

Lakefront seminar to inform residents

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WINTER PARK—Lakefront property owners and other concerned citizens will have a chance next week to learn about the city's actions to date and long-range plans for cleaning up Winter Park's Chain of Lakes.

A lakefront seminar sponsored by the city's lakes and waterways board and Professional Engineering Consultants Inc., a local engineering firm, is scheduled for March 23 at the Winter Park Civic Center.

The two-hour program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include informational updates from professionals who have been studying the lakes' condition over the past several years. A question-and-answer period will follow the speakers, at which time the floor will be open to the public and questions may be directed to any of the speakers as well as other city

staff from the public works department and lakes division.

This will be the first time such a seminar has been held since the city began several years ago moving forward in its effort to save the lakes. Over the last decade, water quality in the lakes has been deteriorating to a point that swimming is prohibited in most areas due to high bacteria counts in the summer months.

A two-year study by the Rollins College Biology Department, as well as studies by private consultants, has yielded valuable data which the city has used to develop goals and plans for restoring and maintaining the lakes. Experts who conducted those studies will be present at the seminar.

Storm water runoff and urbanization along the shorelines have been cited as probable causes for the lakes' pollution.

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created a subcommittee format and are opening membership on these committees to anyone in the city who is interested and who has the time."

Tomak explained that there will be six subcommittees: housing and land use; traffic circulation; recreation, open spaces and conservation; infrastructure and community facilities (would include water, sewer, solid waste, drainage, educational facilities, fire and police); intergovernmental coordination between Maitland and surrounding municipalities and the county; and economic concerns and the CIE, Capital Improvement Element.

The city would like to get five or ten people on each subcommittee. Data is being put together by the city, and part of the job of the subcommittee members will be to review this information along with current city policies with an eye toward improvement.

"We've had a lot of response already," said Tomak. "We've been contacted by teachers, contractors, architects, planners) all different

types of professionals and concerned city residents. We want to try to address the issues up front and need people of all interests."

The last day to volunteer for a subcommittee will be Friday, March 25. According to Tomak, the names will then go to a selection committee that will pick a balance of people for each topic. These recommendations will then go to the city's zoning and planning group for their approval, and then to the city commission. Tomak estimates that by the end of April they will start setting up the subcommittees. The city anticipates the subcommittee work will be done by December, at which time there will be public hearings. Once the plan is completed, ordinances and codes have to be written.

Probable issues that Tomak expects will be addressed include traffic circulation through Maitland, plus recreation and open spaces. He says the plan will be stricter in that if sewer and water facilities are at capacity, or if lines are not available, the city will not approve the construction of new buildings.

Tomak is also looking at improving intergovernmental cooperation. Development on lands bordering Maitland, he pointed out, affect Maitland residents and businesses.

During this updating of the comprehensive plan, Maitland expects to

hold workshops to keep the public informed. They want to put out each subcommittee's report for review as it is completed, rather than waiting for all of them and then publishing one big book because they feel the information will be easier for the public to read and understand this way.

The city wants to assure residents they will still have an input to the comprehensive plan even if they are not on a subcommittee.