

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

October 14, 2008

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Brian Bosley, George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Walter Hope, and Terry Lent were also present.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen Gallagher made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 8, 2008 regular meeting with corrections. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion Approved)

Helen Gallagher made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2008 regular meeting as written. Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-3 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence:

- Cynthia Stevens entertained a motion to add “Hahlawah Preserve” and “Candlewood Watershed Initiative” to the agenda under “New Business”. Brian Bosley made the motion as presented. Walter Hope seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Public Comment: none

Old Business:

- Sandbar Analysis
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that a group of Ball Pond residents assisted Jim Mellett with the core sampling. Results are not yet complete.
 - Cynthia Stevens proposed that, when the results of the core sampling are in, the Committee should meet with Jim Mellett and then invite the Drainage Engineer from the State to look at the storm drains and review the core sampling results.

New Business:

- Lake management plan
 - In 2001, the Friends of Ball Pond paid for a report on storm water management by Land-Tech Consultants, Inc. Extra copies are available for review.
 - Cynthia Stevens proposed a Ball Pond Advisory Committee “field trip” (after meeting with Jim Mellett re: sandbar analysis) to give Committee members a good sense of what’s going on with the storm drains prior to meeting with the Drainage Engineer. Maps are available for Committee members to review. All present agreed to this “trip”.
- Water quality and weed studies

- Results of recent testing are consistent with those of the last test (i.e., Ball Pond is categorized as late mesotrophic/early eutrophic)
 - Cynthia Stevens reported that Tim Simpkins recommends that the water be tested for nutrient content monthly; that is not financially feasible
 - Discussion continued over the general condition of the Pond. Milfoil is down; native species like Coontail, naiad and elodea are more prevalent (shows diversity). Some concern was expressed over whether or not the carp will like these species.
- Carp permit application
 - George Buck reported that he received a permit to stock 75 (12" long) carp to be delivered on Wednesday, October 15th before dawn. He will notify the police and will meet the delivery truck.
 - Cynthia Stevens briefly reviewed the carp-stocking history (i.e., 411 in '97, 175 in '04, 70 in '06, 75 in '08) and the requirements for participation in this program (e.g., screen for the outlet, weed monitoring, water monitoring)
 - Cynthia Stevens will write an article for the Citizen News
- Geese control
 - Cynthia Stevens reviewed the process of oiling goose eggs. BPAC can register on-line in January. George Buck will pursue this.
- Copper sulfate vs. algae bloom
 - A Ball Pond resident reported that he believed that copper sulfate had been dumped into the Pond as evidenced by bright blue markings on shoreline rocks.
 - Cynthia Stevens alerted Tim Simpkins, who sent a sample out to be analyzed.
 - The blue markings were found to be caused by an algae bloom and therefore not a problem.
- Hahlawah Preserve
 - Discussion regarding cars parking and boats being stored on the Land Trust property.
 - Tom Marino (Boy Scouts) took a picture of cars and boats and Cynthia Stevens spoke with the police.
 - The Land Trust is open to the public, but Bill Mc Cann (President of the Land Trust) agreed we need a "No Parking of Vehicles or Boats" sign. It's not clear yet who will provide them.
 - Discussion about whether the property owners have deeded rights to park their boats or just "walkover rights". Terry Lent and Helen Gallagher will bring that question to the Land Trust meeting next week.
- Candlewood Watershed Initiative
 - Cynthia Stevens will be attending a meeting on 10/15/08 with representatives from the ad hoc group that she's been participating in and the State DEP as a follow up to the analysis performed by the Environmental Review Team. The ERT was asked to provide suggestions about what needs to be done in the Watershed in order to get it into good shape. Cynthia Stevens believes the focus will be on storm water management. She also believes that the DEP will offer guidance to groups including the Ball Pond Advisory Committee to help them prioritize their needs.
 - Cynthia Stevens reported on the free soil testing program that was conducted recently. 200 samples were analyzed from 115 property owners. Eighteen people offered to help with this program in the future. Cynthia Stevens believes that recommendations will be sent to property

owners with the results of their tests but does not believe that there will be any mandates to make changes.

- Cynthia Stevens asked the Committee if she could officially represent the Ball Pond Advisory Committee in discussions related to the Candlewood Watershed Initiative (vs. acting only as a private citizen). All approved with the request that Cynthia Stevens continue to report back to the Committee to keep members informed.

- Other
 - On Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., a meeting is planned at the Town Beach with some representatives from the Town and Ball Pond residents to discuss the condition of the Beach and the best course of action for the future. All are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room (one week later than usual due to Veterans' Day).
- Terry Lent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.; Brian Bosley seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary