

FOREST COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LAKES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Crandon Public Library
Friday, November 10, 2023

Call to Order: 9:32 am by Vice President Greg Schmitz who declared a quorum.

Board of Directors & Liaisons Present: Vi Lamers, Lee Lamers, Bob Ebben, Clair Carty, Mark Smith, Mike Henderson, Curt Haga, Greg Schmitz, and Kathy Babcock.

Board of Directors Excused: Pam Schroeder, Larry Sommer, Jim Zach and Derek Thorn.

Board of Directors Absent: Dan Verbanac, Steve Kircher, Pat Schultz, and Mark Truymen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kathy Babcock distributed minutes from the following board meetings:

July 14, 2023 – motion to accept the minutes was made by Clair Carty,
seconded by Vi Lamers – motion carried unanimously;

August 18, 2023 – motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by
Vi Lamers, seconded by Lee Lamers – motion carried unanimously;

September 15, 2023 – motion to accept the minutes was made by Curt Haga,
seconded by Mark Smith – motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Bob Ebben distributed and reviewed the following: “Itemized Categories – Year-to-Date”, “Register Report”, “Net Worth”, “Current Budget-Current Year”, and “Proposed FCAL 2024 Budget”.

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Lee Lamers,
seconded by Mark Smith – motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the Proposed 2024 Budget was made by Curt Haga,
seconded by Mark Smith – motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vi Lamers to donate \$100.00 to River Alliance, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

LIAISON REPORTS – All liaison reports were tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website -- We are adding a “shopping cart” function to the website, so people will be able to pay their membership dues online as well as their annual dinner reservations, etc. Brandon Quig will be contacting Bob Ebben directly for input on how to set this up, so it will be easy for both our members and our treasurer to use. In the near future, the committee will try to organize a “soft opening” for board member feedback before the new website goes live. We are also looking into getting an FCAL email either through Brandon (one for free) or through Google Workspace (\$6.00 for each). Also, Kathy will be working with Steve Watson, Forest County’s Digital Navigator, to set up a Mail Chimp account that will allow us to send mass emails to FCAL’s full membership. Once the new website is live, we will send info to the local newspapers and to our full membership.

Annual Meeting/Dinner Feedback –

- This year’s dinner/meeting received a “thumbs up” from the group even though we ran a deficit.
- The deficit was partially a result of 7 essay winners plus their families (7 x 3) who said they were coming but did not. Next year, Clair will call shortly before the caterer needs final numbers to confirm their attendance.
- The venue was convenient – early set up was easier to do.
- The food was good.
- Some people entered without signing in – next year, Kathy should sit with the sign-in sheet to be sure people sign in.
- Continue the donation jar near the bar but make it more noticeable.
- To raise more money, consider selling the leftovers, running a 50/50 raffle and other raffles, e.g., Greg’s puzzle board, etc.

Environmental Day Feedback –

- In the future, we might want to look at scheduling a short break for speakers (currently they do eight sessions in a row), and perhaps giving some sessions a longer block of time while maintaining the shorter sessions for most of the presentations.
- Discussion occurred about giving the presenters a small gift (e.g., \$10.00 gift card). It was decided that just sending a thank you note was more appropriate. Lee Lamers will contact Steve Kircher for a list of presenter’s names/addresses.

Membership – Bob Ebben reported that we currently have 77 family memberships, 17 lake association memberships, and five business supporters. He reminded us of our need to grow our membership. Two ideas were proposed:

- 1) that we provide businesses with a plaque of some kind – perhaps a certificate in a frame that they can hang showing their support of FCAL;
- 2) that we ask Pam Schroeder to write a letter to the individual lake associations highlighting why their individual members should consider joining FCAL (e.g., value to property owners, to the community, to the county, sharing in the vision of our mission statement, etc.). Perhaps the lake associations could reproduce this letter (and include a membership form) in their newsletters.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2024

Greg Schmitz explained that in odd years, the President and Treasurer are elected (in even years the Vice President and Secretary are elected). The proposed slate was Pam Schroeder for President and Bob Ebben for Treasurer. Greg asked for nominations from the floor – none coming, Mike Henderson made a motion to accept the proposed slate with Pam Schroeder as president and Bob Ebben as treasurer, seconded by Lee Lamers. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Kiosks & Fishing Line Tubes –We will ask Steve Kircher to report on this at the next meeting.

Wake Boat Issue – Discussion occurred about the proposed wake boat legislation and the Wisconsin Lakes response. At the next board meeting we will consider endorsing the Wisconsin Lakes response and/or creating FCAL’s own response to this issue. Kathy will send out the Wisconsin Lakes position with the minutes of today’s meeting. We should consider setting up a dialogue with Rep. Mursau and also with Forest County Town Association regarding this matter.

Life Jacket Stands – “Kids don’t float – put them in something that does!” – Pam was going to check the stands to see if they are still stocked and active. We will ask for an update at the next meeting.

Schedule of FCAL 2024 Meetings – A tentative schedule will be set at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

In lieu of the December 15th meeting, the Board decided to have a holiday gathering on Friday, December 1st at Wild Rose on Roberts Lake with cocktails at 5 pm followed by dinner at 5:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lee Lamers, seconded by Curt Haga. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Note: Our next Board of Directors Meeting will at 9:30 am on Friday, January 19 at the Crandon Public Library. There will be ZOOM access. Please let Pam and Kathy know if you are not able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Babcock
Secretary