**GLA ANNUAL MEETING Minutes**

Saturday, August 4, 2018

Lake Geneva Country Club

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME —President Goggin called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and thanked the attendees for their support. He welcomed invited speakers, members, and guests. Goggin reminded the membership of the Mission of the GLA, and noted that the function of the GLA is not to file lawsuits as some would have us do regarding the Symphony Bay project. As an association the GLA does not have ‘standing’ to file, but can assist individual property owners as we did in the Muck Suck lake path race last summer.

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 29, 2017 —A motion to approve the minutes was passed (Gardiner/Duncan).

TREASURER’S REPORT — Executive Secretary Smith reported another successful year. Membership support remains constant through the past several years. GLA has over 500 family members each year plus 60 or more commercial members who advertise in our annual Directory. GLA is able to provide support to several local organizations who petition us for grants and who do good works for our lakes area. These include the Water Safety Patrol, the Environmental Education Foundation, the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, and several others.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS —Nominating Committee Chairman Gee nominated the following, which were approved (Otzen/Gardiner):

EEF Directors for three-year terms ending in 2021: Jim Gee (2nd term), Colin Griffith (1st term), Melita Grunow (1st term), Carl Rathmann (2nd term), Bill Thompson (1st term).

GLA Directors with three-year terms to expire in 2021: Thomas Stuhley, Sally Jouris, Robert Klockars, James Gee, Mark Lillie, Frank Voris, Thomas Gardiner, David B. Williams, Patrick Kenny. Approved (Gee/Goggin).

Retiring EEF board members Doris Frentress and Don Phillip were thanked for their dedicated service.

Gee announced EEF Officers as Carl Rathmann, President; William Duncan, Vice President; Mike Hinske, Vice President; and James Smith, Secretary/Treasurer as elected by the EEF Board.

At the following meeting of the GLA Board of Directors, Gee will nominate the following officers: Jack Goggin, President; Mark Lillie, Vice President; Robin Randolph, Treasurer; Sally Jouris, Secretary; and James Smith, Executive Secretary.

EEF SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT PRESENTATIONS — EEF President Carl Rathmann announced that thanks to the generosity of the community along with a grant from the GLA, the EEF was able to award just under $45,000 in scholarships to a wide range of scholars to study environmental disciplines including graduating high school seniors, undergrads, and post grads including one finishing a PhD degree. We also awarded 12 Outdoor Education grants to twelve elementary schools in our area.

Tom Reynolds introduced the Thomas E. Reynolds Endowment Scholars, each of whom receives a $12,000 scholarship over four years. The endowment from the Reynolds family in 1980 fully funds the awards:

 Danielle Wrzesinski (freshman at Iowa State from Big Foot)

 Makalyn Peterson (sophomore at UW-Platteville from Big Foot)

 Casey Burmeister (junior at Geo. Wms. College from Badger)

 Moly Cocroft (senior at UW-Stevens Point from Badger)

Additional scholars present were:

 Natasha Trush (High School Senior Scholarship, UW-Stevens Point, Wms Bay)

 Rebecca White (High School Senior Scholarship, St. Olaf College, Badger)

 Brooke Berryman (Undergrad Scholarship, UW-Stevens Point, Big Foot)

 Joshua Kundert (Undergrad Scholarship, Carthage College, Badger)

 Hayden King (Cashman Graduate Scholarship, UI-Edwardsville)

PROGRAM SPEAKERS:

Dianna Colman spoke on behalf of the Yerkes Future Foundation (YFF) Committee and answered a number of questions from members and guests. The Foundation was formed in mid-April upon hearing the Univ. of Chicago planned to cease operations at Yerkes in October and that they would accept proposals from groups. YFF understood that UC desired to monetize part of the property. Upon its formation, YFF received tremendous support from scientists, astronomers, observatory managers and many others both near and far as well as support from local and state legislators.

On July 7, YFF presented a proposal to UC consisting of its vision for the property and asked for a response by July 23. YFF signed a non-disclosure agreement, so YFF could not and cannot disclose the details of its proposal. Letters of support attesting to the character of the members of YFF and the value of having the observatory preserved were sent to UC from a variety of influential people, nationally as well as from Representative Amy Loudenbeck. The YFF had to maintain an arms-length with local supporters, especially the Village of Williams Bay trustees. Colman described the meeting with UC as ‘lengthy, detailed, difficult, but ongoing.’

At this time YFF does not know if other proposals have been made to UC, and does not know where the YFF proposal stands with UC. UC’s decision-making group is very large and layered. After responding to many questions, Colman was applauded enthusiastically.

Representative Tyler August thanked the WSP and the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency for testifying on behalf of keeping the requirement of a spotter for skiers and like activities on Geneva Lake. Pankau and Officer Hausner were instrumental in convincing legislators of the importance of this requirement on Geneva Lake and other lakes where regular government patrolling takes place.

Representative Amy Loudenbeck reported that Geneva Lake is also allowed to keep local ordinances restricting the areas where jet ski hydro-planing can occur. Loudenbeck continues to fight for the right of Geneva Lake and others to manage their own business.

Loudenbeck continues to support employer/employee training opportunities via the six-year-old Wis. Fast Forward Program to help with skilled labor shortages in the state. The state is also using marketing to get talented past Wis. grads to return home to work in Wisconsin. In addition, Loudenbeck has sponsored legislation to provide training funds in high schools for EMT and fire-fighting training.

Senator Stephen Nass congratulated the scholars and noted that a state tuition freeze has saved students over $6,300 in increased educational costs. Property taxes have been held in check except where increased via local referendums. Nass praised republican legislators for increasing the rainy-day fund, providing more money for local roads and K-12 education. Loss of the senate to democrats will negate many positive republican advances, including the state uniformity clause which would hurt farmers. Republicans plan to hold the line on tax issues and provide funding for state roads.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol —Ted Pankau and Brigid Cashman spoke on issues affecting the WSP. The new state law rescinding the requirement to have a spotter for skiers, etc. will not affect the rule on Geneva Lake which retains the requirement via local ordinance allowed by the state.

Swimming lessons are very important, as many of the WSP rescues in recent years involve poor or non-swimmers. WSP provides extensive courses at very low prices, and adult courses are also available.

Members expressed concern over noise on the lake with music, jet skis and general engine noise. Pankau explained that enforcement by the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency has difficulty measuring violations suitably for prosecution.

WSP remains as an educational entity, informing boaters of the law, but not as enforcement.

Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy — President Harold Friestad touted two new programs at the conservancy, including a children’s tree nursery which involves over 500 students. Children are planting trees and seedlings for future use on various areas of the property. An educational program has started for 2-7 year-olds which is twice a week and free. Adult programs also exist. The conservancy operates completely on donated funds, and no government funds are given to the project. Friestad thanked all donors and volunteers and for the financial support from the GLA.

Geneva Lake Conservancy— Chairman Dennis Jordan reports great progress in preserving a number of properties, including: Hanson Preserve in Sugar Creek, a 77-acre area which is open to the public for hiking, fishing, etc.; Children’s Fishing Park next to Kishwauketoe in Williams Bay, which has fishing areas, walking paths, and small buildings for classes and story-telling; Oak Forest in Lake Delavan which protects oaks. The GLC Oak Recovery program which hopes to increase Oak trees back to their prevalence.

GLC is busy creating awareness of the invasive plant Lessor Celantine. GLC can help if you find it on or near your property. The GLC is also teamed up with Geneva Lake Environmental Agency to educate area residents and farmers of the detrimental effects of phosphorus runoff and to reduce the levels entering Geneva Lake.

GLC has received certified status as a Land Trust from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is part of the Land Trust Alliance.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency: Director Ted Peters thanked the GLA for its financial support enabling the agency to hire enthusiastic summer interns, which this year is past GLA scholar Valerie Jackson. The GLEA will conduct a near-shore fishery inventory to study changes which seem to be detrimental the fish habitat. The study will be designed so it can be compared to past studies (1978 and 2004). Results will be available in October.

The agency has been publishing in the LG Regional News the levels of e-coli in municipal beach areas. Levels remain good in all but one area.

GLEA will be working with GLC to study chlorides entering the lake.

This year has been tough for the lake, starting with the heavy rains in June which were unable to be absorbed by the ground and thus made their way with all the ground pollutants into the lake. The lake has not fully recovered yet.

GLEA hopes to do a study of the ‘red water’ entering the lake near Buttons Bay Beach and what may also be included in the run-off that diminishes the oxygen in these waters. This study will need more finding and preparation and may be a long-term study. Peters asked all homeowners in the watershed area to test the soil on their properties to see what best practices for fertilization can be used for the benefit of the lake. The University of Wisconsin does testing at reasonable prices.

Real Estate Market Trends —Bob Rauland, from Rauland Realty, highlighted real estate market trends especially those related to lakefront and lake access houses. Bob provided a hand out with current statistics and maps of Walworth County lakes. The handout, produced with help from Realtor Bob Webster, was available in the room, and copies are available from the Rauland office. The handout shows many examples of per foot lakefront values, starting in 1956 at $156 per foot, to 1985 at $2500, to 2018 at $25,000 per foot and even more depending on the structures on the property. The highest price for a residence on the lake was recently paid at $11 million plus. Area properties under $300,000 are selling ‘off the shelf.’ High-priced lakefront properties might spend 200 days on the market.

Town of Linn Fire Department: Assistant Chief Dan Pitt reported that the Linn Fire Boat was moved to Robinson Hillside to enable faster access from the Linn Fire House. Training for all lake area departments has been successful and improvements to the boats sonar capabilities are outstanding. The boat now works as part of the Walworth County Sheriff’s Department and is in radio communication with Water Safety Patrol units. A police department drone has been used successfully to complement the capabilities of the boat.

Geneva Lake Museum: Jim Gee reported a vibrant Geneva Lake Museum currently

Implementing all 20,000 square feet in superb exhibits, especially the Northwestern Military Academy exhibit which provided emotional responses at its unveiling. Membership has grown from 100 to 800 members in six years, and the museum expects to grow its endowment to $250,000 within two years. Ed Schwinn is president. Gee thanked the city of Lake Geneva for use of its rent-free facility.

President Goggin adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Smith

Executive Secretary