

APPENDIX C

REPORT # 2 - LAKE TAYLORVILLE

To: Mayor Thomas Sweeney

By: Carl P. Munson; Elmer L. Sauer; and Edward H. Storey

Date: April, 1964

Introduction

This report is submitted as a supplement to the Storey-Owens report of July, 1962, which recommended the employment of a planning firm to prepare a development plan for Lake Taylorville and its shoreline areas, and recommended a number of considerations for inclusion in such a plan.

The firm of Scruggs & Hammond of Peoria, IL, was subsequently employed to prepare a development plan for the area. This plan, in map form, (*see Exhibit 3*) has been reviewed by the undersigned persons at the request of Mayor Sweeney and Chairman Spurling of the Lake Committee. In our opinion, this plan is well conceived and provides a sound guide for continuing development of the lake.

The future of Lake Taylorville as both a recreational resource and as an economic stimulus and support for Taylorville and Christian County now depends upon a course of development that adheres to the principles and guidelines in the development plan, and to the careful control of the quality of the total development. This aspect of development was emphasized in the Storey-Owens report of 1962.

Scope of the Development

The high quality achieved and maintained through the project initiation to the present stage of development of Lake Taylorville represents a capital outlay of approximately two million dollars. The potential of the shoreline development suggests an eventual value on the total area of many times the initial outlay, and is of significant economic importance to the community. This potential value can only be fully realized if the development is administered with a combination of diligent and consistent control, energetic promotion, and sound business procedures. This will require careful, farsighted policy decisions implemented by competent administrative personnel.

The danger exists that as the demands grow upon the Lake area for increased use in a variety of ways, undue pressures may be brought to bear upon the City Council for development privileges or uses which do not conform to the guidelines established, and which could detract seriously from the ultimate Lake potential. The details of policy making and administration will increase rapidly from this point forward, and the many demands placed upon City County for its

time and policy decisions on matters other than Lake Taylorville may mitigate against adequate attention being given to the Lake Taylorville development and operation by Council. A logical approach to the problem of administering Lake Taylorville would be to provide a board of interested and representative citizens, appointed or elected, to whom the proper development and administration of Lake Taylorville is a primary concern, and in whom authority is vested that is commensurate with their responsibility.

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended:

1. That a special commission (or board) be established by the Mayor and Council to administer Lake Taylorville and its public shoreline areas.
2. That the commission (or board) be composed of five commissioners, (board members), appointed by the Mayor with the approval of City Council.
3. That the commissioners be appointed for six year terms, and that the terms be staggered to provide continuity of policy making. Thus the first five commissioners appointed might be appointed as follows: two commissioners to serve four years; and one commissioner to serve two years. All subsequent appointments, on expiration of initial appointed terms, would be for full six year terms.
4. That the Commission (or Board) be established by ordinance, and vested with adequate authority and funding power to fulfill its responsibilities.
5. That the Commission (or Board) be authorized, by ordinance, to employ such officers and employees deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Lake development.
6. That the Lake Commission act upon the Scruggs & Hammond recommendation that "a lake master plan be prepared indicating lotting, location of roads, and detailed use of areas."¹

Because of the great potential of the Lake Taylorville development, it is further recommended that other municipal developments regarded as high quality developments be visited by the Mayor and other officials.

Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia, is suggested as an operation which would give a visiting committee insight into the potential scope of Lake Taylorville. Contact with the Director of Oglebay Park has been made, and he is willing to meet a visiting committee at Oglebay Park, tour and describe his

operation, and answer questions which might help to clarify certain questions in the Lake Taylorville development program. At the request of Taylorville officials, we will be pleased to assist in arranging a visit to Oglebay Park for this purpose.

¹Future Land – Use Plan, City of Taylorville, Illinois. Scruggs & Hammond, Planning Consultants, Peoria, Illinois, February, 1964.

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