

# FRIENDS OF COTTAGE LAKE

## GENERAL MEETING ~ APRIL 19, 2010

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# MINUTES

### Attending the meeting:

Jonathan Morrison  
Carol Porter  
Jim Fleek

Sally Maimoni  
Mary McCain  
Dan Cauffman

Sherry Palmiter  
Chuck Cushing

Guy Baltzelle  
Beth Cullen

### ❖ Water Quality Update – Report from Beth Cullen

- King County is in the process of redoing intensive water sampling, to provide comparisons with samplings done 5 years ago. The sampling focuses on nutrients and fecals, because these are the elements which feed the algae blooms.
- Their testing will help build a trend analysis of water quality covering the period of the Centennial grant.
- So far, indications are that phosphorus is way down, a significant decrease (Yay!). We don't know all the reasons for the decrease but it is good news.
- A lot more testing will be done over the summer. We will be seeing Beth or some other resource from King County out sampling at different times. The report will be ready in the fall.

### ❖ Shoreline Restoration – Report from Jonathan Morrison

- Friends of Cottage Lake received an \$8000 donation to perform shoreline restoration at Cottage Lake Park.
- The current plan is to use these funds on the east end of the park, in the area that YMCA uses for a canoe launch. This area gets pretty beat up and muddy, also the fences are in disrepair.
- We are planning to use the United Way "Day of Caring" to get the work done on this project. This date is scheduled for September 24, 2010.
- Volunteers are needed to give input on the design and help with the planning.
  - Fencing
  - Big rocks
  - Ground cover
  - Signage
- Volunteers are also needed to help with the work party in September.

### ❖ Shoreline Restoration – Maintenance

- Weeding and cleanup is needed in the areas that were planted a couple of years ago, especially in the wet garden area.
- We scheduled to work May 15, 2010 from 9 a.m. - noon. Volunteers are welcome for this effort, too.

### ❖ Welcome to the Lake Booklet – Report from Beth Cullen

- The booklet will be ready for distribution this fall.
- An outline of contents was distributed prior to and at the meeting. Generally King County can leverage content from booklets done for other lakes; in addition we would like to supply some stories about local history and community experiences.
- Delivery will be done by volunteers going door-to-door as well as by mail. The manual effort will help to tie into an effort to resurvey the community on their knowledge of the ecology of the area.

- The survey is planned for October, 2010.
- Let Jonathan know if you would like to read and or edit the booklet before publication.

❖ **Lily and Milfoil Treatments – General discussion**

- Mary and Matt McCain will work with contractors to spray again against the lilies. They'll try for July but it might be August.
- We may get some help again this year from King County to treat the milfoil. The plan for that treatment will be to survey and treat in early August.
  - Beth continues to try to find a better treatment chemical for the milfoil. The one we use basically prevents use of the lake for yard irrigation for the rest of the season.
  - At this point there are no real alternatives.

❖ **Beavers / Water Level Issues – General discussion**

- Adopt-A-Stream will do a survey of our watershed to determine the best locations for pond levelers. They would charge us \$3000 for the survey. Installation of each leveler would cost over & above that amount.
- Animal Control of Puget Sound would help us with trapping and removal. They will set out the traps for \$250. Each trip out to empty them costs \$150 per visit.
  - Would need to get landowner approval for access to the private property for setting the traps.
  - Would be best if the traps were monitored daily so that they could be emptied quickly when in use.
  - We estimate it would cost about \$1000 per summer for trapping and removal, and we are not sure how effective this procedure would be, given the robust population of beavers in the area.
- In the end we determined that we need more information about both of these alternatives.
  - How much is the lake level affected?
  - What are the costs / impacts to people living along NE 165<sup>th</sup> Street? There are beaver dams below this street which frequently cause the road to be flooded out.
- We also need to find out how much community interest there is in this issue, not only for support but also for contributions. Either alternative is costly.
- Once more information is known, we will put together an “evening of beavers” for community discussion.

❖ **Recap – Call for Volunteers**

- Gardening at the Park (ok, weeding and minor repairs) on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Help with the Welcome to the Lake booklet – contact [Jonathan Morrison](#)
- Day of Caring September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Neighborhood canvassing for distributing the booklet and the survey – Fall 2010.