

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:28 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Jim White, Carolyn LaHatte, Dara Sinclair, Mason Holland, Miguel Rodriguez, Calvert Huffines, Travis Bryan, Arty Allen

Absent – Denise McCabe, Andy Kidd, LuAnn Chambers

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of March Executive Minutes: Huff made a motion to approve the March minutes; all approved.

Review and approval of March Finance Report: Denise emailed the March finance report. The ending checkbook balance was \$14,426.71. Huff made a motion to approve the March minutes; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

April – 52 members attended Chris Feldt's presentation on whisky making history in the area

May – Mason - snakes

June – Mark Warren – medicinal plants and book signing

August – Bill Cagle, History of Marble-The Road to Georgia Marble

September – Fire Safety-Michael Corey

October – Deb-Job fair volunteers

November – Miguel-fall presentation, and/or Erosion Control Education

December – Jim Pryor

Board Liaison Report – Arty reported that a town hall meeting will be held on May 3 and May 8 to discuss the 28-acre Creekside at Bent Tree development.

BTCI – Travis and crew have installed agility equipment at the dog park, and it will reopen on Monday. (It was suggested that a dog waste dispenser be installed at the pavilion near the Tavern due to dog traffic there.) Canadian geese are being monitored but to date no nests have been located. A garden hose has been placed by the beach pavilion to water the Creef memorial tree. A Killdeer nest has been marked near this area.

Mission, Vision, Planning:

Beach Recreation area update – Rick continuing to work on this project. David's Tree Service to take down 3 big pines across from the restroom.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – Miguel to write an article for the June edition of the Echo on invasive pests (spotted lantern fly)

Trails/Hiking Club – 13 members attended the trail workday on April 5th. Mason to put a fresh coat of paint on the concrete wheel stops at the Chestnut Cove parking lot. Good feedback from those who have hiked the new trails. Michael Corey to have Travis install 4 community directional signs next week. Discussed locations for the bear signs in the community.

***Brian read a note to the Executive Committee written by Andy and Mary Ada Kidd expressing their appreciation for all the hard work that Mason and his team have done on the Chestnut Cove trail system, leaving a hiking legacy for future generations of Bent Tree residents to enjoy. Well done!

Special Projects – Planted memorial tree for Susie Creef, plaque to follow.

Fundraising – Tamarack Treasures – great presentation by Deb at the partners meeting; still working on securing volunteers for this event.

Hanging Baskets – Jim sent out an email regarding basket pick up on April 10. Brian stated total sales were about \$4100 with a net profit of about \$1350.

Whispering Springs – event will be held on May 2nd and May 3rd.

KBTB – Andy spruced up the Tavern flower boxes; the “lady niners” water and maintain as needed.

Andy ordered 20 flats of Vinca and 2 flats of Lantana to be planted at the Cove Road entrance beds, admin, Tavern, and the back gate. Mass planting day will be Friday, May 2nd. Volunteers needed. The money to purchase all the spring plantings will come out of BTCI line item of KBTB donations.

Habitat Conservation – “How can I help?” will be the theme for Tamarack Treasures. Each station (eco-friendly pest control, carpenter bees, erosion control, etc.) will have quick facts on “best practices” in these areas, along with some products available for purchase. Teresa Hoppe working on “Angel Tree” donation cards for TT.

Walk the Talk with BTCI – Brian, Ashley, and Dara met to discuss how to use “best practices” in rodent control and security lighting in the community. There will be ongoing meetings to accomplish this. \$630 in plants for TT and the spillway have been purchased from Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Communications – Reels - Dara is working on these quick, informative videos on Facebook

Jonas email usage - Deb and Teresa to send out to the entire community

L&W email partner list will still be used

Miguel volunteered to help with communications

Lakes and Streams – Huff reported that AC has approved the fish cleaning stations.

Stream work went well with a large group of helpers. All readings were good to excellent, even with all the rain! Brian and the crew are working on a plan for the Mulligan streambank work. Logs will need to be removed from the previous storm. A dredging plan is still being put together.

Special Events – continuing to look for a co-chair. May need to revisit some of our traditions. The annual fish fry will occur in June or July.

Sunshine – 3 sympathy cards were mailed in March.

Adjournment: 4:57 pm

*****COMMUNITY GARDEN VOTE:** The Lake and Wildlife Executive Committee voted by email to have the proposed Community Garden to be in Lake & Wildlife, under KBTB. This email vote passed on April 18th with all 10 members voting Yes and it has been approved. Brian will notify the Board of Directors and Kim Stewart. Brian will let Kim and Andy take it from here to work on this project along with AC and Board of Directors approvals.