

CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING **Saturday, July 20, 2024, 9:00 am, Town Hall**

The CLA annual public meeting was called to order at 9:00 am July 20 with twelve community members attending in the audience. President Margaret Carlson offered donuts, welcomed everyone and then asked each board member to introduce themselves: Kit Tyler, Grant Goeglein, Alex Connett, John Wilhelm, Karen DeVenney, Rita Brown and Beth McCracken, filling in for Secretary Barbara Rumsey.

Copies of the **minutes** from the 2023 Annual Meeting were available to all present. Since there were no additions or corrections, Grant moved the minutes be accepted, Kit seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Treasurer Rita Brown provided the **Financial Report** for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Income totaled \$38,493.00 and expenses totaled \$35,980.79. It was noted that the fireworks annual display cost is \$20,000 and income donations for that line item were \$18,325. With standard reserves set aside in the budget, the ending balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$85,420.95. Kit moved to accept the report, Grant seconded, and it was approved.

The **membership** report by Rita indicated that 610 letters were mailed in April and 335 checks were received. A few more responses have come in since June 30. If anyone has not yet paid their dues, the form is available on the CLA website. Dues are still just \$30.

Fireworks Chair Mandy Gleve had a prior commitment but sent a report. The July 6 fireworks show was well-received by the community. Appreciation was extended to Tyson Johnston and his sons for their volunteer clean-up efforts. They began work after the 10:00 pm show finished and completed everything so the road could be opening by morning.

Margaret reminded everyone that **grant requests** from CLA are due September 1 each year. If any organization is interested in applying for funds, forms are available from any board member. Those groups receiving funds are detailed in Summer newsletter.

The **Goose Round-up** was successfully completed in June with 34 geese safely relocated to a DNR-approved location. Alex was the CLA chair, but he thanked the many people involved. Darin Thorp organized the land activities and Al Korte coordinated the water gathering which involving six pontoons and 12 Jet Skis.

Caroline Barth, Executive Director of the CLTLC, is soon to celebrate her one-year anniversary in that position. Although she grew up spending summers on Clear Lake, she's found it different being here year-round and enjoys the challenge. She briefly reported a summary of **Conservancy** activities and upcoming events:

- In January 45 acres were added with the acquisition of Waterfield Preserve. The conservancy property now totals 145 protected acres with 19 preserves. (*For locations, see their website.*)
- August 3, 10:00 am, there will be a guided hike on a new prairie trail with wildflowers and butterflies.
- Water quality is a continuing goal with hourly monitoring in summer and weekly checks in winter. This is the third year of the study, and a summary will be forthcoming.
- Only one acre of invasive water foil remains, and a small treatment was recently conducted.
- Several clean-up events occurred in June which involved almost 40 volunteers.
- Knee-high Naturalists program has involved over 60 people so far.
- Run Day Fun Day successfully raised \$40,000 with 127 runners, 49 walkers and other participants.
- July 26 is the Conservancy Annual Meeting to be held at CLLC Pavilion, 4:00 pm.

Town Marshall Chris Emerick announced that his staff now has five part-time officers. If there is an emergency, call 911. All non-emergency calls should go to dispatch 260-665-3131 which will direct your concerns to on-duty officers or other local law enforcement. Other items reported by the Marshal:

- July 27 Clear Lake will host a Triathlon with 150 anticipated participants. This event is sponsored by a national organization with a strong support staff but, please be aware there will be swimmers, bikers and runners on and around the lake during the 8:00-noon time frame.
- Remember: Walkers face traffic. Bikers ride with traffic flow.
- There are now 300 golf carts registered in Clear Lake.
- The ten radar speed signs spread throughout the lake roads have reduced the average speed in those areas. 95-97% of all vehicles travel within or near the posted speed limits. Chris has a budget for two more signs. One will be permanent and the other will be portable. Please email him if you have suggested locations.
- Water safety: most complaints are about Jet Skis, but they have cracked down on that this year. Some complaints have been registered about wake boats, but DNR law allows wakeboarders to be out after sunset *if* running lights are on and they don't exceed 10 mph.

Molly Weber represented Clear Lake **Town Council** and gave the following updates:

- The road project involving Lakeview Drive will begin Aug. 19. Residents can get to their homes at night, but it is critical that the barricades not be moved or the work interfered with in any way. The grant money is dependent on the project being completed on time and any interruptions will impede that deadline.
- A big “Thank you” was extended to all who limited their water use in impacted areas for the June 29 “Big Problem.” Because everyone listened to water restrictions, it wasn’t necessary to shut off the water for all of Clear Lake. Toilets could keep working! The Reach Alert was crucial in spreading the message and Molly urged everyone to sign up for important future notifications.
- NIPSCO finally removed the 20 duplicate utility poles around the lake. Extra wires from cable companies, etc. made for the challenge.
- The town council is grateful for the CLA support of the Fremont Fire Department because their help for the lake is often more than responding to emergencies. Insurance agents call the fire department because there are no fire hydrants around Clear Lake, thus making rates higher. However, the Fremont Fire Department fields all these calls and, because they explain the state-of-the-art equipment available, insurance rates are lowered.

Out-going President Margaret Carlson was recognized for her four years’ service leading CLA. She, in turn, thanked retiring board members John Wilhelm and Kit Tyler for their combined decades of service, as well as retiring Newsletter Editor Beth McCracken. New board members Jodie Johnston and Randy Wilhelm were introduced and new CLA Board President Alex Connett was thanked for his willingness to take the leadership role.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth McCracken (substitute Recording Secretary)