

City of Winter Park

City Commission

(1983)

Lakes (Save our Lakes Program)

Currie seeks lakes restoration

Outlook 8-4-83

City Commissioner David Currie has recommended a comprehensive "Save Our Lakes Program" be funded in the 1984 city budget to help in restoring Winter Park's dying lakes.

"Experts have told us, that, in 10 years our lakes will be dead," he said, "We need to solve the problem now, or else we will have muck ponds instead." Pointing out that 10 years is not a long time, Currie said recently that the city "needs to take a long-range view" in dealing with the problem.

The commissioner has asked that two cents of the city's share of the additional gas tax enacted by the county be set aside for the lakes project. He has also suggested that a special tax district be set up along the city's lakes and canals to have those property owners help in paying for the restoration. Currie has asked that tax exempt properties in those areas make payments in lieu of taxes.

Currie has outlined a four-step program in beginning to deal with the problem: 1) Make the public aware of the problem and what must be done about it; 2) Remove accumulated muck from lake bottoms; 3) Improve storm drainage system; and 4) Attack the hydrilla problem.

If the concept is approved by the city commission, the city's Lakes and Waterways Board and Environmental Control Board would then study the project, Currie said. After a definite program is created by city staff, public hearings would be held on the proposals, he suggested.

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Lakes

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Currie's concept has been well received by other city commissioners and city staff. Commissioner David Johnston pointed out that a city straw vote 10 to 15 years ago asked that an extra mill be levied in the city to restore Winter Park's lakes, but that there was no follow-up action. City Manager David Harden added, "We've been sitting back for years, waiting for someone outside the city to come up with a solution."