNR, he does not have any concerns. Chanson stated that he agrees with Pappas, and if the DNR approves the permit and the Village approves a change in the terms of Kirkland's lease to allow for the operation, he is fine with the proposal. Hayden stated that if the proposal receives approval, the Village can modify the lease and the existing pier if necessary. Kirkland stated that will submit his floating dock/ramp plan to the DNR for consideration.

Complaint Received Regarding Club Unique Swim Raft Moored in Adreani Riparian Area – Tabled 8/26/09

The committee directed Bruce Adreani at last month's meeting to work with Club Unique to resolve the issue next spring, and that the lift on Adreani's property and the swim raft can be allowed to remain in their current locations until the end of this season.

Pappas/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to table the item until the March 2010 Lakefront and Harbor Committee meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Lighting Violations on Fontana Bay – Update

The Building and Zoning Department needs specific addresses to investigate the lighting concerns stated at last month's meeting. The Beach House interior lights have been changed with the end of the beach season. The regular interior lights are not illuminated at night during the off-season; two temporary lights are placed on timers. During the season, the interior lights at the Beach House are left on until 11:00 pm.

DMA Reviews – Brookwood and Indian Hills

Brookwood Association President Doug Peterson presented a diagram of the current DMA for the Brookwood lakefront. Following discussion, it was determined that the current layout equals the total number of buoys, slips, lifts and ramp space that were initially approved. Although the Brookwood DMA has 16 approved buoys, there currently are only 13 installed; however, the three buoys that are not installed have been replaced by boat slips and PWC lifts. It was determined that a PWC lift on the west lot line is not a Brookwood Association lift, and that the four stand-alone lifts on the east lot line are for sailboats only. Martin will inform the Building and Zoning Department about the PWC lift on the west lot line that was not put in by the Brookwood Association. The Brookwood DMA was initially approved for 16 buoys, 24 slips, 9 lifts and 105 feet of ramp space; and the currently approved numbers that will be codified are 13 buoys, 29 slips, 4 light duty boat lifts (appropriate for small sailboats), 7 PWC lifts, and 90 feet of ramp space. Peterson was informed that if the association wishes to modify the DMA in the future, it will require approval from the Lakefront and Harbor Committee and Village Board. Trustee O'Connell stated that she would step down during the discussion on the Indian Hills Association DMA. Following discussion it was determined that nothing major has been changed in the Indian Hills DMA since the mid-1970s; five feet of ramp space has been replaced with one PWC lift. Indian Hills DMA has 27 buoys, 19 slips, and 43 ramp spaces (27 5-foot-wide ramp stalls, and 16 PWC lifts). Chanson stated that it is not fair to the other lakefront property owners that Indian Hills has the 43 ramps lining its shoreline, when the others only get one slip or buoy per 50 feet. The Indian Hills DMA was approved in the 1970s, when the DNR regulations allowed the association to install the ramps along the shoreline and to enclose a swimming area. The DNR regulations would no longer allow the ramps or the enclosed swim area, but the approval has been grandfathered. Following discussion, the committee members were in consensus that the Indian Hills DMA layout equals the total number of buoys, slips, lifts and ramp space that were initially approved. The committee will review the Glenwood Springs and Buena Vista DMAs next month.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Lakefront and Harbor Committee, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 10/28/09