



It's now possible for LOW property owners to raise money for Lake projects and receive a tax-deductible charitable contribution in the process.

This was the message from Jon Anderson in a presentation to the LOWA Board of Directors on July 19. He was referring to the formation of Friends of Lake of the Woods, a new independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation which received its IRS and Commonwealth of Virginia approval in December 2015.

According to Anderson, FLOW's charter is to assist in enhancing LOW amenities, facilities and beautification projects by raising funds from the community.

Anderson noted that most of us are here because of the amenities which are maintained through assessment and budget procedures. "Sometimes however," Anderson said, "we wish we could do more. Now through the generosity of our members perhaps we can."

Anderson, who is the FLOW vice president, posed the question, "Do you have a project in mind for which you want to raise funds?" FLOW, he answered, has a process in place to receive the funds.

That process requires BOD and management coordination and approval so that maintenance and other implications are considered before funds are donated. Once approved, contributions specific to that project can be made through FLOW.

Anderson reported that he had been approached by a community member who believes that LOW is in need of a better sound system for the summer sunset concerts at Clubhouse Point.

In Anderson's view this idea is perfect for FLOW fundraising. He feels that such a sound system would benefit almost everything that happens on the point and would be a great addition as the community celebrates LOW's 50th anniversary next year.

He said that FLOW is pursuing the viability of this and hopes to raise funds in the near future. All donations are very much appreciated whether for a specific project or to a general fund for future projects. Donations can be made by check, credit card or PayPal.

Anderson listed several examples of contributions to charity that offer the potential for tax advantages. These involve Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from an IRA, the donation of highly appreciated stock and the donation of property or money for those without heirs.

The FLOW Board has discussed several ideas such as a larger dog park, lighted pickle ball courts, a woodworking/hobby shop and a Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

For further information, Anderson directed his audience to the FLOW website at www.friendsoflow.org. He cautioned that prior to making any donor decisions, individuals should consult their tax advisor.

Anderson thanked Walter Dierks for contributing his legal expertise in establishing FLOW and to Cathy Edwards for her FLOW logo design.