

Pretty Lake Conservation Club

July 6, 2021

Minutes

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm by President Scott Alexander

Prayer led by Chris Alexander

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present Board Members: Scott Alexander, Chris Alexander, Ken Hensch, Andy Scheidler, Natalie McLaughlin, Nancy Wetli, Gregg Wattier, Sue Mertz, Cary Fries, Beth Pusti.
Absent Board Members: Dan Martin, Robert Burns, Tom Tassler

Minutes, June 1, 2021: All board members had a chance to view the June 1, 2021 Minutes. Sue Mertz made a motion for approval. Second by Andy Scheidler, all approved. Beth Pusti told the Board earlier this Spring she would type up the changes to the PLCC Constitution and Bylaws which we voted on and approved last Fall. These changes were the addition of the PLCC Mission statement and an Amendment to the Bylaws that addressed Board Member votes by phone. This Amendment change was necessary to keep us in compliance when we can not meet in person as was the case during the pandemic. Denny Rorick passed away before he could finalize these changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Beth told the Board tonight that after further review she was not comfortable making these changes as this is a legal document and we had never added an amendment before. She wanted to make sure this was done correctly. Beth contacted Cynthia Rockwell and Judge Craig Bobay on the lake for advice. Judge Bobay had worked on the language of the Amendment and changes with Denny last summer and has graciously offered to add the changes as voted on last Fall. As soon as it is complete Beth will get new copies to all Board Members and Andy will add the updated Constitution and Bylaws to the website. Thank you to Cynthia and Craig for your expertise, and thank you Judge Bobay for offering to make these changes.

Treasurers Report: Our Treasurer, Sue Mertz handed out a financial report July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021. Bank balance on June 30, 2021 was \$48,840.97. Open projects not yet paid are the Aquatic weed control \$4,800.00, and the Outlet project roughly \$5,000.00. Dues currently collected for the year \$4,525.00 does not reflect additional donations for enhancements. The report shows for the one-year period we had income of \$40,313.10 with expenses of \$28,346.23. Ken Hensch made a motion to approve the Treasurers report with a second from Andy Scheidler. All approved.

Clubhouse Report: Natalie McLaughlin reported the three rentals in June all went well. There are five more rentals scheduled for the year.

Yoga classes with Amanda seem to be going well. She is happy to keep them outside as weather permits. Look for her signs along the walking path for more information.

The Painting class with Peggy Tassler was fun. Fifteen people took the class. Peggy was a very good instructor and I believe everyone went home happy with their Blue Herons and there was profit to the club of \$75.00.

Tennis net on the clubhouse grounds is getting worn out and in need of replacement. Someone (I'm sorry at this point I do not know the names) has graciously offered to replace the tennis net. We very much appreciate and accept this offer. When we have permission of the donating member, we will acknowledge their generous offer. In the meantime, a repair to the old net has been made and the courts are open for your tennis and pickleball games.

Tree damage from one of the many storms last month caused a very large section of tree branch to come down near the tennis court. For safety of players and club members it had to be brought to the ground and taken care of.

We would very much like to thank Scott Alexander, Tom Tassler, and Dick Pusti for spending a couple of very hot and humid days bringing the tree down, chopping it for firewood for our PLCC firepit, and removing all the debris. We very much appreciate all of your hard work!

Membership Report: Chris Alexander has been keeping track of the membership by Zones. She had a hand out for Board members which included the following information.

July 2021 PLCC Membership:

Paid Membership by Zones	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Totals
Total counted cottages	23	28	28	24	29	32	33	31	228
Paid cottages	16	9	18	21	24	15	25	29	157
Unpaid cottages	9	17	8	4	4	16	10	4	72

Currently we are at 69% paid membership (last year at this time we were at 74% paid membership)

Paid dues members 176

Dues dollars total \$4,400.00

Additional donations for lake/clubhouse enhancements total \$7,905.00

The PLCC could not maintain the clubhouse or provide enhancement projects to the lake without our members and their support. We greatly appreciate the folks who step in and help out whether it is volunteer efforts, participation in events, or through donating to make our community better for all.

- If you have not joined the Conservation Club yet as a member this year and would like to please contact our Treasurer, Sue Mertz or your Zone director and they will help you out. Sue Mertz- East side of lake, cottage 116, 260- 336-1119

Update on Outlet Project: A very wet spring summer is slightly delaying the start as we would like to keep repairs and damage to property owner to a minimum.

PLCC Merchandise Report: Nancy Wetli reported we should see a decent profit from merchandise sales. She projects we will have \$1,500.00 or more profit to the club. She has paid for the merchandise herself and is working on getting invoices from sales to Sue Mertz

for reimbursement. Nancy will sell remaining merchandise at the Cruise-In and Labor Day events.

Nancy also reported there are two Pretty Lake history books available for purchase at a cost of \$59.00 each.

Rain Garden: Dan Martin sent a written report that the plants are doing very well and the rain garden seems to be functioning as expected for flood maintenance. With all the rain we have had this season this is very good to know the rain garden is working as designed. Bruce Bowman who is helping to maintain the garden said there was a big gulley at the rain garden. Field stone/river rock will be needed as natural erosion occurs.

Natural erosion taking place in a new rain garden is expected.

Dan Martin has offered to donate the cost of delivery of rocks. Ken Hensch made a motion to approve up to \$300.00 for rock erosion control. Cary Fries second the motion. All approved.

Greg Wattier will also look into a neighbor who was having his rock seawall removed as a possible additional source of rocks to use.

Thank you to Dan, Bruce, Gregg and the team that looks after this rain garden project.

Another example of good people helping out.

New Board Member Recommendations: Sue Mertz has two people wanting to come on the Board for the 2022 season. Cathy Kantorak and Craig Bobay have both expressed interest in joining the Board. Cathy has long served the community as former clubhouse manager and on the Board of Directors. We welcome her return. Judge Bobay has been instrumental in behind-the-scenes legal advice. Craig and his family also organize and sponsor the Walk for the Lake event Labor Day weekend. Craig and Cathy will be a welcome addition to our Board of Directors.

Jo Bergstedt has been Welcoming new residents to the area for quite some time and is handing the reins of this important volunteer effort to Cathy Adelsperger who will take over. Thank you to both of these kind women for stepping up and making new neighbors feel welcome and be there to answer their questions. We have had quite a few new people become part of the lake community. If you are new to the lake, we put out a directory every 3 years. Please contact your zone director if you are open to your name and address being put into a newsletter to update directories since we are kind of in the middle of the 3-year cycle.

Dan Martin as a Board Member has been unable to attend meetings this year due to unforeseen obligations. He has kept abreast of the plans, events and projects as much as possible and would like to continue on the Board but understands if we need to replace him. We talked about it and will see what the interest is later this month as we nominate the new Board for 2022. We encourage anyone who wants to dedicate time and talent to maintaining and bettering our lake community to join the Board and hope Dan will be one of them.

Web Page: Andy has posted pictures of the Fourth of July events and will keep membership informed of changes or updates. Thank you, Andy.

General meeting: Coming up Saturday, July 17 at 9:00 am. Agenda Items will include reports from the Treasurer, Clubhouse, Merchandise, Upcoming events including the Cruise-In, Golf scramble and Rummage sales, and Walk for the Lake. Butch will update the membership on the e-coli and Deal Ditch. We will have a DNR officer available for questions. Rod Bergstedt will be available to talk about our weed control program. Jim Mertz can answer questions about the Outlet project. You must be a PLCC paid member to ask questions and we very much welcome new ideas on ways we can make improvements. There will be Board nominations for the 2022 Board of Directors in which we should have several openings.

Denny Rorick Memorial: Denny's wife Cecily will be holding a celebration of life to honor Denny this Saturday. PLCC Board Members will be on hand to help out in set up and take down as well as serving. Denny was not only our acting President when he passed but he gave many years of service to this community and this Conservation Club. We will miss his sense of humor and his dedication. Our hearts are with Cecily and her family.

Beth Pusti made a motion to allocate no more than \$100.00 for a memorial floral arrangement for the event from the PLCC club membership. Nancy Wetli second the motion. All approved.

Event Review:

Fish o Rama: Sue Mertz once again made memories with 38 kids who participated in the annual Fish O Rama. Sue had donations of \$500.00 worth of gifts from Dicks Sporting Goods, Dairy Queen, Meijer, Walmart, and McDonalds in LaGrange.

The list of winners from each age group are:

6 & under: 1st place Nora Sutler, 2nd place Jake Arnold, 3rd place Brandon Schwanz
Smallest fish – Maddox Deming

7-10 year: 1st place Adagann O'Connor, 2nd place Ella Hensch, 3rd place Cody Schwanz
Smallest fish – Owen Havens

11 – 15 years: 1st place Mannix O'Connor, 2nd place Ellie Peters, 3rd place Elise Truett
Smallest fish – Finniann O'Connor

Flares – PLCC purchased 20 cases of flares with 36 flares in each case at a cost of \$1,400.00. We have 1 case with a partial case of 34 left. As of the meeting zone directors still had money to return to Sue so there is not an exact count. The ring of fire was beautiful and a nice tribute to our Country and community.

Flotilla- A well-deserved nod to our Grand Marshall Laura Fries and her Family could be heard all around the Lake followed by Fun and innovative floats to celebrate the Holiday in style. We loved seeing all of the floats and participation but the top three prizes went to: 1st Place the Stemmler Family

2nd Place the Dawson Family

3rd Place the McLaughlin Family

One possible improvement for next year is awarding the prizes afterward at the public access seems to be confusing people. We talked at the meeting about next year giving the prize money and Flotilla awards Saturday evening at the Bingo/Root Beer Float event where everyone can congratulate all participants and the winning float families.

Bingo – Root Beer Floats: Weather was beautiful and the Lake was full of people many of whom came out to the traditional evening of Bingo & Root Beer floats. Between 180-200 folks attended. The 50/50 raffle brought in \$155.00, Root Beer floats brought in \$255.75 and one kind winner later returned their bingo winnings to the club of \$48.00. We made \$420.87 profit to the club after costs of \$73.00. There was literally no waste and nothing left. Make a note next year to increase ice cream and root beer for this holiday.

As Always, we thank all of the many volunteers throughout the events.

Update to Goose Round-Up: Sue Mertz reported the goose round up went well. 8 adults, and 27 babies have a new home in Mongo. Many residents have commented that they remember a time when the geese were a big problem. It's getting harder every year to obtain the permits so we are thankful to Sue for making sure we complied with the process and a big thank you to Doug Crawford for heading this event up, and his team of water wranglers in being able to corral and move this many geese.

August 7- Cruise-In: Ken Hensch is asking Board members to seek out Prizes for silent auction from area businesses. They need a variety of items to make the silent auction a success. They will have a Peoples Choice award in the form of a trophy. Steve Yahn, Bob Savage, Jack Landers, Scott Alexander and Mike Perry are all on board working the event. There will be a 50/50 raffle which was big last year and he will need 2 different colors of tickets. There is a sign-up sheet for donations of food, pop, water. Mike Perry is handling the parking. They need grillers, and people to help serve the food. Nancy will sell merchandise. If you can help or donate contact Ken.

Ken also wants us to think about scheduling for the future Cruise-In's as setting the event for the 1st Saturday in August every calendar year.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Ken Hensch: Brought up how nice the fireworks were along the east shore after the ring of Fire for the July 4th weekend. The fireworks were not a PLCC event but a bunch of neighbors who put donations together (Bobays, Crawfords, Mertz's and others who chipped in). Ken wanted to know if we could as a club do fireworks on the lake as a line-item donation on our dues sheet at the beginning of the year, earmarked donations for fireworks. After some discussion about liability with the club being responsible if we add it to our already packed July 4th weekend events list, we decided the liability is something we may not want to be part of. If other neighbors or sections of the lake want to take up donations and work together to create fireworks display that is fine.

Ken Hensch: Passed around an article and picture of a Wake Boat, also called a Moomba Boat which are being banned from some lakes because of erosion problems they cause. We need to be aware of these boats.

Some people are exceeding our 10mph speed limit. As a club we do not want to stop people from having fun with their families but people need to follow all safety regulations with life jackets and awareness. Residents need to remind family and guests of the 10mph speed limit and the lake rules. It is not up to the PLCC to enforce the rules.

- **Everyone has the right to call the DNR.**

Please make sure you are using non-phosphorus fertilizer on your lawns. Approved fertilizers for lake lawns will be posted in the next newsletter. If you pay a lawn care service to fertilize your lawn, ask what product they use and request a fertilizer that is approved for lake lawns.

Zone Directors should welcome new neighbors and let our greeter know when someone new has become part of the community. It would be nice to once a year welcome them in a newsletter.

Ken also thought Coffee mugs would be something to sell in merchandise. He said many years ago Pretty Lake had coffee mugs and some people still have them around.

Cary Fries: Thought it would be a good idea at the general meeting for the DNR to address basic boating rules. He witnessed some kayakers who had a near miss because they had no lights after dark.

Cary also pointed out the clubhouse could use another coffee machine. Running out of coffee at the Memorial Day breakfast was a problem and we have Labor Day approaching. If anyone has a large coffee machine to donate or knows of a good deal, please let us know.

Natalie McLaughlin: There is a reunion scheduled at the clubhouse September 18 and she will not be available in case they need anything. She would like someone to be on call to help out if needed. Since this is a couple months away, we will assign someone later on.

Chris Alexander: There is a comments section on the dues form and she wanted to know how to handle the comments or suggestions. Scott Alexander said that as a board we need to set aside time to review these comments and discuss them.

Chris wants us to look into equalizing Zones. Some have larger numbers than others. She also wanted feedback of the new Newsletter format. Everyone seems to like the new format. They are easy to read and attractive.

Sue Mertz: Thank you to Doug Crawford for organizing and heading up the Goose round-up. Thank you also to Todd Klopfenstein for the use of his truck to relocate the geese.

Sue also reminded the Board we are paying the lawn service to mow all the way to the corn field behind the arborvitae. The strip is not getting mowed to the corn field which is enabling the roots and tree regrowth. We increased the pay to cover this so we need to make sure it is being mowed to the cornfield.

Andy Scheidler: Something to talk about in the near future is a kitchen update for the

clubhouse. A dishwasher might make it easier to save money on silverware, cups, etc... for events. Someone pointed out that this would have to come with a plumbing update and a way to drain lines for the winter. Something to think about in future planning.

Andy Scheidler made a motion to adjourn. Chris Alexander second the motion.
All approved.