

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Scheduled Timing: 7pm-8:30 pm

Where: American Legion, Chanhassen

In Attendance: 35 community members in attendance, including board members John Tyler, Cheri Nehl, Michelle Rothwell, Brian Haugen, Erik Hansen, Breann Bundgaard, Cheryl Harjes, Dave Jackett, and guest speaker Josh Maxwell (RPBCWD)

Minutes

MLA Board Member Zach Fetzer called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Zach reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced the guest speaker.

1. Welcome
 - a. Board members introduced
2. MLA Background
 - a. Reviewed the purpose of the association and accomplishments over the years
3. Member Survey Results
 - a. There were 27 responses, with over 55% being from residents of over 10 years
 - b. Feedback of top priorities was similar to other years:
 - i. Invasive species mgmt
 - ii. Weed harvesting / treatment
 - iii. Government advocacy
 - c. Discussed how this feedback is used to determine board priorities
4. 2024 Year in Review
 - a. Objectives were aligned to last year's community feedback
 - b. Shared details of the community events that were held - lake cleanup, summer social
 - c. While progress has been made over the years to reduce highway noise, in 2024 a special initiative was taken to plant more trees along Highway 5. Zach also shared that there are no plans for at least 10 years to change the pavement of the highway to something less noisy
 - d. Over 3,200 fish have been released in past four years thanks to John Tyler's leadership and community donations
 - e. Reviewed lakeshore restoration projects - why they are important, funding opportunities, and a shoreline health evaluation resources from RPBCWD
 - i. Also outlined the partnership with Friends of EP Parks to remove buckthorn from Miller Park
 1. Next event is Sat Oct 19 - contact Jim Nehl for details
 - f. DNR Health Grade is C+, and Lake Health Score is slightly higher than average within our watershed
 - g. Reviewed that Mitchell Lake is classified as a shallow lake, and 95% of the area is littoral, meaning plants are naturally meant to grow in the lake
 - h. Ice out data showed the extremely early date of March 1, 2024 for this past year, and it was noted that this is a major contributor to the high amount of weed growth that was seen this Spring and Summer
 - i. Reviewed what was done this year to attempt to control the aquatic plants, including herbicide application, mechanical harvesting, and alum treatments

- j. Covered things that are being done to stop the spread of invasive species (plants and animals)
- k. Lake residents were encouraged to take the Lake Pledge (www.lakepledge.com), which is an educational initiative by Hennepin County. The MLA is able to gain grant money in the amount of \$5,000 if 60% of lakeshore homeowners were to take the Lake Pledge
- 5. Guest Speaker (Josh Maxwell - Water Resources Manager, RPBC Watershed District)
 - a. Josh mentioned he will be covering the slides from the City of Eden Prairie due to Lori Haak being out sick
 - b. Reviewed water quality data - phosphorous, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity. Overall grade = C
 - i. Chloride trend is going up, which is an area of concern as it can permanently affect aquatic life
 - 1. Some of the things that residents can do to help:
 - a. Shovel early and often
 - b. Sweep up extra and reuse
 - c. Educate others
 - c. Reviewed components of a healthy lake
 - d. Reviewed why native aquatic plants are essential to lake ecosystem
 - e. Showed littoral zone comparison between Mitchell Lake and Lake Riley
 - f. Reviewed CLP growth info and how 2024 was an ideal growth year for it, also other invasive plant species info
 - g. Showed mechanical harvesting map and discussed details of how routes are determined
 - h. Provided resources for shoreline restoration grants and rebates
- 6. Panel Discussion
 - a. Zach and Josh displayed questions submitted by residents and provided answers
- 7. Business Meeting
 - a. 2023 meeting minutes provided
 - b. Membership status shared - 67 current members, 29 recurring
 - c. Financial statement update - association slightly above break-even on income statement in 2024
 - d. John Tyler and Michelle Rothwell thanked for their service
 - e. Election:
 - i. 5 open board spots available
 - 1. By show of hands, unanimous decision to elect the following:
 - a. Erik Hansen
 - b. Brian Haugen
 - c. Mark Haugen
 - d. Mark Friesen
 - e. Jon Hanke
- 8. Photo Contest Winners (Scheels Gift Cards)
 - a. Paul Yahnke - 1st prize \$50
 - b. Brian Haugen - Runner up \$25

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Haugen, Vice President, MLA