

**LAKES OF BLISS WOODS  
HOMEOWNERS MEETING  
OCTOBER 29, 2018**

**Attendees:** Bonnie Johnson, Derek Chimenti, Mark Smith, Chris Steenwyk

Meeting called to order by Chris Steenwyk.

**Board Elections**

Kevin Szo from Nemanich was here to assist with the elections. There are two positions currently available. Derek Chimenti is the only candidate on the ballot. Enough proxies were collected to hold elections and because there is only one candidate a vote will be done by raising of hands. It was unanimous, and Derek was voted back in for a two-year term. The Board will decide what to do with the empty seat on the Board.

**Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes made by Chris and seconded by Bonnie.

**Treasurer's Report**

\$ 40,261.59 Checking  
    82,551.01 Savings  
\$122,812.60 Total

Motion to approve the treasurer's report made by Mark and seconded by Chris.

**Architectural Review**

927 Spruce – Tree  
621 Hickory – Gable End Pendants  
619 Hickory – Garage Doors

**Landscape & Maintenance**

The drainage was installed at Bliss Park and seems to be working properly. Two trees behind the Graceffa's and one at Cardinal Park were removed. Only one tree was replaced behind Graceffa's.

We have a contract with Rollins for treatment of our ponds and waterfall. We have not been as happy with their work over this past year and have requested bids to look at other options. We received two bids from companies from Elburn. They are McCloud Aquatics and MB Marine Biochemists. Derek spoke with McCloud Aquatics and was impressed with their passion to keep the ponds clean and healthy. He doesn't generally like to go with the cheapest bid but in this case, McCloud would be his recommendation. Our ponds are at the 20-year mark and it's time to start thinking about dredging. It appears that there is a new approach to this called bio-dredging, which is less expensive. Kevin asked us to remember that there is a charge for floating pond weed

and free-floating plant applications, which is not in our current contract. This can get pricey.

Comments & Questions – Is our contract up with Rollins? (Yes. It was a one-year contract.) What happens if we start the bio-dredging with McCloud but don't extend our contract with them? (Whoever we chose to take their place would pick up where they left off.) Are we going to add cattails to the ponds again? (No. We will leave it as it is, but it will be more controlled.) Fall is a good time to look at the cattails. Natural growth around the ponds is our filter for any lawn chemicals that are used so that they don't run into the ponds. Around the waterfall, can you make sure it is less than a ten-foot perimeter? (Yes.) Muskrat's like to chew at the cattails, which is what caused the drains to clog the last time. This has been mentioned to McCloud. It is our intention to keep the ten-foot perimeter around the ponds and have any unnecessary trees removed around the pond perimeters. We do not do controlled burns like most areas of natural prairie do. It is something we will consider though. How has it been with the geese since the cattails were taken down? (Horrible. There are geese in yards all the time.) If we do a burn, we need to be careful of the drain covers because they are plastic. (This has not been proposed yet. It's just being considered.)

We have had to hire a new muskrat trapper. Apparently, the gentlemen who was helping the trapper was fishing in our ponds and was a bit scary looking. They also were not setting traps correctly or coming back to check them. The new trapper, Smithereen, would prefer to start trapping in the spring.

The waterfall pump has burned out which is why the waterfall has been off. Unfortunately, the pump was about 20 years old and they do not make the model anymore. We have received one formal quote and are trying to get at least two more. The current quote is for \$25,672. We asked Ed Beaulieu if this was a fair price and he agreed that it was. This price includes the pump and installation. We have set aside \$3,000 in the new budget for this, which we know will not be enough. We will use what is needed from our reserves so that we do not have to increase dues. We chose to wait until spring to replace the pump since we are so close to winterizing the waterfall.

Comments & Questions – What kind of warranty will the new pump have? (We don't know but will ask.) They have to pull the existing pump out to determine what to replace it with? (Yes.) Did Ed have any recommendations of who to use? (No.) Could we go back and see what the initial warranty was for comparison? (We can have Nemanich investigate this. We have not had good luck getting information from Inland.) The waterfall hasn't been winterized yet? (No. They did power wash it though.) Are we still going to remove the muck from the smaller waterfall? (We will look into this.) The bubbler hole is still open. (We will have Kevin make sure that whoever winterizes it covers it.)

It doesn't look like anything has been paid for grub control. Kevin will investigate this to see if it was done.

Motion by Chris and seconded by Derek to switch to McCloud Aquatics for our ponds and waterfall.

### **2019 Budget**

Motion by Chris and second by Bonnie to approve the 2019 budget.

### **New Business**

Thank you to Pat for her work with the annual picnic. This was her last year, as she is stepping down from this position. If you are interested in taking this on, please let the Board know.

Christmas decorations will be going up after Thanksgiving. We are using the same company as last year.

### **Homeowner Questions & Concerns**

Who trims the crab trees? (Alan does if we tell them to.) When will the pond tree culling be done? (Kevin will investigate this and let us know.) The circuit breaker that we were having problems with at the main entrance goes to the light that shines on the LOBW sign. We need to get this fixed before the Christmas lights go up. There will be one problem that will need to be addressed when the breaker is fixed. The light that shines on the sign will shine into the home by the waterfall. If some additional grasses were added behind the sign, that would probably take care of any issues. (We will talk to John Elleby about the breaker and we can add grasses behind the sign.) Could we add our website address to correspondence that goes out to homeowners from Nemanich? (Yes, we can.) What do the covenants say about political signs/decorations in yards? (Nothing. We even contacted our attorney and he said the same thing. There is nothing we can do.)

There is concern in the neighborhood with the recent break ins. There are things that we could do to help educate our neighborhood on what's happening around us. There is an app called "neighbors" that allows you to see what others around you post about what's happening in their neighborhoods. It would be nice to have Nemanich send something out to homeowners to keep them informed. (Chris typically sends out an email blast if she hears about something that's happened.) What about a neighborhood watch program? (We have not discussed this, but we are open to suggestions.) These are good ideas, but we still ask that if you see something please call the police.

There are several street lights that are not working properly in the subdivision. (You need to report this to the VOSG.) The new garbage company trucks are leaking oil everywhere. We did contact the Village, but they are not answering calls. How is police staffing? (There are currently two patrols on each night.) Are there any community blasts from the VOSG that shares information? (Not that we are aware of.) Who takes care of the flags in our subdivision? (The Board.)

Motion to adjourn made by Chris and seconded by Derek at 8:16 p.m.