

Minutes
Fish and Royer Lakes Association
Board Meeting
Sept. 18, 2010
Maplewood Nature Center

Present: Joe Albergo, Pam Deetz, Marshall Doig, Norine Doig, Joy Grose, John Grose, Betty Hemlinger, TJ Hemlinger, Carol Massat, Helmuth Massat

1. Minutes of the August 14 2010 General Meeting were amended and approved as amended.
2. The Treasurer's report was made by Norine Doig and accepted. Our balance is \$4,490.52. There were five donations in the amount of \$105. Six dues were paid, in the amount of \$120. The photo raffle brought in \$50.00. Scrubbers sold at the meeting brought in \$18.00. The 50/50 drawing yielded \$254.00. Disbursement of \$150 was made to Jeremy Meadin. Twenty five pictures have been sold as of July 2010. One hundred and nine lake residents have paid dues to the association.
3. Dave Arrington ordered the largemouth bass. The association will reimburse him when we receive the bill. Thanks, Dave!
4. Pam Deetz collected about 30 recipes from the picnic. We will be asking for more recipes in order to make a cookbook for sale. Cookbooks will be sold throughout the community and possibly through the internet to generate revenue for the lakes.
5. Pam Deetz also proposed a lake home tour. Residents of homes large and small will be asked to participate in a home tour. For \$5.00 people could make a tour of lake homes on both lakes. It was discussed that pontoon boats could ferry ticket holders from house to house. Both large and small homes are of interest for such a tour. Such a home tour could be advertised to the larger community and funds generated for the association from a larger group than just lake residents.
6. Norine Doig has created a list of current home owners and prepared a master copy of the directory to be submitted to the publisher. Residents are asked to call or email in any corrections to the listings in the directory.
7. A Casino Night fund raiser was also discussed, to be held at the Moose Lodge on 20. Randy (Dice) Deetz has volunteered to deal blackjack. The Massats could assist with games that require no skills. Joe Albergo will investigate this idea, which would be open to the community.
8. Betty Hemlinger shared a legend that many slot machines are at the bottom of Royer Lake, where they were dumped after being seized due to illegal gambling. Board members do not know if the machines were emptied prior to being dumped.
9. The next newsletter was planned.
10. Norine Doig generated a list of all property owners. Those who have paid dues will have their names identified with an asterisk in the new directory.

11. John and Joy Grose did some research on the property on Royer Lake that is being marketed for development. The land was previously owned by Art Enyart who deeded the land to his wife's son, Michael Thomas, in 2006. When a problem occurred with the land in the past, neighbors called Mr. Enyart who put a stop to the problem. However, regrettably, Mr. Enyart is ill and is unable to help at this point. All good wishes are extended to Mr. Enyart for good health. Currently the land is owned by Michael and Pauline Thomas of 1940 S. 500 E., Lagrange, IN 46761. The property being listed for sale for development is located at 1960 S. 500 E, Lagrange, Bloomfield township. The parcel ID is 44-07-35-400-032.000-001. The Thomas' own 26 acres, of which 5 acres is being sold, including 1350 feet of Royer Lake lakefront. The realtor is Cynthia Hostetler of Real Living, Homes and Beyond Realty. Her phone number is 260-463-2881, Ext. 115. Her fax number is 260463-7051. All of the east side of the lake is forested wetland, according to the Wetlands Inventory Map done by the Department of the Interior. According to Neil Ledet of the DNR, the shore is the responsibility of the DNR. Land close to and affecting the lake and wetland are the responsibility of the Army Corps of Engineers. The person to contact is John Ritchie of the Army Corps of Engineers, located in South Bend. Currently the land is zoned agricultural, meaning that only one house per five acres is permitted. It was noted that the property does include high ground that is buildable
12. Members of the association have been expressing concern about sounds of logging on this property, and about the fact that the land is being marketed for development.
13. The board is concerned about the water quality and preservation of wetlands. If a purchaser is found for this property and builds on the legally buildable land, that is not a concern of the association. However, many residents are concerned about potential damage to the lake, to the lake environment, to protected wetland and to property values if the wetland area is not protected.
14. Because of these concerns, a motion was made and approved to send a letter with all of the above information to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding an investigation and monitoring of any possible impact on the wetlands or the lake. Such an investigation was undertaken a number of years ago and, at that time, neighbors were instructed to call the Army Corps of Engineers immediately if even one tree was felled.
15. It was noted that there are some tax benefits available to the owners of wetlands property. There is a state program that, if one is enrolled, reduce property taxes to \$1.00 per acre, if one is the owner of protected wetlands. However, if one drops out the program, full back taxes for the previous ten years are due to the state.
16. It was also noted that income tax benefits can be derived from the charitable donation of wetland property to the Lagrange Park District, for example.
17. Carol Massat will call John Ritchie and will send the letter from the association.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Massat