

Ball Pond Advisory Committee  
Special Monthly Meeting (*Virtual*)  
September 8, 2020 **Rescheduled from September 1, 2020**

7 PM  
Minutes

In attendance: Jim Mellett, Mark Spellmann, Elissa Johnson, Pete Viola, Julian Laemmerhirt (Chair).  
Absent: Monica Santos and George Buck

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**Call the Meeting to Order**

- Julian called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

**Approval of Minutes from August 11**

- Pete Viola made a motion to accept the Minutes from August 11, 2020
- Mark Spellmann seconded the motion

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion passed unanimously)**

**Public Comment**

- None

**Correspondence**

- The budget, as of July 29, 2020 had \$7000 in it. There is \$2800 earmarked for water testing, and \$1170.50 for water testing equipment
- BPAC received an invoice for \$310 from HydroTechnologies (H23018) dated June 10, 2020

**NEW ITEMS:**

- **Carp Status**
  - a. Mark reviewed the attrition rate of the carp. BPAC used a 15% attrition rate. Based on that rate there would be 215 carp in Ball Pond (184 feeding carp). Mark excludes older fish from 2004-2008.
  - b. Mark has attended some meetings with Limnologists tracking the 50 sonar-tagged carp in Candlewood Lake. Based on their findings, Mark believes the attrition rate should be lowered to 10%. That would mean there are 331 carp in Ball Pond (262 feeding). Mark believes this could partially explain the lack of weeds.
  - c. Mark reminded the committee that no carp have been stocked since 2016, but there were a lot added in 2015.
  - d. Mark has not seen any signs of carp distress from the lack of weeds (they will go up onto people's lawns for grass).
  - e. Mark zeros out carp at 20 years (which is their lifespan) in his "carpulator".
  - f. Mark said there seems to be a catfish population now.
  - g. Elissa said it would be nice to have research students tag and track the carp in Ball Pond.

- **New mailing**
  - a. Mark said Friends of Ball Pond is planning to do an educational postcard mailing called “Don’t Fertilize Ball Pond” focused on phosphorous. He suggested BPAC help with the mailing costs to the homes within Ball Pond’s watershed since there is money available in the budget for educational materials. Friends of Ball Pond designed a draft, which Mark shared with the committee by email. (Note: postcards are less expensive to mail and have a lower “fail to open rate”. They can also be very colorful).
  - b. Mark estimated the cost to mail at \$1000.
  - c. Committee members felt it was a good use of funds.
- Pete made a motion to allocate \$1000 for the Friends of Ball Pond educational postcard mailing.
- Elissa seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion passed unanimously)**

**OLD ITEMS:**

- **Boat for BPAC**
  - a. Julian had visited the abandoned boats and they were claimed by their owners.
  - b. Julian and Mark discussed acquiring a 10’ Jon boat which could easily be put on a car roof and was large enough for two people.
  - c. Julian found used 10’ Jon boats for \$300.
  - d. Mark found new 10’ Jon boats for \$800, plus oars for \$150.
  - e. The committee decided a new Jon boat would be better than a questionable used one.
- Mark made a motion to allocate \$1200 for a Jon boat, oars and two life jackets.
- Elissa offered to donate an anchor.
- Pete seconded the motion.
- Julian will send out an email after researching costs before buying.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion passed unanimously)**

- **Status of water-testing equipment**
  - a. Julian said it was ordered and should be here soon.
  - b. The next water sampling is scheduled for September 16.
  - c. Julian may be able to borrow a boat from a relative or from committee member George Buck.
- **Removal of yellow irises and pink water lilies**
  - a. Elissa is concerned about yellow irises which are classified as an emergent invasive.
  - b. Elissa spotted some them by the brook, by Hahlawah preserve and along some private properties.
  - c. You cannot just cut them back. They have to be pulled out by the rhizomes.
  - d. She wants to make sure they are addressed early in the spring.

- e. She was going to see if she could identify some now by the brook (once they lose their flowers they look like non-invasive plants). If she sees some, Pete offered to help her pull them out.
  - f. Mark said he has some on his property, but they are never in the water, even if the water level is high. If a company was hired to pull them, they cannot go up onto private landowners' properties. They can only address what is in the water.
  - g. Mark suggested using BPAC's new boat in the spring when they are in bloom to spot them, discuss with the individual property owners and possibly offer help to remove them.
- **Donation**
    - a. Jim Mellett had offered to donate \$100 towards the water sampling equipment at the last meeting. He will check with the town on how to do that.
  - **Ball Pond Beach planting**
    - a. Jim and Pete planted a demonstration plot of grass seed with clover at the Ball Pond beach. Jim has been watering. There should be some growth in a couple of weeks.
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#### **Adjournment**

- Mark made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm
- Jim seconded his motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion passed unanimously)**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Arasim*

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Recording Secretary