

# “WORKING TOGETHER — WORKS!”

## A **INFORMED** COMMUNITY IS A **STRONG** COMMUNITY!

As we are all aware Medina County Parks has purchased Chippewa Lake and the adjoining park property. They did not purchase the old amusement park. What does that mean to the community? We can listen to the “rumor mill” or we can become informed and work with the park system to make a **“WIN WIN” SITUATION FOR ALL!** hence the title of this document **“WORKING TOGETHER—WORKS!”**

So that you can start this relationship with the park system, read the following update as to what we have been doing to make this transaction a **POSITIVE** step for the benefit of all concerned. As you read this flyer, please keep in mind that the Medina County Park District purchased the lake for **EVERYONE** — and not just the homeowners in the surrounding area of the lake. Therefore, we have to be open to some compromises — and realize that we have to **SHARE** our **LAKE!**

Finally, **REMEMBER.....** This is just the start of a long, much involved study of what is in the best interest of **ALL** —the community and residents. The Chippewa Lake Advisory Board is only one tool to help with this transition. - Enjoy



Written by: Carol Richardson  
and Information from the Chippewa Lake Advisory Board

### What is a **CHIPPEWA LAKE ADVISORY BOARD?**

The Chippewa Lake Advisory Committee was formed by the director of the park district to assist with planning for the future development and management of Chippewa Lake and the adjoining park property. On June 15, 2007, Director, Thomas K. James appointed the following to represent various Chippewa Lake user groups and the Medina County residents in general.

#### Members of the Chippewa Lake Advisory Committee:

##### VOTING Members:

Ivan Baker	Chippewa Yacht Club
Linda Berry	Medina County Residents
Bruce Biliczky	Euclid Avenue (Chippewa Lake) Area
Dee Dee Duecker	Chippewa Lake Area
Jeff Holland (Chair.)	Medina County Resident
Tom James	Medina County Park District
Lee Kehoe	Lafayette Township Trustees
Ron Lusher	Gloria Glens Village Council
Tom Melter	Chippewa Ski Club
Steve Miller	Medina County Resident
Jeff Plumer	Westfield Township Trustee
Frank Potemski	Medina County Resident
Carol Richardson	Gloria Glens Association
Keith Reidel	Chippewa Lake Village Council
Paul Vereb	Chippewa Lake Area
Andy Vidra	Medina County Resident

##### NON- VOTING Members:

John Dean	Mayor, Gloria Glens Village
Joanne Dodaro	Mayor, Chippewa Lake Village
Rick Louttit	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Wildlife
Rick Perry	Medina County Park District
Adam Prokop	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Watercraft
William Staiger	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Watercraft
Ken Strauss	Medina County Park District

### WHEN DID WE MEET?

The committee held its first meeting on June 28, 2007 at Buffalo Creek Retreat at Hubbard Valley Park in Guilford Township. Mr. Jeff Holland was selected to act as chairman of the committee. Park District Director, Tom James provided the committee with its charge (Exhibit A). An outline of points to be discussed by the committee was developed at the first meeting and framed the agenda for the meetings to follow. Additional meetings were held on July 12, July 26, August 8, and August 28 to discuss the issues raised by committee members and to develop a position on each item. This summary report is provided to the Medina County Park District Board of Commissioners to assist the board with future management decisions relating to Chippewa Lake and the proposed park on its western shore.

**SPECIAL THANKS . . . Mr. Jeff Holland was our chairman, what an EXCELLENT CHOICE...he can conduct a quick and orderly meeting and can also help put the committee's thoughts into the correct verbiage. Thank you from all the members. WHAT A GOOD JOB AND A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU! We certainly got a lot accomplished in a very short time.**

### OCTOBER 8th, 2007

The committee presented our recommendations to the Medina County Board of Commissioners on October 8th at Buffalo Creek Retreat at Hubbard Valley Park in Guilford Township. Mr. Jeff Holland presented a summary of our findings and then the board had the opportunity to question the committee as to how we came to these conclusion.

### FUTURE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION . . .

The issues of “DOCKING” has not been addressed yet. Mr. James felt that this should be a discussion with the parties that have docks already in the lake and not the general committee. We will be meeting at a later date to go over the issues. So we will keep you informed.

Also the west side of the lakes development will be a topic of study for the future meetings. At the moment, a boat ramp and swimming area were discussed.

### MORE INFORMATION TO COME .....

# “WORKING TOGETHER — WORKS!”

## CHIPPEWA LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS...

### I. LAKE ACTIVITIES

#### FISHING:

Fishing opportunities should be governed by the regulations of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Medina County Park District Rules and Regulations. The park district should consider a fishing pier as a part of the park development on the west shore of the lake.

#### RECREATIONAL BOATING:

The historical use of Chippewa Lake has included a variety of recreational boating opportunities including row boats, sail boats, power boats, jet skis, and water skiing. **These activities should be continued with reasonable regulations to promote the safe use of the lake.**

**A no-wake zone of three hundred (300) feet from the shoreline of the lake should be established** to offer some protection to the shoreline from wakes produced by power boats and to protect swimming and docking areas around the lake (See Exhibit B). The park district is encouraged to develop a method of marking this zone to make it apparent to lake users.

There is some concern about the level of activity on weekends and holidays with the addition of boats from the proposed public launching ramp. For this reason, **it may be necessary** to regulate activities on the lake during busy times. The following suggestions are provided for consideration.

Sunrise to noon - all activities permitted
Noon to 3 p.m. - entire lake is no-wake
3 p.m. to sunset - all activities permitted

The park site developed on the west side of the lake will be subject to the hours of use established by the park district. The launching ramp will be open 24 hours during the boating season. From sunset to sunrise, the entire lake should be subject to a no-wake restriction. All boating activities will be subject to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft regulations and Medina County Park District Rules and Regulations.

**To promote a safer atmosphere for boating, it is recommended that the park district establish a traffic pattern for the lake. Requiring boats to adhere to a traffic pattern will enhance safety for water skiing activities as well as other activities.**

Docking on the lake should be regulated by the park district in a fair and reasonable manner. Consideration should be given to a limit to the number of boats that can be docked by any individual property owner in the adjoining residential areas. The park district should work with the user groups and entities that provide docking to provide safe, well-managed docking areas.

As the park district works on a design for a public launching ramp on the west side of the lake, the design should provide for the launching of boats in keeping with the historic uses of the lake. A horsepower limit should be considered that is in keeping with the historic uses of the lake and prevent the use of boats that would be inappropriate.

**Remember...As you read this NOTHING has been established as the RULE... These are recommendations ONLY!**

### I. LAKE ACTIVITIES continues

Winter sports should be permitted. Uses could include activities such as ice skating, ice boating, ice fishing, etc. It is understood that it is the policy of the park district to **not** guarantee ice conditions.

Over the years, aircraft have landed on the lake. This activity seems to be inappropriate for a recreational boating lake. The committee recommends that the park board adopt a regulation which **prohibits the landing of aircraft on the lake.**

#### ALCOHOL:

The committee understands the park district's current prohibition of alcohol on park property. Since there has been a lack of enforcement on the lake for many years, boaters have possessed alcohol on the lake in the past. Enforcement of the prohibition of alcohol should be handled in the same manner as any park district property.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

The future health of the lake is very important for both the residents of the lake area and Medina County in general. The committee encourages the park district to follow management practices which will promote a healthy environment and good water quality. It is important to consider opportunities in the watershed north of the lake which will promote enhanced water quality. The reduction of the amount of silt coming into the lake during periods of heavy run-off is critical to the long-term health of the lake.

The park district should examine ways to manage the dam located at the bridge on Lake Road to permit a winter season draw down of the lake. By lowering the lake in the off season, the lake has the capacity to absorb winter flows and winter shoreline damage from ice can be reduced.

#### ENFORCEMENT:

Enforcement at Chippewa Lake will involve a number of different agencies. The Medina County Sheriff, The Medina County Park District, the Village of Gloria Glens, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Divisions of Watercraft and Wildlife will have jurisdiction on all or part of the lake. To promote the orderly use of the lake, it is important that enforcement of all laws and rules and regulations be as consistent as possible. Those using the lake should be able to expect the same approach to enforcement to limit any confusion regarding the use of the lake.

#### SAFETY:

Chippewa Lake is subject to high water-levels from time to time due to heavy rains in the watershed. The park district should consider establishing regulations relating to lake use during high-water levels. To protect shoreline properties, docks, and boats, the park district should enact a no-wake restriction during times when the lake exceeds a determined level. This can be reinforced through a warning system at the launching ramps and park sites on the lake. Each of the villages should participate in the process by posting notices at their respective facilities on the lake.

# “WORKING TOGETHER — WORKS!”

## CHIPPEWA LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS...

### I. LAKE ACTIVITIES *continues*

#### SWIMMING:

The historic use of the lake has included an informal boater swim area on the southwest corner of the lake. It is recommended that the park district establish a boater swimming area on the lake and prohibit swimming from boats in other areas of the lake.

The use of established access points on the east side of the lake should be continued. These areas should be properly marked with buoys as directed by the park district to enhance the safe use of the lake.

Swimming from the shoreline should be limited to designated areas on the lake.

#### HUNTING:

The lake has been used for waterfowl hunting for many years. Since the park district acquired the lake, hunting is prohibited. The committee was split on its discussion of this issue. Some on the committee feel it is unsafe to permit hunting on the lake while recreational boating and fishing can occur at the same time. Others felt that the activity has not been a problem in the past and that no accident have occurred as a result of hunting.

The committee suggest that the park district study the issue further to determine if a safe and reasonable hunting area could be established in a limited area of wildlife management purposes.

### I. DEVELOPMENT OF PARK LAND

The park district has acquired property on the west side of the lake for the purpose of creating a public park for Chippewa Lake. The committee gave consideration to the following.

#### PARK LAND:

The park district should develop its property in keeping with its management of other county parks. The land should remain in a fairly natural state with low impact, passive recreational opportunities.

#### ACTIVITIES:

**PICNICKING** - This activity should be encouraged at the park site.

**CAMPING** - Limited primitive camping for youth groups could be considered. The committee opposes a high-end camping facility.

**INTERNET ACCESS** - The issue of providing internet access for park users should be considered as a part of the park district's plans for county parks in general.

Remember...As you read this NOTHING has been established as the RULE... These are recommendations ONLY!

### I. DEVELOPMENT OF PARK LAND *continues*

#### ACTIVITIES: *continues*

**WINTER SPORTS** - The promotion of passive winter sports should be encouraged. Ice boating should also be permitted. **The park district's current rule of no motorized vehicles off roadways should be enforced.**

**SWIMMING** - The park district should consider establishing a swimming area for public use as a part of the overall park development plan.

**BOAT LAUNCH** - The issue is addressed earlier in the report.

**CHIPPEWA LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Report submitted to The MEDINA COUNTY PARK BOARD on October 8, 2007.**

## SPECIAL THANKS...

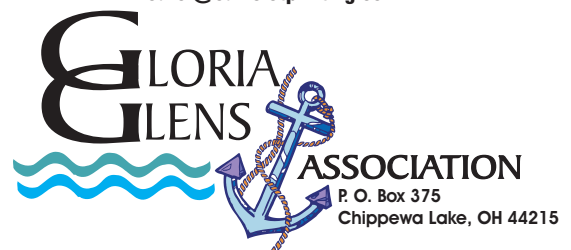
*I just wanted to convey a “special thank you” to Mr. Tom James, Medina County Park District for organizing this committee and giving us the opportunity to have input in the future plans of Chippewa Lake. Our community is very lucky to have this unique, caring and informed individual at the helm of the project. I enjoyed the stroll through the past, present and future plans for the lake. The meetings were both informative, interesting and educational. The group of individuals are a good mix of many personalities and interests, but we work well together and are dedicated to the same cause. Our HEARTS are at Chippewa Lake and this was a “LABOR OF LOVE” for ALL the members.*

*I can not stress enough the importance of “WORKING TOGETHER - WORKS!” I'm sure everyone could find fault in a recommendation, however, compromise is the name of the game.*

### HOMework! That's what I said!

#### WHAT IS YOUR VISION for CHIPPEWA LAKE in the FUTURE?

If you would like to share your “vision” with the Committee or the Medina County Park District, please do not hesitate to do so. Or you can contact me, Carol Richardson (Secretary of Gloria Glens Association) 186 Beachside Blvd • Chippewa Lake, OH 44215 or [carol@camelotprinting.com](mailto:carol@camelotprinting.com)



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