

Loni Beach Residents Association (LBRA)
2010 Annual General Meeting
July 17, 2010
Minutes

The AGM of the Loni Beach Residents Association was held on Saturday, July 17, 2010 at 10:30 am at New Horizons, Gimli. There were approximately 60 members in attendance.

Leanne Squair, President, welcomed members, and outlined the agenda. She encouraged members to participate in the LBRA. Leanne noted that Al Kristofferson of the LWRA would make a brief presentation at the meeting.

Leanne introduced executive members who were present.

Joan McConnell read the minutes from the 2009 AGM, which were accepted by the members.

President's Report:

Leanne spoke about the impending sewer installation. She encouraged members to direct any questions to the RM, and to ask the contractors about individual concerns. She provided the contractor's phone number 1-204-482-5031 – Buus Construction in Selkirk.

Leanne noted that there is a new manager of public works in the RM who seems responsive. She invited members to address specific concerns to her and she would pass them on to the new manager. Drainage continues to be an issue. The bridge over 231 had been repaired, some signage replaced, along with traffic signs, street signs and the public notice board. A request has been made to upgrade the tennis courts, along with some playground improvements. Bins have been added for waste collection.

Leanne reported that communication was a priority for the LBRA. She encouraged members to use the LBRA and RM websites.

Treasurer's Report:

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the LBRA had approximately \$2600, and are now at \$2710. Money would be used to improve aesthetics and functions, as well as making our annual donation to the LWRC.

Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC)

Dr. Kristofferson thanked the LBRA for their continued support. He explained that the donations had been used for educational purposes – over 400 students have been taken out on the Namao to see what has been and what has to be done.

He noted that their work is twofold: making more people aware of the serious environmental problem of the lake, and making sure that the nature of the problem is understood. He said it was important for us all to know, so that they can participate in helping with the solution. He emphatically declared that the lake was neither dead nor unhealthy! Fish coming from the lake are good to eat, and abundant.

Dr. Kristofferson explained that the algae in the lake is good, in moderation, but the algae blooms in the North Basin are problematic in that the algae sinks and decomposes, then uses oxygen, which deprives smaller fish, who die and cause a problem with the food chain in the lake.

He noted that the drainage basin of Lake Winnipeg is huge, covering the US and Canada, so the effects on the lake come from a large area. He noted that nutrient loading has been reduced and now it is time to work on the sewage that comes from cottages, the drainage basin, agriculture, etc.

He spoke about the research ship – the Namao, which does a complete study of the lake 3 times a year. Using the data collected, models for improvements will, and are, being made.

The endeavours are very costly, and the LWRC needs more funding. Not because of poor money management, but because donations are not keeping pace with costs. They are actively seeking an endowment, and perpetual funding from various levels of government, similar to the funding of the Boreal Forest projects. He encouraged members of the LBRA to lobby for this.

Dr. Kristofferson entertained questions about algae collection, the contributions of the hog industry, personal affects on the health of the lake, the effect of nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the lake.

He noted that the Lake Winnipeg Foundation advocates for the lake, where the LWRC does not, but the LWRC does receive funds from the Foundation.

The President thanked Dr. Kristofferson for his informative presentation.

Rural Speed Watch

Lisa Squair was asked by a member to present information about this program. The LBRA could make a request to MPI for speed watch equipment. Two volunteers are needed to do this. The equipment is lent to the LBRA for two weeks. A sign is placed in a safe location, indicating the speed that the vehicle is travelling as well as the speed limit. Reports are generated and forwarded to MPI.

Lisa asked for volunteers. Lisa explained that there is no liability – the volunteer would man the radar guns for a two week period. Glen Brooks, LBRA member and RM councillor, thought this would be a good way to collect data for the RM. Stop signs were also discussed. Paul (?) volunteered to do this.

Trash or Treasure Day

Dorothy Goldberg Memorial Trash Event

Salin Guttormson announced that Trash or Treasure Weekend would happen the following weekend, and she encouraged all residents to recycle unneeded cottage or household objects. She also noted that items not picked up could be donated elsewhere, such as the Evergreen Basic Needs Store or the Gimli Animal Shelter (towels, blankets)

The Dorothy Goldberg Competition has been turned into a decorative event. During the Islendingadagurinn weekend. No judging, just participation.

Salin also invited members to her garage sale on Sunday.

Election of Officers:

Leanne noted that the Executive deals with matters of signage and road issues; community events like Trash & Treasure and the Dorothy Goldberg community beautification; community environment; a float in the parade; Lake matters and that it represents both permanent and seasonal residents.

Leanne moved that the current Executive members Leanne Squair, Joan McConnell, Kathy Squair, Lisa Squair, Jeff Modjeski, Pat Dorman, Ken Zulyniak, and Ron Hahlweg, Sheilah Redekop continue in their positions, and as there were no nominations from the floor, the motion was carried.

Report from RM Councillor:

Glen Brooks brought greetings from the RM. He outlined various issues and concerns.

The weather has caused many problems this year – overland flooding being a major one.

Excessive water impacts Public Works. Glen noted that from Fraserwood to Gimli there is an 88 foot drop, so if Fraserwood gets 2 –3 inches of rain the water makes its way to Gimli the next day. The high water table has affected sewers. The Water Management Committee of the RM plans to deal with water issues from the lake back to Highway #8, but there is a lack of funding for these problems.

He noted that Loni Beach needs a proper survey, which will be done after the sewer and roads are installed, and then hopefully some attention can be paid to drainage/water issues.

Glen commented on the sad news of Joanne King's (RM COA) son's death in an accident. The tragedy affected the whole RM. At that time, temporary help had been found, and Ms King is returning to work gradually.

Glen reported that the RM does not have a license to use any pesticides for weed control. There are some natural products used. Any larviciding done by the Province is with biological friendly products. Glen suggested that residents put biodegradable dish soap in any standing water for mosquito control, although there are no regulations to prohibit personal spraying.

The RM does have bylaws that govern ATV use, but Glen noted that it is difficult to enforce these. ATV users have formed a club and the RM is working with them to provide approved trails.

Water rates have not been reviewed for 10 years. Currently, funds for repairs are on tax bills, but in the future, the RM hopes that the Public Utility Board (PUB) will approve rate adjustments.

Glen invited residents to an open house the following weekend, about the proposed Wellness Centre. Funding proposals will be presented as well as plans.

The new skate park was now open. It was financed privately, with some start up funds from the RM.

Glen noted that as he was not seeking re-election as RM councillor, he hoped to have more time next year to do a Loni Beach float.

Glen said that he had no more information than anyone else about the sewer. He did think the connection fee of \$2500 was high, and he encouraged the LBRA to act as a clearing house for any group rates. He noted that a \$100 permit was required.

Glen answered questions from members:

? Connection to septic tank? No, septic tanks and fields are to be decommissioned. The cost was previously discussed - about \$2500.

? Option for owners to tap into existing pipes? Probably.

? Why different size pipes? 4" is standard, 6" is more commercial installations.

? Didn't the original proposal indicate that up to 30' would be covered in the cost? Costs went up too much; the RM is going to pay for pipe; we are at the limit of borrowing.

? Mandate hookup? Not for vacant lot.

? What happens if you don't hook up? The hookup must be done - residents cannot opt out.

? Jeff Modjeski asked about arranging own contractors. Permitted, but a permit must be obtained, and work must be inspected. Resident still pays cost from property line.

? Where will lift station be? By playground.

? What to do if problems occur but aren't discovered until the spring? Call the RM, Brooks assumed. Advised to get water backup valves.

? In the communiqué from the RM, it is noted that the contractor will go door to door to answer questions. What happens if a resident is not there to answer questions? Brooks said he would look into it.

? What is the installation plan? The lift station will be installed first. Next is the main pipe out west to connect to the RM's main line; after that, the main lines are installed, then the side lines, then the connections to individual properties.

? Where are the pipe lines to go - on the side of the road? Brooks said that was what was on the plan but he is not sure.

? Will roads in Loni Beach be disrupted in the summer? Brooks said that only the lift station would be done in the summer.

? Jeff Modjeski asked about a seasonal rate. Brooks said that the PUB ordered the RM to go with one rate. There would be a meeting in October to discuss a seasonal rate. Jeff felt that seasonal owners overpay - pay full taxes and school board taxes. Brooks suggested that water meters be installed.

? Why was the children's playground chosen for the lift station? Because it is central, and the RM owns it. Brooks assured residents that they probably won't know it is there - he hoped that was the case, since his house is near there too.

? Utilities meeting? Brooks noted that there was an error in interim costs, and if enough members attended the meeting, we could fight to correct this error. However, Brooks felt that there would be an increase regardless. He noted that that sewer rate would be based on the water the residents put into the system, so he suggested that heated facilities put in water valves. The rates were based on using Pelican Beach as an example.

? Artesian wells to be capped? A member felt that traffic is increased by people coming in to get water from these. Brooks noted that there is only one well remaining - the other was capped to avoid reverses.

? Most people have wells - why would water valves be needed? Brooks noted that the rate is determined by the water that goes into the sewer system, and that is what would be monitored.

? Timeframe? Brooks said that the RM hoped to have it in by the end of summer.

? Jeff Modjeski asked when realistically residents would have to pay? Brooks noted 90 days after it goes in, but when that date is not known, can't say. Gary Bunio agreed, and does not think that the final completion will be as scheduled. Brooks reminded residents that it is probably better to arrange funding through a bank than through the RM tax bill.

? Terminology - what is punching and trenching? Gary Bunio answered. Punching is where a machine pushes a line underground, under the cottage, to the point of hookup. Trenching is where a trench is dug with a backhoe. Trenching is probably cheaper.

? Where can more information be found? The phone number is on the notice - 642-1412. The costs of pushing are noted, but not the cost of trenching.

As there were no more questions, the President thanked Glen Brooks for his participation. She urged members to check the LBRA website for information also. She thanked all residents who attended.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm

The President noted that the LBRA executive, on behalf of the LBRA will make two donations: one to the LWRC (\$500) and one to the Evan King memorial scholarship (\$200).

2010 - 2011 Lone Beach Executive

Leanne Squair	President
Joan McConnell	Secretary
Pat Dorman	Member at Large
Lisa Squair	Past President
Kathy Squair	Treasurer
Jeff Modjewski	Member at Large
Ken Zulyniak	Member at Large
Sheilah Redekop	Member at Large
Ron Hahlweg	Member at Large
Brennan Childs	Webmaster

THANK YOU TO ALL THE LONI BEACH VOLUNTEERS. YOU HAVE MADE YOUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE.