

LAKE BALLINGER/MCALEER CREEK WATERSHED FORUM MINUTES
Mountlake Terrace City Hall
Council Chambers
October 18, 2022 2PM to 3:30 PM

Call to Order

Councilmember – City of Shoreline Mayor Keith Scully, called the Lake Ballinger Forum Meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

I. Roll Call - Welcome and Introductions

Motion –

Councilmember, Mayor Keith Scully

Approved Agenda

Approved 7/19/22 meeting minutes

Councilmember, Phil Williams

Motion carried 3-0

Attendees:

- Diane Buckshnis – Councilmember, Edmonds
- Donnelle Dayao – Parks Project Manager, Mountlake Terrace
- John Featherstone – Surface Water Utility Manager, Shoreline
- Rikki Fruichantie – Community Relations Specialist, Mountlake Terrace
- Tracy Furutani – Councilmember, Lake Forest Park
- Dale Newman – President & CEO, Nile Shriners Club
- Katie Amrhein-Dang – Snohomish Conservation District
- Laura Reed – Stormwater Program Manager, Mountlake Terrace
- Julie Rose – Resident, Edmonds
- Ron Ricker – Resident, Lake Forest Park
- Bernadette Taylor-Moses – Administrative Assistant, Mountlake Terrace
- Keith Scully – Mayor, City of Shoreline
- Andrew Silvia – Project Manager, Lake Forest Park Public Works
- Phil Williams – Interim PW Director, City of Mountlake Terrace
- Tim Nye – Supervisor, Mountlake Terrace Public Works Dept.
- Ken Courtmanch – Superintendent, Mountlake Terrace Parks & Facilities

II. Forum letter to WSDOT on McAleer Creek Culvert Replacement Creek

John Featherstone, (Shoreline Surface Water Utility Manager) reported on the letter composed to WSDOT by representatives of the Forum to offer information on the complex issues relating to the Forum’s interest surrounding Lake Ballinger. The letter is intended to advise WSDOT to consider during their design process how the lake flow functions and to consider the impact of any change to the flow control provided by the existing culvert on McAleer Creek, as this would impact on the municipalities involved with the forum. The culvert under I-5 is currently acting as a flow control structure.

Motion –

Approve Letter for Hydraulic Consideration
Culvert Replacement to WSDOT

Councilmember, Diane Buckshnis,

Motion carried 4.0

III. Lake Ballinger Viewing Platform Update

Donnelle Dayao, (MLT Parks Project Manager) provided an overview of the Ballinger Park Master Plan conceptual design for the four zones of the park.

She discussed the timeline of past, present and future projects:

1. Waterfront Improvements (constructed in 2021) – New fishing pier, floating dock, boat launch, restrooms, and beach upgrades.
2. Hazel Miller Universally Accessible Playground and Trail (constructed in 2022, to be completed in 2023) - Installation of playground and ADA paved pathway connecting the boat launch with the MLT Senior Center parking lot.
3. Hall Creek Habitat Restoration Project (construction to start in 2023 and finish in 2024) – partial creek realignment and major habitat/ecological restoration.
4. Ballinger Viewing Platform and Trails (to be constructed in 2024) – a variety of meandering trails on the west side of the park and installation of a viewing platform.
 - a. City of MLT was able to secure \$500k from RCO – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant to support the design and construction.
 - b. Design will be completed in 2024, with construction slated for 2024.
 - c. Anticipated challenges – soft soils, permitting, and short seasonal construction window (fish window.)

IV. McAleeer Creek Maintenance Update

Laura Reed (MLT Stormwater Manager) relayed that the McAleeer Creek weir is in the proper position for this time of year.

Tim Nye (MLT Public Works Supervisor) reported on the 35 pound beaver that was trapped and relocated on the north side of Hall Creek. He updated the Forum on the damage beavers can cause, and he also responded to questions/comments concerning relocating the beavers.

V. Lake Ballinger Summer 2022 Water Quality Updates

Julie Rose (Edmonds resident) reported on Lake Ballinger water quality. Julie responded to several questions/comments regarding her volunteer monitoring of the water quality for the Forum.

VI. Curly Leaf Pond Weed Update

Laura Reed relayed information regarding invasive plant species in the lake, including a large amount of curly leaf pond weed found during the summer aquatic plant survey. Curly leaf pond weed can be identified by the curly edges of brownish leaves, which resemble lasagna noodles. Laura responded to questions /comments regarding the

aggressiveness of the curly leaf pond weed.

VII. Announcement & Updates

John Featherstone, (Shoreline) updated the Forum regarding the harmful algae bloom study work on Echo Lake, a sibling lake to Lake Ballinger with very similar characteristics. Shoreline is wrapping up the summer water quality review for Echo Lake. Signs have been posted over the summer around the lake warning of the possible presence of toxic algae; but there were no swimming beach closures for bacteria, and also no toxic algae closures.

There was debate regarding the maximum speed for watercraft on the lake. Julie Rose, commented on the shiny fishing platform causing concerns, and also multiple people using hydrofoils to get around the lake. Some people on the lake feel this is a problem.

VIII. Public Comment

Q. Fishing dock is aluminum and very shiny, causes glare during the summer on the Edmonds side of the lake. Can anything be done to reduce this problem?

A. Ken Courtmanch responded that options, including some sort of matte paint, are being considered.

IX. Topics for next meeting:

- Hybrid meetings for future Forum meetings
- Grant funding opportunities (WRIA 8)
- Ballinger Forum project list
- Culvert replacement

X. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on January 17, 2023 at 2:00 pm, at Mountlake Terrace's City Hall, 23204 58th Ave W, Mountlake Terrace. The meeting will be in hybrid format.

XI. Adjournment – 3:31p.m.