

Friends of Twin Lakes Member Meeting
October 27, 2020

Meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Virtual meeting was conducted via Zoom. Audio of meeting is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/12mK2kKvEc9LXpY_3IR7dEr-9K2-P3HG/view?usp=sharing

Board of Directors: Present: Kelley Sweeney, President; Kurt Schweigert, VP/Treasurer; Beth Manning, Secretary; Larry Marcum, and Susie Ramsdell, at large directors.

Shortened Regular Agenda.

1. Status of funds. Account information September 7, 2020 balances:

- Operating Account: \$14,028.95 (\$2076 garbage account balance — we have gone to weekly garbage pickup, so remember to mail your checks contributing to pay for bins to 231 Lang St., Twin Lakes, CO 81251, or arrange for their pick up/drop off, or use the dropdown on the Donate Now page <https://www.friendsoftwinlakes.com/donate-now/>).
 - Account balance will be reduced by \$1,170 to pay Interlaken Investments reflecting cookbook gross sales since last payment of \$3000.
 - \$2076 of the amount is reserved for Waste Management payments from garbage bin contributions.
 - Next major expenditures will be for annual insurance in late December approximately \$730.
- - REMINDER ON GARBAGE: No construction garbage, furniture, or bedding -- just normal household garbage, please break down any boxes -- \$5 per garden bag or \$5 for 2 kitchen bags -- honor system.
 - Any consideration by VRBOs and Air B-N-Bs and businesses to use the Lake County Garbage Bags is appreciated greatly in the summer. We have them at the Visitor Center for \$5 and can arrange to meet you to pick them up.
- Designated Accounts: \$25,589.17
 - Dexter Cabin Maintenance/Preservation: \$667.85
 - Heritage Park: \$2,932.03.
 - Historic District account reflects an anticipated deduction of \$302.10 reimbursement of expenses to Kurt Schweigert for Assayer's Office floor construction/clean up documented expenses, not including mileage. Most of the wood and plexiglass were donated or used from what we had on hand.
 - A motion was made by Joan Weber and seconded by Susan Ramsdel to reimburse Kurt for the \$302.10. The motion passed.
 - Fire Station 2: \$27,748.

2. Question and Answer With Forest Service. Present from the Forest Service were District Ranger Pat Mercer, Recreation Manager James (Jim) Fiorelli and Archeologist Cat Kamke. Pat made the following comments:

- Huge increase in camping, boating etc around the Lake and surrounding areas this summer as well as in the upper Arkansas Valley.
- Personnel capacity is limited as is budget.
- Law enforcement also limited to assist. One assigned from Leadville but is used elsewhere also.

The following are questions submitted to the Forest Service group.

1. **Please outline the plans for the Interlaken trailhead/south side of Twin Lakes Reservoir, as well as updating changes done this fall. (Specific question submitted that dovetails this one: What are your plans for closing the current Interlaken parking lot? I hope you will communicate with the public about this as extending the hiking distance to Interlaken Resort area.)**
 - New parking area for the Colorado Trailhead on south side of dam is being constructed.
 - Intent is to keep the existing parking lot so there will be two parking areas.
 - Designated dispersed camping will be limited with picnic tables available away from Lake area.
 - Access road on BOR (Bureau of Reclamation) and Forest Service land will be used to create an access area that will be designated for standup paddle boats, canoes for day use only.
 - Create an area just for RV parking.
 - Will close off all user created roads.
2. **Was this project submitted as part of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) request for maintenance/capital improvement? If not, could this project be funded with GAOA funds in the future?**
 - This project is not part of GAOA but would be a capital improvement project probably for 2022.
 - Plans for restrooms at Interlaken.
 - NEPA (National Environment Protection Act) to assess any adverse effects.
3. **When did the area west/southwest of the Twin Lakes Dam (by the outlet streams) and by whose authority did the transition from what used to be day use only to a free for all dispersed camping area? Why has overnight camping (including vehicles) been allowed at the water's edge? This past summer especially the area became a human toilet and trashy. Please control the camping or install a vault toilet or two.**
 - Rock barriers have been placed to prevent users from camping on the beach.
 - Don't try to engage with others who are breaking rules. It could create a dangerous situation.
4. **Regarding the beach area:**

***Will there be a ramp for kayaks somewhere? It used to be a lot better for launching, now it's a decent haul with boats and gear. Is there a possibility that locals can get a discounted, annual sticker/pass for the boat ramp?**

***This ties into the kayak ramp question a little. We also have a 14' cat-a-raft that has a battery operated motor. We used to be able to drop it at the beach. *We love going out in the afternoons after work but now it's \$7 to launch the boat at the ramp. That really adds up after a long summer. I feel that Twin Lakes locals would really benefit from a discounted season-pass option. (FYI--FOTLworkers on clean up of Forest Service Areas do receive season passes from the camp host administrator and you can also purchase an annual pass for \$80 for a year's use from date of issue honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees).**

***The beach-bathroom situation. If you hike around the beach, I'm sure you have seen the TP areas. Ugh. Some places are really getting bad and it's such a delicate area. Not only gross, but an environmental and public health concern. Can we make that a fee area too and add bathrooms? Maybe this can tie into a season-pass option for TL locals?**

 - There will a ramp for Kayaks. It will be a drop off point with parking elsewhere.
 - Probably not a specific discount pass, but passes are offered for volunteers and annual pass for \$80 is a good deal.

- Restrooms in the area are being evaluated.
5. **What are the immediate plans to stabilize the Clarion's back room on southside of building? What are the long term plans?**
 - The back room is in poor condition, and stabilizing it will be a major undertaking.
 - Review the options for the best use of the building as a whole.
 - Would need supplemental funding. Could be a GAOA project.
 - May look at decommissioning back room to prevent destabilization of building as a whole.
 - Kelly suggested FOTL could try to get grant funds to temporarily stabilize the back. Jim said the Forest Service would be willing to entertain any proposals, but what are the long term goals.
 - Kurt proposed a zoom meeting in the very near future to discuss the Clarion's future.
 6. **What is the status of the desired roofing project on the Visitor Center?**
 - Has made the list for a GAOA 2022 project and hoping it will be approved.
 7. **Will there be water available at your Twin Lakes area pay campgrounds in 2021? What changes, if any, need to happen for this to occur?**
 - Work needs to be done on systems to bring up to state standards, could be done in two to four years.
 - Last summer water was available from water buffalos in the campgrounds. Corrections may be able to be made in 2021. Problems are mechanical features of the system, not water quality.
 8. **Is there any plan or effort for the governmental property owners around Forebay to work together on a comprehensive signage, enforcement campaign for waste, fires, etc.? (Jim Fiorelli has prepared a map showing the different ownership boundaries that will be displayed in this discussion.)**
 - Directly around forebay is BOR land. Jim is designing new signs and small kiosks. Signs have been put up and ripped out by campers.
 - Plan to use metal posts to make them harder to rip out.
 9. **My concerns are not just waste around campsite areas of the Forebay but empty cans, plastic bottles and bags left in the rocks by fishing persons. In our 35 years of owning property and spending summers in Pan Ark, I have never seen it like this on the rocks surrounding the lake area. We are not there now so I cant say if it has been cleaned recently.**
 - They were out trying to clean up messes this summer but amount of users were overwhelming. Very difficult to keep up with the trash left by users.
 - Most of the summer, Forest Service could not have volunteers.
 - Put out leave no trace materials.
 10. **Is there any plan or effort for the Leadville Ranger District to coordinate fire ban statuses with the Leadville Sheriff and BLM in the future? Might help with enforcement?**
 - Have been working on this for the last few years. They are having conversations with partners to coordinate.
 11. **Is there any sort of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sheriff or Leadville/Lake County Fire and Rescue Department on addressing/enforcing violations regarding illegal camping, fires, dangerous shooting, etc. on Forest Service lands?**
 - The County has authority for enforcement if there is imminent threat or danger. Everyone is, of course, very short staffed. Otherwise the County is not involved in enforcement of Forest Service regulations.

12. **If we see something - fires, camping, other unhappy activities - who do we contact and at what number?**
- For illegal shooting, etc. call the Forest Service or the Sheriff.
13. **What are the criteria to obtain another Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) that would just address the Leadville Ranger District properties? Is there a plan to provide more LEO support next year?**
- FS has elevated the need for more LEOs but budget matters are difficult. To add more is a big ask.
14. **What are the plans to regrade and rebuild the deck around the Interlaken Hotel?**
- Jim put in for GAOA for 2022. For 2021 will want to address some of the other buildings after GAOA funding is known.
 - Looking at funding issues and what's been approved and what's not approved.
 - May want to use a composite decking.
15. **Can there be water and flushing toilets at the Visitor's Center?**
- The Forest Service is not doing flush toilets because of maintenance issues and costs.
 - Might consider expanding the existing facilities.

Meeting sign off was at 9:30.