

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Board of Directors
Update to Tonka Bay City Council
November 22, 2016

June 8 – October 26, 2016

The Board approved Lindbo Landing's (Tonka Bay) request to reconfigure their 42 boat storage units utilizing the Qualified Commercial Marina Ordinance. The changes include 1) increasing the dock length to 200 feet; 2) converting 10 slides to slips; and 3) reconfiguring several slips to a uniform 32 feet.

The Board approved an update to the LMCD Bylaws written in 1967.

The Board approved the City of Deephaven's request to allow powerboats to use their District Mooring Area.

Hennepin County installed an emergency access dock on County-owned land near the Arcola Bridge.

A number of solar lights, provided by the Save the Lake Fund, were not working or had been vandalized. New lights were ordered and installed.

The Board approved a request from Jerry Martin, 10 Crabapple Lane, Tonka Bay, for a side setback and adjusted dock use area variance. The request is for 1) a 47.7 foot by four-foot long dock; 2) a northerly adjusted dock use area (up to 17 degrees); and 3) a proposed deck over the 929.4 foot shoreline. The City of Tonka Bay also would also need to approve the proposed deck. The approval was subject to the following conditions 1) restrict future use of a canopy; 2) all appropriate permits must be obtained; 3) submission of an as-built survey; and 4) filing of the variance with the County Recorder.

The Board approved a new Vision Statement: Lake Minnetonka is a highly valued year-round asset with vibrant aesthetic, recreational, commercial, and natural qualities. These qualities and values will be protected and preserved for future generations. Also, a new Mission Statement: The mission of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District is to preserve and enhance the "Lake Minnetonka experience." This is accomplished by providing leadership in protecting, improving, and managing lake use.

The Board approved an amendment to the ordinance regarding nuisances and liquor restrictions. The definition of loud noise was defined as 1) exceeds the levels established by the MPCA when measured from any property abutting the Lake; 2) unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, safety, or welfare of any person; or 3) unreasonably interferes with or precludes the use of enjoyment of property, or negatively affects property value. Quiet hours were set at 10:00 pm – 7:00 am, restricting plainly audible noise at a distance of 150 feet from shore. The definition of liquor was changed from beer to an alcoholic beverage.

In September the Board welcomed Vickie Schleuning as the new LMCD Executive Director. Ms. Schleuning has over 20 years of experience in local government.

The Board approved Howard's Point Marina's (Shorewood) request to reconfigure their dock under the Qualified Commercial Marina Ordinance. There is no change in the number of boat storage units (96).

The Board approved a request from the Caribbean Marina (Tonka Bay) for a second minimum wake buoy to be placed within their current setback area.

The Board approved a process to annually establish a Nominating Committee that would recommend a slate of candidates for the chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer positions. The process would include potential nominations “from the floor.”

The Board approved the law firm of Kennedy and Graven to assist with the recodification of the Code of Ordinances. The process will take up to a year to complete but will result in clearer, more understandable ordinances.

The Board approved draft Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW) for the City of Excelsior and Brown’s Bay Marina (Site 2, Orono). The City of Excelsior wishes to: 1) expand Piers 3, 4, and 5 within their “Commons” area to just under 200’ out from shore utilizing the Municipal Planned Unit ordinance; 2) add an estimated 30 additional boat storage units; and 3) congregate their transient watercraft storage to a specific area. Browns Bay Marina wishes to reconfigure their existing dock structures using the Qualified Commercial Marina ordinance. Once the EAWs are completed, the Board will finalize the EAW process.

The Board approved a code amendment regarding Section 2.015, “Reconfiguration of Non-Conforming Structures,” to allow the LMCD office to approve requests to replace the dock fingers between slips with dolphin poles to accommodate wider boats. The Board also asked the attorney to draft additional language that would allow greater flexibility for reconfiguration under this section based on lineal measurements of the slips.

The Board reviewed the status of the 2016 budget for General Administration, Aquatic Invasive Species, Equipment Replacement, and Save the Lake. There was discussion regarding use of staff time for Save the Lake activities and potential uses of the Save the Lake Reserve Fund. The Board will continue discussing this at future meetings.

Submitted by Gregg Thomas
November 16, 2016