

**CITY OF AURORA**  
**Save Sunny Lake Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 30, 2006**

The Save Sunny Lake Park Committee Meeting met in scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2006 in Council Chambers. Mr. Kraus called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Justin Czekai  
Mike DeMay  
Bill Fellenstein  
Amy Holtshouse – entered 4:10p.m.  
James Kraus  
George Mazzaro  
Rich Wehrenberg  
William Zawiski

Absent George Hettinger  
Dennis Kovach  
John Trew

Also Present: Madeleine Marazzi –Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Mazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2006, Save Sunny Lake Committee Meeting. Mr. Wehrenberg seconded and the motion passed 7-0 with a voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Sunny Lake Fund Status: Mr. Kraus stated the proposal for Parks Foundation fund #29 will be on the third reading at the next Council Meeting September 11, 2006.

- Ordering Hach device: Mr. Kraus stated the Hach device was purchased out of Parks funds. The equipment was received and the park staff will be working with it shortly.

- Review Sunny Lake studies: Mr. Kraus stated he had compiled a summary of studies done of Sunny Lake Park. Discussion was held on reports done by Enviroscience and Dr. Cooke along with ODNR from 1997-2001. Mr. Czekai stated a report was done in June of 2004 by Mr. Kusner called Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis of Sunny Lake Dam that will need to be added to this list.  
Save Sunny Lake Committee Meeting

Mr. Kraus stated he had pictures of the lake being drained and dam work done but could not find any statistical information. Mr. Mazzaro suggested Mr. Czekai contact Mr. Rebro who was the engineer for the city at that time and was heavily involved if this project to see where information might be located.

Mr. Kraus stated these studies will be good to get basic knowledge and to use these to formulate attack plans for the lake.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

-Review goals matrix: The committee reviewed the preliminary goal matrix and discussed what might be added or deleted. Mr. Kraus stated from the recreation side the biggest outcry will be recreational usage and appearance.

Mr. Mazzaro stated the people that he has been speaking to want to keep Sunny Lake. If the complex issues that will arise could be defined in a simple format of what will be happening to the lake, this might make it easier down the road for the citizens of the community to understand. Do we want to keep Sunny Lake what it is today and remove the toxins in it or make it better for tomorrow with the toxins gone? We need to look in the future of ten to twenty years of what do you want out of Sunny Lake.

Mr. Kraus stated part of the information will be trying to find out on the public side, what physically they like about the lake. He would like to add on the recreation side of the matrix, the following items: walking paths, boathouse, playground, picnic pavilions, hiking trails.

Ms. Holtshouse stated an area of concern for the matrix is the downstream of Sunny Lake. This is an area of concern on what the impacts from Sunny Lake are as we go down the stream. Some of the residents in the area have called with different complaints such as unsightly, smelly and different issues due to the discharge coming down their streams. Ms. Holtshouse stated from the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports from the Ohio EPA, there are going to be recommendations as far as dealing with the fact that section is not in full attainment of what quality standards partly because of the discharge.

Ms. Holtshouse also wanted to add dam safety to the matrix to act as a catch all.

Mr. Zawiski stated depending on where the committee is at the time the TMDL is drafted the TMDL will recommend the removal of every dam in the Chagrin River water shed because they are bad. Other things can potentially be done on the smaller trips. If this committee comes up with something different that ends up meeting his goals that he is obligated to meet could be an option.

-Review Sampling Plan: Mr. Zawiski stated this plan was prepared similar to how the Ohio EPA prepares their sampling plan when they go to access water shed. There are specific issues to this project that we want to identify: to see what is going on in the water shed, and the lake. We have an idea from the Enviroscience study of what is going on in the lake, there is need to confirm that it is still happening but not to recreate it. Mr. Zawiski stated the Ohio EPA is in the process of preparing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the Chagrin River. Previous water quality studies have demonstrated that the discharge from Sunny Lake is negatively impacting the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin River. It is anticipated that the TMDL will require measures to eliminate negative impacts from Sunny Lake.

Mr. Zawiski stated the plan he outlined is flexible but is a template to start. The sampling should be planned for September 2006, November 2006, May 2007 and August 2007. Water quality samples will be collected for phosphorus and nitrate, the two main problems in Sunny Lake. Two sites will be sampled within Sunny Lake for depth profile for temperature and dissolved oxygen. Samples for nitrogen and phosphorus will also be collected at three depths (surface, mid-water depth, and bottom). One of the concerns was for septic tanks, and potential live stock, bacteriological samples will be collected for fecal coliform and E. coli which will be funded separately.

Mr. Zawiski stated at each of three tributary sites, east, west, and south coming in, habitat scores will be done. This is the standard Ohio EPA assesses a streams physical ability to support aquatic life. This has nothing to do with the chemistry of the water, just is it physically where fish or aquatic insect would want to live. It also identifies if steam bank erosion or sediment problems are happening.

Mr. Zawiski stated in September he would like to do fish survey utilizing boat electro fishing. Fish will be identified, weighed, and examined for DELTs (deformities, eroded fins, lesions and tumors). This is done because they are signs of a stressed system, a toxic discharge. This data will be compared to a previous fishery survey. Nine sites were identified for the samplings – see report.

-SLP Boathouse and additional programming ideas: Mr. Kraus stated he and Mr. Fellenstein are in the process of finding out if the boathouse has an impact on the lake via the septic system and the amount of people the boathouse services. Mr. Zawiski stated if the system is failing it could be a big problem and suggested doing some bacteria and nitrate samples around the boathouse. Mr. Fellenstein stated it does get a lot of use and could be a contributing factor. Mr. Fellenstein stated he would acquire the water volume off the water meter to see how much water is being used. Mr. Zawiski stated if the boathouse is expanded at its present location, there are alternate types of waste water systems to establish that are more economical and educational as well. Mr. Kraus stated a possibility might be to move the boathouse to the other side of the lake. Mr. Zawiski cautioned from an EPA standpoint of permitting, if the boathouse is moved chances are the boathouse would have to be tied in to a sewer system which would be a large added cost.

Wednesday, August 30, 2006  
Page 4.

Ms. Holtshouse asked if we would start to fill out the matrix with the sampling results at the next meeting. Mr. Zawiski stated it could be done in different ways and the process could be started with an updated chart.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The committee agreed to meet on September 27, at 4:00pm in Council Chambers for the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Mazzaro moved to adjourn: Ms. Holtshouse seconded and the meeting adjourned at 5:10p.m.

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James Kraus - Chairman

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Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary