



Lake News

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Capitol Beach Community Association, Lincoln, Nebraska

February  2008

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Were You There?

Ken Bradshaw, CBCA President

Over the years, continued interest, engagement, and a spirit of community have ensured the quality of life we enjoy at Capitol Beach today. On January 20 we were missing some of that interest, engagement, and spirit of community when we almost fell short of a quorum for our CBCA Annual Membership Meeting. A quorum is 25% of the total membership, per the CBCA Bylaws, Article I, Section 6. We have 261 members, and we need 66 members in order to have a quorum.

In addition to approving the budget, we often invite guest speakers to the annual meeting to address important topics of the day, and we discuss current lake issues. While we were waiting for a quorum to arrive, we heard reports, including the presentation by Herb Angell, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Boating Safety Administrator. By 3:00, thanks to members who made phone calls and picked up proxies, we were able to call the meeting to order and conduct the necessary business of the association with 53 members present and 17 more represented by proxies, for a total of 70.

The reason for the attendance challenge is puzzling. The weather was fine, and the date of the meeting was no surprise (always the second Sunday in January, per CBCA Bylaws, Article 1, Section 4). A bylaws change would be required in order to hold the meeting at a different time. Understandably many people may be away for the winter months or may be non-resident members who are here mostly during the summer, but there is always the proxy option. The business done at the meeting was fairly routine, perhaps not inspiring a lot of interest. We heard about boating safety in Nebraska from the man who knows the most about it, Herb Angell. We heard a report on the midge management work done in 2007 and thanked several residents who invested over 350 hours of their personal time to help us keep the bugs at a manageable level. We heard about a new cooperative project with the City of Lincoln that has the potential to alleviate some of our concerns about storm water runoff (and all the trash it brings with it) into our lake. The three board members whose terms were expiring were all willing to serve another term, and as there were no other nominations, they were re-elected by acclamation. On the other hand, maybe it wasn't routine at all!

Please plan to attend the annual meeting next year, either in person or by proxy. The board will be working to present updates and housekeeping changes to the CBCA Bylaws, and any change to those bylaws requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total membership (or 174). In upcoming newsletters, the board will share examples of the bylaws we believe should be updated. For example, did you know that our current bylaws require that we send annual meeting information by 1st class mail? We could realize significant financial savings from this one change if we were able to send the information electronically to those who use email.

The well-being of our lake depends on the efforts of all of us. See you next January?

Boating Safety Class

Who needs it? All residents new to Capitol Beach Lake after January 1, 2002, are required to complete an approved boating safety course or provide proof that they have passed the test. In addition, anyone between the ages of 14 and 18 must take the course, pass the test, and provide to the CBCA office a copy of their certificate stating they have successfully completed the boating safety course.

I'm 13 and I want to drive! Sorry! No one under the age of 14 can lawfully operate any motorized watercraft at any time.

So how do I find this "class"? A boating safety class arranged especially for Capitol Beach residents is set for Saturday, March 8, 2007, at the AAA building, 2900 "O" Street, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The cost is only \$5 for the pizza lunch (from Valentino's). The instructor will be Herb Angell, Boating Safety Administrator with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. Join other Capitol Beach residents and have a good time while you learn about boating safety. Contact Ann Willet or Bruce Younglove for more information or to sign up for the class.

Note the date change! March 8 represents a change from the date originally announced. March 22 (the original date) is Easter weekend and was creating too many conflicts for people, so the class was rescheduled to Saturday, March 8. We appreciate Herb Angell's flexibility in rescheduling this!

But I'm busy that day! If you are unable to attend on March 8, check the website of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for other scheduled classes.

More boating safety information, in addition to the schedule of classes, is available on the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's website at www.outdoornebraska.org/boating.

Watercraft Registration

Using the lake in 2008: Watercraft registration information will be mailed soon. Read it carefully and plan ahead! DO NOT wait until you're ready to put your watercraft in the water to get it registered!

The registration packet will tell you that you must own, insure, and register all watercraft that you put on Capitol Beach Lake, and new residents after January 1, 2002, must have a certificate showing they have completed a Nebraska Game & Parks Commission boating safety course. Contact Rose Wiese, CBCA Office Manager, at 477-9501 if you have any questions about this registration process. Once you've registered your watercraft, you will receive your 2008 decal, a 2008 boat ramp key, and copies of the Nebraska boating guide and lake rules and regulations.

If you were at the annual meeting on January 20, you heard Herb Angell of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission commend Capitol Beach residents for taking the issue of safety very seriously. We look forward to another safe boating season in 2008!

An important registration change: There will be one important change to the Watercraft Registration Form for 2008. You will be required to include a copy of your state registration certificate with your CBCA registration form. Also, please note that annual dues must be paid before your watercraft registration will be processed.

Active Involvement

CBCA Board of Directors

The low attendance at this year's CBCA Annual Membership Meeting on January 20 prompted these thoughts about the importance of active engagement on the part of our Capitol Beach Association membership.

- We all have different talents and skills. By working together and sharing our time and talent, we can ensure that our quality of life on Capitol Beach Lake continues to be exceptional. We need your new and creative ideas!
- Official business must be approved by the membership. For example, without the approval of the budget, the electric bill for street lights on North & West Lakeshore and Pelican Bay Place could not be paid, we could not run the pump to refill the lake, boat stickers and gate keys could not be ordered, office expenses could not be paid, etc., etc., etc.

- Many hands make light work. We all need to be contributing members of our wonderful community. Please don't take for granted the many hours that your neighbors may be dedicating to the upkeep of our lake and other common areas. In addition to attending our annual meeting, please answer the call when volunteers are needed for lake projects or events (4th of July, treating the lake, assisting with social events, etc.). And remember – it isn't just work – it's also fun!
 - Share your ideas and suggestions and your problems and concerns. Please contact any member of the Board of Directors. While we know we can't please everyone all the time, we work very hard to carry out our board responsibilities to preserve and maintain this great place where we live and play. We make every effort to make decisions (and sometimes difficult ones) while keeping in mind the best interest of all of our members.
-

CBCA Bowling Tournament!



Pictured above: Bruce Younglove, Co-Chair of the CBCA Member Relations Committee

Come join your neighbors for a fun filled afternoon of bowling!

- Saturday, March 1, 2008
- 3:00pm
- Sun Valley Lanes, 321 Victory Lane
- 3 Games, 9 pin NO TAP (Knock down 9 pins & it counts as 10!)
- \$15.00 per person
- Family event...kids welcome!
- Pizza party and awards to follow the bowling!

Snowmobiling Caution

From the CBCA Board

Due to the use of bubblers by residents, and because we have natural springs in our lake, and because we are currently raising the lake level, snowmobiling on the lake is not recommended by the CBCA board. Any of these factors may cause thin ice or may inject air under the ice which can cause thin spots to appear anywhere on the lake, and the weight of the machines adds to the risk. Use extreme caution when venturing onto the ice.

Water Quality

From the CBCA Board

As Glenn Hillhouse reported at the Annual Membership Meeting, the lake level will be reduced only once this winter, and the lake is now in the process of being refilled. Refilling it slowly will help minimize any potential damage to docks and boat lifts, but if you want to take the additional step of making a hole in the ice to relieve the pressure of the rising water, that should prevent any lifting of your dock posts or boat lift.

The board has found this method (draining and refilling from Oak Creek) to be successful in reducing the salt content of the water. As long as the refilling is done while the ground is frozen and the creek water remains clean, we have been able to make our lake water a little cleaner and keep the salinity at a level that our fish can tolerate.

If you are using a bubbler to prevent damage from rising ice (or from the natural pressure of the ice), be sure to use it according to the CBCA guidelines. Those guidelines include:

- Turn it off when the temperature is 28 degrees or above.
- Limit your open area to 10 feet beyond the dock or boat lift.
- Allow ice to reform to ½ inch before you reactivate the bubbler.

Skating on Thin Ice?

From the CBCA Board

Is it safe to skate on the ice? Can I cross-country ski across the lake? Below are excerpts from guidelines of the City of Lincoln Park and Recreation Department that will help answer those questions. These guidelines are generally accepted as minimum safety standards on clear, blue ice. Remember that Capitol Beach Lake does have springs, residents do use bubblers, and we are currently adding water to the lake from Oak Creek, all of which can create air pockets and/or thin ice. ALWAYS USE EXTREME CAUTION when stepping on the ice!

- 2 inches will support one person.
- 3 inches will support a group in single file.
- 6 inches of ice is needed to support a large group.

Other general safety reminders:

- Never go out on the ice alone.
- Be careful in areas where springs are known to feed the lake.
- Watch for weak spots along the edges and near snow piles.

You can have fun on the ice and enjoy the lake in the winter too!

You've got mail!



Newsletter by email? If you haven't been getting the newsletter by email but now have an email address (or if your email address has changed), please let Rose Wiese, CBCA Office Manager, know (402-477-9501 or cbca@CapitolBeachLake.com).

Gone for the winter? If you escape the Nebraska winter and your mailing address temporarily changes during the winter, please notify Rose so you do not miss any important Capitol Beach information. Thanks!

Board Meeting Update

Jean Jordan, CBCA Secretary

The Capitol Beach Board of Directors met Monday, January 21. Topics discussed at the meeting (that are not part of other articles in this newsletter) include the following:

CBCA officers for 2008 will be the same as last year – Ken Bradshaw, President; Glenn Hillhouse, Vice President; Greg Osborn, Treasurer; and Jean Jordan, Secretary. Committee assignments remain essentially the same. The 2008 Membership Directory will include a complete list of committee assignments, as well as an updated Watercraft Registration Form (see article on page 2 of this newsletter).

The board is working to identify the vehicle that drove through the North Lakeshore commons and destroyed several sections of the fence at the west end of the commons, by the townhouses. If you have information on this incident, please contact Ken Bradshaw.

The Safety Committee is making arrangements to purchase some new buoys for the 2008 season. Bruce Younglove, who represents Capitol Beach Lake on the board of the Nebraska Lakes Association and also serves as NLA president, said NLA is working with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission on a grant application process that will assist Nebraska's private lakes in implementing safety measures. CBCA plans to participate in this process by submitting an application for financial assistance with the purchase of the new buoys.

The Member Relations Committee will work to find another date for the CBCA Boating Safety Course, as the original date of March 22 is Easter weekend. The committee also confirmed that the Spring Fling will be May 16 at the Gas 'N Shop Corporate Offices, 720 Marina Bay Place. *See related articles elsewhere in this newsletter.*

The next board meeting will be Monday, February 18, at the Capitol Beach Office.

(Lots of) Dates to Remember

March 1 – CBCA Bowling at Sun Valley Lanes (3:00 pm)

March 8 – Boating Safety Class, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, AAA Building, 2900 “O” Street

May 3 – CBCA Area Garage Sales

May 16 – CBCA Spring Fling, 6:00 pm

July 4 – Island Picnic and Fireworks Display

July 5 – CBCA Golf Classic, 1:00 pm

December 20 – CBCA Holiday Party

FOR SALE – *CBCA members/residents may advertise items for sale in the newsletter at no charge. If the item doesn't sell the first month and you want the ad to run again, notify the office (cbca@CapitolBeachLake.com) or the Newsletter Editor (gjordan@neb.rr.com). **We're happy to include it as often as necessary – but you need to tell us each month!***

Business Advertising – *Ads will be accepted from CBCA members/residents only. The cost is \$125 per year (12 issues) prepaid for one-eighth of a page (\$250 for one-fourth of a page, etc.). A print-ready copy must be submitted to newsletter editor electronically by the third Monday of the month in order to begin with the following newsletter.*

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Capitol Beach Community Association

The Capitol Beach Community Association (CBCA) was incorporated on January 28, 1986, as a 501(c)(7) corporation. Every person who is a titleholder of a vacant lot or living unit abutting Capitol Beach Lake shall be eligible for membership in the corporation. Once a lot or living unit abutting Capitol Beach Lake has joined the Association, such property shall remain so subject in perpetuity, and may not be separated from the Association. The bylaws and protective covenants, as amended, are recorded with the Register of Deeds. Members of the Association are provided copies of these agreements when they join and upon request. The bylaws of the Association define how the business of the Association will be done, including meetings of the general membership, the election of board of directors at the annual meeting, and monthly board meetings. The bylaws also empower the board to establish rules and regulations of the Association for safety and care of the commons. *The LakeNews is published monthly by the Board of Directors of the Capitol Beach Community Association, PO Box 91141, Lincoln, NE 68501. Phone 402.477.9501, Fax 402.477.9541, Email cbca@CapitolBeachLake.com, Website www.CapitolBeachLake.com*