

# Lake Sue organization urges shoreline vegetation program

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WINTER PARK—Water issues were at the heart of the March 26 city commission work session.

From giving \$10,000 toward the ecological improvement of Lake Sue to requesting proposals from recreational service companies to run boat-rental centers at Dinky Dock and Fleet Peeples Park, the commission was awash in water issues.

According to a background report of the non-governmental Lake Sue Improvement Association, a proposed extensive lake management and maintenance program would be "the first voluntary combined effort between lakefront residents and multigovernmental agencies."

Part of the lakeshore is within city limits and part lies within unin-

corporated Orange County. Also, Lake Sue is connected with Lake Rowena, which is bordered mostly by Orlando and partially by the county.

Plans call for revegetating the shoreline with nutrient-absorbing native aquatic plants. As an incentive to Winter Park residents to join in the program, the Winter Park Lakes and Waterways Board recommends that the \$50 city fees charged for filing shoreline alteration plans be waived, City Stormwater Engineer Dave Pearce told the commission. Additionally, the board would like the city to donate \$10,000 toward the project. The estimated total expense of the program is between \$32,000 and \$73,500.

"Not everybody (residing on Lake Sue) is in favor of it," Pearce admitted. But if city residents in-

itially refused to join in the program and later changed their minds, they would have to pay the fees for shoreline alteration permits.

The commission gave its approval to the concept.

Two other lakes were involved in commission discussions: Lake Virginia with its Dinky Dock and Lake Baldwin with its Fleet Peeples Park.

City Recreational Director Bill Carrico said he receives numerous phone calls asking what kinds of recreational activities can be pursued on the lakes. His response has basically had to be that one can buy a boat and launch it at Dinky Dock.

MWM Recreational Corp. of Mount Dora, however, sent Carrico a letter Feb. 23 suggesting that

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it be allowed to rent water craft at Dinky Dock and Fleet Peeples Park. The company envisions a gazebo at each location with 13 canoes at Dinky Dock and 10 canoes and three sailboards at Fleet Peeples Park. Each location would have a 10-foot oar-powered boat. A retrieval boat with an outboard engine would be needed for Lake Virginia.

MWM suggested giving the city 5 percent of its revenues for the concessions. "They have a concession at Lake Eola," Carrico said.

Four years ago, city staff ran a canoe concession at Lake Baldwin but abandoned it. Carrico said that the cost to the city was too high. Often, for example, an employee would be paid to sit in the rain waiting for a customer. Also, the canoes were not in excellent shape.

When the question of liability was raised, City Attorney C. Brent McCaghren said that any concessionaire would be required to carry

sufficient insurance. The city would be no more liable in these public areas than at present without allowing water craft rentals, he added.

This concept was approved for the staff to develop a request for proposal for eventual advertisement for bidding. MWM would have to bid along with any other interested firms.

The final water-oriented item discussed at the work session was irrigation of the Winter Park Golf Course.

Carrico nearly begged the commission to allow bidding to proceed for the installation of a new irrigation system. He said there have been days when as many as 10 new breaks in the 25-year-old line have occurred.

"If we cannot control (water) flow, we will experience gradual decline of the turf and eventual loss of revenue," it was stated in a brief summation of the agenda item.

Mayor David Johnston said that preliminary information in 1987 showed that replacing the system could cost as much as \$50,000, and it was considered necessary.