

**Parks & Recreation**

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**PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

**POLK COUNTY LAKES ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Polk County Lakes Access Advisory Committee (LAAC) convened Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Conference Room, 4177 Ben Durrance Road, Bartow.

Members Present: Tom Palmer, Rachelle Coleman Selser, Roger Goeckel, Greg Watts, Chad Allison, Larry Johnson, Ronald Schelfo

Members Absent: Paul Thomas (with notice), Arlen Ledbetter (with notice), David Anderson (with notice)

Guest: N.A.

Parks and Natural Resources: Mike Callender, Tracy Mullins, and Brandy Gray

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

Rachelle Coleman Selser called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS**

Rachelle Selser welcomed and introduced new members Greg Watts and Chad Allison.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes: September 2019 meeting minutes.

Mover: Ron Schelfo

Secunder: Larry Johnson

Result: Approved unanimously (7-0)

**LAKE BELLE PROPERTY**

Minutes: Mike Callender received a call from a citizen requesting public access to Lake Belle using County property located on the lake. Property currently used for a drainage conveyance. Originally platted for development. We do not have a deed for the property. Can be mowed and people can access it for use with Jon Boats or kayaks. Staff brought to the committee for discussion about building a ramp for public access. Committee believes that the resources required to create and maintain a boat ramp for this size lake is not in the best interest of the County. Motion to not do anything at this time. Mike will respond to citizen.

Mover: Ron Schelfo

Secunder: Tom Palmer

Result: Approved unanimously (7-0)

## **LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Minutes: Tracy Mullins wrote a follow-up letter to John Bohde, Land Development Director, as requested by the LAAC in September. Tom Palmer spoke to Chandra Fredrick and John and was informed that the project had to go in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the Comprehensive Plan amendments for this year. Tracy explained that the Office of Economic Opportunity will make changes to the Comprehensive Plan as part of a twice a year cycle. As this missed the January deadline, the next opportunity to move this project is as part of the July submissions. Mike Callender tasked Tracy Mullins to meet with Land Development to get a draft of the wording that they may use if taken before the review committee. The Committee questioned paying for the application. Staff suggested the Committee not go that route. Staff will try to obtain a status update before the next two LAAC meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Minutes: Mike Callender asked the Committee their opinion on lighting public boat ramps. County has no set policy or guidelines on if, when, or where lights should be installed. Many locations are remote with high vandalism rate but it is costly to put in the infrastructure. Committee discussed pros and cons. Mike asked the committee to think about it between now and the next meeting. More specifically, think of criteria / guidelines to follow to determine if / when lighting should be installed.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Minutes: Mike Callender updated the committee on the projects below:

Lake Hancock - staff were pulled off the project to focus on other duties. Construction was supposed to be done by January 21st. Working on contract / annual bid for asphalt. Expecting to have something within 30 days. Kiosk is done but sign inserts awaiting SWFWMD wording

Dock issues and specifications have been cleared up. Staff will be ordering for Lake Hancock, Lake Conine (observation) and Lake Juliana. Also redoing fishing pier at Saddle Creek. Replacing with a floating dock. Quotes are going out now. Staff hope to get the dock installed at Lake Hancock before the boat ramp opening. Rachelle Selser questioned if a letter to Commissioners from the Lakes Access Committee recommending waiting to open the boat ramp until the dock is installed would be helpful. Mike Callender stated not at this time but we may discuss it again at a later date.

Lake Juliana - quotes going out now. Ordering for multiple projects. We order and install. Deliveries will be staggered to provide time for staff to complete each project between deliveries.

Lake Buffum - sand skink permit expired. Can only do testing within specific timeframe and permit only lasts for a set amount of time. Sand skink survey will be redone in May. If pass, design, engineering and permitting will be done this year, construction next year.

Lake Conine - the dock is funded using CBDG funds. Dock will have rails all the way around for observation purposes, not for launching canoes / kayaks.

**OTHER BUSINESS - Next Meeting - May 12, 2020**

Mike Callender provided a boat ramp listing. Stated that 8/44 boat ramps have security lights. Requested that boat ramp lighting go on the May agenda to discuss criteria for approving / denying requests for lighting.

**ADJOURMENT**

Minutes: Meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm

Mover: Tom Palmer

Secunder: Ron Schelfo

Result: Approved unanimously