

JUST A MINUTE

November 2024

H. O. A. Happenings

On Thursday, November 21, the Lake Ramsey Homeowners' Association Board met for their usual monthly meeting, and to install new members, as former members stepped down; about 20 or so homeowner/members were present.

Of the nine-member board, four had terms expiring, including Todd Meades, Paul Falgoust, Maria Baronich, and David Buccola (who resigned in May). Newly elected members included Lance Engolia, Nadia Johnson, Don Hotard, and Kathleen Crochet.

As the meeting began Bruce Sofge, Board President, announced that board member, John Gross, who was elected to the Board one year ago, had chosen to resign, and was not present. John handled our gate, he was always so good about letting members know what was happening with the gate. His service will be missed.

Additionally, after expressing some unhappiness with how things were going with the grass situation, the member survey, etc., Bruce announced he would be resigning as well, as soon as business was passed to the new board.

The neighborhood survey, submitted with our ballots at the October Annual Meeting, which had not been previously collated, was done that day by Charlotte King, assisted by several others. In summary, the most important conclusion was that 95% of those who responded were negatively affected by the lake grass, and wanted to see clear, decisive action taken to resolve the issue. Clearly, everyone's priority is resolving the grass situation; how to do that was the question.

As many only found out on Thursday, via the Lake Ramsey email group, just over a 1000 carp were recently placed in the lake. At the meeting we learned the details. [[10-24-24 HOA Special Mtg - Carp](#)] The carp were installed on November 8, at a cost of just over \$21,000. These carp were placed in the north lake, but will disperse on their own, and these carp are larger than earlier ones (12-14") to prevent the bass from eating them. There was much debate about how the lake grass has been handled. It has definitely been an expensive learning curve. Discussion of this hot topic ensued. Issues discussed included conflicting expert opinion, cost, timing, and even a neighbor who seems to be single-handedly trying to halt the installation of the carp. The Lake Committee, particularly Charlotte King, has done a lot of research, and has a report of the percentage of grass coverage, the types of grass growing, etc. She should be providing that when she issues the meeting minutes.

At this point, Bruce Sofge, left the meeting, handing it over to the newly elected board. With newly elected members, minus those who resigned, the end result is a seven member board. At this point, it seems it will remain at seven. The Board

then elected officers:

Lance Angola, President
Karen Doyle, Vice-President
Charlotte King, Secretary
Kathleen Crochet, Treasurer

The other three members are:

Dimy Cossich (Lake Committee)
Nadia Johnson
Don Hotard

Committee assignments would be addressed during the Board's executive session, after the open meeting, such as who will oversee the gate, street & drains, Architectural Control, etc. Hopefully we will receive that information shortly. Please note, non-board members are permitted to serve on committees. Contact one of the Board members should you wish to be considered.

The new President, Lance Angola made it clear that he represents the neighbors, the members. This was encouraging to hear. After having listened to the September meeting (via [Zoom](#)) I was disheartened to hear from two board members that they would be happy to exclude residents from their decisions and meetings. One board member said he "is not interested in surveying the residents," and that the monthly meetings are "Board Meetings," and residents don't have to be invited. He seemed pleased to have Zoom meetings, with no resident interaction permitted, the camera revealing only board members' feet. He liked that there was no yelling and shouting from residents, and they could get business done efficiently. At that same meeting another board member supported that opinion, saying the By-Laws say membership is only required to be invited to the annual meeting. Thankfully, both those board members are no longer on the board.

And so, wonderful Lake Ramsey neighbors, we begin a new HOA year.

Elizabeth Schallenberg, November 23, 2024