

Springfield Lakeshore Improvement Association

2024 Annual Meeting

January 17, 2024 – Firefighters Club, Lake Springfield

The annual meeting of the Springfield Lakeshore Improvement Association was held on Wednesday January 17, 2024 at the Firefighters Club on Lake Springfield. The meeting was called to order by President Micah King at 6:05 PM. Approximately 70 people were in attendance including SLSIA Board Members, CWLP Representatives, Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher and Springfield Ward 1 Councilman Chuck Redpath.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by board member Justin Tintori.

Board Members in Attendance:

- John Aiello
- John Brewer
- Tim Brinkman
- Mary Pat Cavanagh
- Jim Corrigan
- Jeff Cox
- Dawn Keiser
- Micah King
- Dee Kirby
- Terry Moody
- Peter Murphy
- Adam Pallai
- Tom Purves
- Carol Schempp
- Justin Tintori
- Rob Tucker
- Markus Veile

Board Members Unable to Attend

- John Finnell
- Becky Hendricks
- Cynthia Lamar
- Larry Michaud
- Valerie Nester
- Lisa Wentworth

President King welcomed members of the association and guests to the meeting and introduced Mayor Buscher.

The highlights of the Mayor's presentation were:

- Neighborhood resource guide with QR codes for easy access to city services
- A new app "See-Click-Fix" is coming to further assist residents to highlight city service needs
- Recognized the meeting held with SLSIA representatives on key issues
- CWLP budget coming to council on Tuesday January 22 will include dredging proposal
- Water Rate increase request coming partially to cover mandated replacement of lead water lines
- Mandated sewer line replacement also costly - \$70mln just for NE side of town
- Lake 2 still progressing – key permit in review – 401 – Council will have to approve additional study work this spring
- Army Corp of Engineers will tour the site, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement posted for public comment
- Beach House vision including small amphitheater theme with upgraded bathrooms, patio, dock and food truck facilities
- Thanked Lake Springfield Marina folks and remarked on popularity of taco stand – wants to replicate that at Beach House
- Invited folks to see mockups of the potential Beach House at her office
- Looking at Park Service grants for possible funding
- Expressed continuing support for Deer Control IRAP program
- Discussed police presence on and around the lake – expect improvements as numbers grow
- Number of police down significantly – as numbers grow there will be more cops on lake
- Lake area sewer installation transferred to city Public Works department from CWLP and will continue

Councilman Chuck Redpath

- Three priorities for the lake: Infrastructure (Roads and Sewers), Security/Safety and Beach House Improvements

- Expressed support for dredging (particularly 19 critical coves) and for deer control programs
- Reinforced Mayor's comments CWLP budgeting and the need to build police numbers
- Discussed utilization of Department of Conservation
- Stressed alignment with Mayor and thanked her for her determination
- Thanked SLSIA – remarked that “it is one of the best HOAs in the City and this administration will always listen

Tammy Miller – Illinois Department of Natural Resources Retired IRAP Program Coordinator

- Deer Control program is progressing
- Need more areas and more hunters to reach target
- Last aerial survey (2021) counted 700 deer in the lake area
- Approximately 70 per year need to be removed by hunting
- Removals by the IRAP program – 2021 – 23, 2022 – 63, 2023 – 56 so herd is probably still growing
- Honeysuckle removal and trespasser control in hunting areas would help

Doug Brown – Chief Utility Engineer for CWLP spoke briefly and introduced Todd LaFountain

- Fence by coal ash ponds is temporary. Capping these ponds is much cheaper than removal
- Capping \$10mln - \$15mln vs \$200mln for removal of the ash
- When complete will be a green space, maybe solar panels, no fence
- Awaiting final permits from IEPA and EPA

Todd LaFountain – Water Division Manager for CWLP introduced a number of CWLP staff members present

- Lake Roads – 20 of 41 lanes repaved – continuing
- Sewers – transferred to Springfield Public Works – 70% coverage complete and continuing
- Buoy Replacement/Repositioning – replacing 50 per year and using GPS to return others to assigned locations
- Beach House/Bridgeview Park Rentals – promoting more rentals to use these assets
- Rental on Beach House is \$750/d or \$1300/weekend – still operating at a loss
- Taste and Odor – water sampling continuing – described 23 as “typical year”, working with UIS on watershed
- Saw presence of “Geosim” - Working with UIS to identify types of algae
- Lake 2 – moving slowly – \$29mln invested over the years, \$25mln of that for land purchases
- Lake 2 would provide 12bln gallons of water capacity and cost approximately \$125mln
- Dredging should start in spring 26 west of I-55. \$50mln is in budget for dredging.
- Fully dredging lake will cost around \$250mln and provide an extra 2bln gallons of capacity
- Will have to include silt control on inlets to avoid repeated dredging
- Friends of Sangamon Valley and other volunteer honeysuckle removal efforts would help
- Dan Brill can supply loppers and herbicide for homeowners to remove honeysuckle
- Lake Leases and Fees take in approximately \$590K per year about 10% of lake costs
- Lake was down to 558.40 ft but now back to “full winter pool” of 559. 60ft. Pumped water from river for awhile
- Lake security wrote 50 tickets, helped 80 boaters in distress and did 170 safety checks
- Question about landscapers blowing leaves into lake – Mayor Buscher is looking at amending city code to prevent
- Considers lake to be Springfield's No 1 asset and stressed his and his department's commitment to keep it so

Lake are Neighborhood Police Officer Joe Vose was unable to be present but his correct cell number is 217-588-1291

President King then recognized donations SLSIA had made for 2024:

- Lincoln Land Power Squadron – Scott Harmon thanked the organization and gave a brief overview of their efforts in boater education.
- SUSART – Jeff Mehan thanked the organization and described SUSART's mission and willingness to help in underwater needs on the lake
- Fishing Without Boundaries – Mary Ann _____ thanked the organization and briefly described the program and invited volunteers for the September 21, 2024 event.
- Also receiving donations were Lincoln Memorial Gardens and Henson-Robinson Zoo.

President King then turned to committee reports:

Treasurer – in Lisa Wentworth's absence, President King reported that the organization had income of \$13K in 2023 and expenses of \$11K. A full treasurers report will be presented at the next board meeting.

Lake Cleanup – John Brewer reported that the next lake cleanup will be on April 27 and invited volunteers

Lake Clubs – Adam Pallai gave an extensive report on the various club activities and made activity schedule/contact cards available and thanked SLSIA for help in printing.

- Charity event Chilli Cookoff Challenge – 3 lake club regions then finals. Will send winner to national challenge. Proceeds go to Cochlear Implant Foundation
- Fishing without Boundaries raised about \$3K - \$4K last year
- Events support the clubs too – bring in traffic on slow days
- Jan 27 – Junior Blues Hockey night - \$20 for game, pizza, snacks and beer – come one come all

Social Committee – Mary Pat Cavanagh discussed some of the past activities and asked the group for ideas

Scholarship Committee – Jim Corrigan reported that 3 \$1000 Scholarships had been granted:

- Mason Flatt – Chatham Glenwood
- Alexa Weinhoff – Chatham Glenwood
- Payton Heise – Springfield
- 12 applications were received from 4 schools in area (Spfld, Calvary Lutheran SHG Chatham and Rochester)
- No applicants this year from Rochester
- Funding of scholarships \$2000 from SLISA + \$1000 donation from Springfield Marina
- Motion to approve \$2000 from SLISA made by Peter Murphy and Seconded by Micah King – approved
- Jim also asked for someone to take over the Scholarship Committee from him and invited that person to work with him in 2024 to learn how it has been done

President King then recognized and thanked SLSIA Sponsors from 2023

- Susan Day - Exciting Windows By Susan
- Becky Hendricks - The Real Estate Group
- Scott Tucker and Joe Prola – Lake Springfield Marina
- Justin Tintori – Tintori Power Washing
- Ashley Coker – The Real Estate Group

President King then called on Marcus Veile substituting for Secretary Cindy Lamar to present the 2024 – 2026 class of board members for election:

- Becky Hendricks
- Dawn Keiser
- Cynthia Lamar
- Larry Michaud
- Terry Moody
- Peter Murphy
- Rob Tucker

A motion to elect these folks to the board was made by Dee Kirby, seconded by Mary Pat Cavanagh and approved unanimously.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM.

Submitted by: Tom Purves substituting for Secretary Cynthia Lamar