



Minutes from the July 10, 2023 Friends of Atascadero Lake Board Meeting

Present: Barbara Combs, Kathy Hontz, Mark Hontz, Don Lynge, Nancy Lynge, Bob Edmonds, Nancy Hair. Guests: Paul Murphy, Dave Highland, Ron Blackwood, Pat Rebich, Anita Rebich, Beverly Hillstrom, Annette Young, Nick Debar, Gerry Mulder +1

- Approval of the June 13, 2023, Board Meeting
- Treasurer's Report, Nancy Lynge: Beginning balance of \$71,305.39, no deposits, withdrawals of \$23,932.51, leaving an ending balance of \$47,372.88.
- Introductions
- Well Transfer to the City, Mark Hontz: Mark met with Rachelle Ricard, City Manager, about finalizing the well transfer document. The City is waiting for an easement to be recorded. Mark asked Rachelle if the City is planning on turning on the well. She did not say "yes" and did not say "no". Of course, our job is to encourage the City to run the well and we offered to help pay or pay for all the electric as we have been doing.
- Presentation by Nick Debar, Director of Public Works for the City of Atascadero: We always welcome Nick to our meetings. Nick is the "person in charge" that manages the lake. Nick mentioned that the City recently did a topographic survey of the lakebed. They have been applying dye and pro-biotics. Nick mentioned that this will be a really tough year to keep the algae growth down because of all the runoff and nutrients flowing into the lake that causes algae growth. The pipeline from the creek to the lake suffered extensive damage during the winter storms. The City has installed 3 new valves and is working on clearing and repairing the pipe. This pipeline is paramount for the lake. Almost 90% of the water in the lake comes from the creek through this pipe. We were happy to hear the City is making this a priority. Nick lined up Eli Kirsch, lake consultant from Laketech, on a zoom call. Eli has been contracted by the City to monitor the lake environment and make suggestions. It was a very technical presentation. There is/was a white buoy placed in the deepest part of the lake. Unfortunately, it was recently stolen. This buoy reads in "real time" the dissolved oxygen, and temperature (3 levels) and other readings. The website for the buoy is accessible to all. If you're interested here is the web address. Eli explained the necessity of continuously monitoring the lake. The lake is a living organism and must function to tend to the plant and animal community that surrounds it. Guessing as to how much dye, pro-biotics and other helpful ingredients to keep the lake healthy does not lead to a sustainable lake. This takes out the guesswork. We asked Nick what we could do to help the City with the lake. Fundraising, fundraising.... Right now the City pays for the pro-biotics and dye (about \$25,000 per year) from the D20 1% sales tax funds. Nick also mentioned the City applied to FEMA to reinforce the dam. They were turned down. It was asked of Nick if he can assure that the City will run the well "as needed" to maintain lake levels. He could not. There is not a "line item" in the City's budget for the well. Nick finds funds where he can to benefit the lake.
- Friends of Atascadero Lake still have ownership of the well. Bob Edmonds made a motion and Kathy Hontz seconded that the well be turned on right away. All approved!

- Gerry Mulder, long time lake resident, expressed her concern to Nick regarding the Island. Kids play on it, and she is worried about fire as the island is all overgrown with dead trees and fuel. Nick said there were no plans to address and clean up the island. He mentioned that it was a “bird sanctuary” but it has never been officially designated as one.
- Annette Young, another longtime resident of Atascadero Lake, expressed her concern about the dock. She is going to follow up with the City to see what plans they have for restoration so folks can sit out there again and fish and enjoy the lake from above. Thank you, Annette!
- There will be another meeting in August for those who attended and expressed interest in becoming a board member.