



Jeanette Moeller <jmoeller@longlakemn.gov>

Support of Long Lake Rowing

Isabella Keating <isabella.keating@gmail.com>
To: "jmoeller@longlakemn.gov" <jmoeller@longlakemn.gov>

Mon, Feb 10, 2025 at 2:10 PM

Long Lake Mayor Minor and City Council Members

My husband Steve (who passed away in 2023) and I have been residents in Long Lake for over 40 years. Steve and I were instrumental from the very beginning in helping the LLRC get established. Steve helped the club financially with a loan and I became a rower 10 years ago. Steve was on the Long Lake Planning Commission for many years and I know if he were here now he would support this decision for you to extend the hours for the club.

I am the oldest rower in the club at age 75 and so love the sport at this ripe old age. I know that all ages in the club would love extended hours and
I hope you will consider voting in favor of this request.

Sincerely,

Isabel Keating
1859 Symes Street
Long Lake, MN 55356

Monday February 10th 2025

To the attention of Long Lake Mayor Minor and Council Members

Subject: Support of Long Lake Rowing

We are residents of Long Lake and fortunate to live on the North shore of the lake. As such, we are supportive of all the activities the lake has to offer.

During our 5 years or so living on Long Lake we have tried just about all the water sports from wakeboarding to paddle boarding, fishing, sailing, swimming, even the latest e-foiling craze. In particular, we have enjoyed witnessing the serenity of the rowers whether young or old.

We decided to get involved and discovered Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC) is a fabulous group of people willing to teach new and experienced rowers alike. It's not just the healthy water activities but their involvement in the community. And so, we started volunteering to help.

Now we offer our time to township projects supported by LLRC, maintenance of the parks, cemetery, parades and events such as the recent annual Snowball Open.

While we are so fortunate to engage in all the lake activities including rowing directly from our dock without time restrictions, it's our understanding that LLRC must gain your support for these activities under a limited hours basis.

Given LLRC is a pillar community member offering a healthy and green sport option to all that are willing to try it, we whole heartedly give our support in their use of the lake and lakeshore..

Please vote in favor for the LLRC request to extend CUP hours. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Colin & Irene Balmforth
Long Lake Northshore Residents.

Dear City Council Members and Mayor of Long Lake,

At the age of 11, our oldest found a flier at the former Harvest Moon co-op inviting youth to try rowing. We learned she had to be 15 to join, but something unique happened. For the next three summers she found that flier at the co-op and when she was almost 15, we signed her up.

That began a love of rowing, love of teamwork, and a love for our incredible local coaches. It also began a 6 year run on the water that landed her a scholarship as a D1 rower. By the time she was a sophomore in high school she had been invited to participate in not only the largest regatta in the nation, but also the Henley Royal Regattas in Canada, the best known regatta in the world. These were life changing experiences born right here on our quiet little lake.

It wasn't long before our second daughter jumped in as well. It was an exciting time and opportunity for our whole family.

We have been residents of Long Lake for a lifetime, attended Orono Schools K-12, participated in sports, and had yet to see team exemplified like we did when our eyes landed on LLRC.

We invite you to stroll the boardwalk or drive by the shoreline at 6am when the fog is lifting to hear the whoosh of the shells row across the lake. It's quiet, peaceful, and serene. There is nothing like it. The freedom our community youth and masters feel on the water is as the eagle watching over them from its perch on Jenni's Bay.

This program has taught our children water safety, relationship building, and how to be an asset to the community. They have learned values on the water they hadn't learned anywhere else in life. LLRC has provided this for them and more. It's even gotten one of us parents out on the water for private lessons and on land training. This group of people have given us lasting friendships we wouldn't have otherwise known.

Rowing is such a unique sport we didn't know was available to our family until that fateful day nearly 10 years ago now. Our family is forever grateful for our experience. We're in full support of LLRC's request for additional hours and would like to see more of our local youth on the water.

Sincerely,
Chad and Nichole Kuechle
9 Westwood Dr
Long Lake, MN 55356

John M. James, Ltd Certified Public Account

1605 Wayzata Blvd W. * Long Lake, MN 55356

763-227-7909

P.O. Box 712 * Long Lake, MN 55356

February 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Minor and council members,

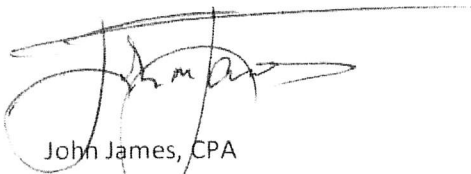
I am writing to encourage you to approve LLRC's request for additional instruction hours for their rowing activities.

I have owned and run my accounting business here in Long Lake since 2016 and have lived in the community since 1993. As a business owner, I have an appreciation for local groups and businesses supporting and patronizing one another.

In fact, I am a member of the Lions club and our club has been a recipient of this support directly from the Long Lake Rowing Crew as they show up each year to help with our annual Snowball Open fundraiser. Although I don't row myself, I know rowers in LLRC and appreciate the instruction that they provide for kids and adults. Along with rowing technique, the coaches teach water safety and other personal discipline skills and, frankly, I'd like to see more of this happening on Long Lake.

Thanks in advance for making more of these LLRC opportunities available by approving their request for additional coaching time each week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John James', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John James, CPA

John M. James, Ltd.

February 6, 2025

Dear Long Lake City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Dr. Angie Lipson, and I am the owner of AcuHaus Acupuncture Medspa, a business located in Long Lake. I am writing to express my strong support for the Long Lake Rowing Club's (LLRC) request for additional instruction hours as you approach your February 18th meeting.

As a member of the Long Lake community and a business owner, I wholeheartedly appreciate the benefits that LLRC offers to our residents, both young and old. Rowing is an excellent way to engage in a healthy, low-impact activity, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and mental clarity. The opportunity to take part in Community Education classes, which would be made possible by the additional instruction hours, allows more members of our community to experience this beautiful sport and embrace a lifestyle focused on wellness.

I also recognize that rowing, as an activity, is one of the greenest sports available on our lake. Unlike powerboats, which can disrupt the shoreline and the lake bottom, rowing has a minimal environmental impact. It provides an enjoyable and peaceful presence on the water, with the gentle sounds of oars dipping into the water replacing the noise of motorized vehicles. There is something truly special about watching the shells glide across the water, and I know many of my customers feel the same way when they are dining at Birch's Brewhouse, looking out over Long Lake. It's a serene sight, and it adds to the beauty of our lakeside community.

Moreover, I appreciate how LLRC fosters a sense of teamwork and cooperation among participants. Rowing is not just a physical activity, but a discipline that requires coordination and mutual support, teaching life skills that benefit individuals beyond the sport. I value the fact that our community has access to such a unique activity right here on Long Lake, one that isn't easily found in other parts of Minnesota. The positive influence LLRC has on our youth and adult rowers alike is invaluable.

As a business owner, I also see firsthand how much joy my customers experience when they witness the rowing crews on the lake. There is something very calming and inspiring about this activity, and I strongly believe that offering more opportunities for instruction will benefit our town. Additional hours would allow more people to try rowing and create a deeper connection to the beauty and health that comes with it.

For all these reasons, I fully support LLRC's request to extend its hours of instruction. I hope you will consider granting this request to allow our community to benefit even more from this wonderful and unique activity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Angie Lipson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr. Angie Lipson
Owner, AcuHaus Acupuncture Medspa
1611 Wayzata Blvd. W., Long Lake, MN 55356

To the Long Lake Mayor Minor and Council Members:

I write this letter of support for the Long Lake Rowing Crew CUP amendment request to add a 4th evening for rowing on the lake and a 6am start time for Friday and Saturday mornings.

As a member of the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC) community, I have benefitted from the incredible opportunities that this club provides and have learned a lot from its love for and stewardship of Long Lake - a local area gem! Consequently I have also become a faithful patron of Birches restaurant, often inviting local friends (and non rowers) to come enjoy our rowing from the decks of the restaurant while enjoying a meal!

The fact that one can join LLRC not knowing anything about the unusual sport of rowing - whether as a youth or an adult - and learn a new skill that is -at the same time- healthy and community building is exciting to me! Also, with current concerns for the health and well-being of our lakes, I am so glad to enjoy Long Lake in an environmentally friendly way (our human-powered boats have no negative affect and are quiet, safe and add to the 'beautiful vista' for those on the shore, gliding along for an early morning or sunset practice).

Rowing is a tremendous physical and mental activity for the athletes as well as a thing of beauty for lake residents and patrons to watch. The ripple effect of the club has really impressed me. Rowing opens doors. Local families join with their school age athlete to learn the sport of crew. Many of these young athletes have gone on to benefit from college recruitment for this unique sport. Not to mention it has become a family affair with parents later joining in to learn to row themselves. As our kids grow and progress through high school and beyond it is not often that one gets to share in an activity together - let alone a sport! The club even has some senior age athletes as everyone is equally welcome at LLRC! I love how multigenerational the sport is and how this organization in particular is so welcoming to all ages and all levels of familiarity with the sport: beginner to advanced.

I also love that LLRC is active in the wider community of Long Lake. Long Lake Rowing Crew fosters teamwork and community engagement both on and off the water. As a member of the Long Lake Rowing Crew, I have had the opportunity to volunteer time to local initiatives like the Long Lake Fire Department's annual parade, watering flowering annuals at the local cemetery during summer months or helping other local community groups like the Lions with their annual Snowball fundraiser. Both our youth and our adult crews participate in volunteering alike.

I am a relatively new member of the LLRC community and I couldn't be more excited about the warm welcome I have received over the last two years, and the excellent quality and community focused programming.

I understand this CUP amendment would allow for more participation through additional hours for instruction and programming. I would look forward to sharing my enthusiasm with other new participants and helping facilitate expanded LLRC engagement at the Lake and in the local community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers
Bird Anderson
LLRC since 2023

February 6, 2025

RE: Long Lake Rowing Crew CUP Adjustment

Dear Long Lake Mayor Minor and Council Members,

Thank you for your time on this matter, first and foremost. I write to you today as a parent of a junior rower participating in the Long Lake Rowing Crew ("LLRC"), a board member of LLRC, and a consumer in the area. While we have only been in the area almost two years, I have a lot of experience with different rowing clubs both nationally and internationally, with my son having rowed in several states on the east coast and most recently in Spain. You must know that LLRC makes a lot out of a very small amount given to them. My son was instantly made to feel welcome and has had the opportunity to row in various events, competing and qualifying to row at Nationals in Florida last year. Without a club like this, and more importantly, a location like this, our youth would not be able to partake in such a beautiful sport.

While my son has been active in the rowing community, I have been an active consumer in the little town of Long Lake. Many parents, like me, come to the area to drop off their children and use the town's various amenities. In my case, I have been a patron of all the local gas stations, Otten Bros. Garden Center, Orono Market, Gopher Ace hardware store, Caribou Coffee, and many restaurants like San Pancho and of course, Birch's. If we were not in Long Lake on a Saturday morning, we would not have discovered Gear West and spent many thousands on bicycles for our family. In short, LLRC parents spend dollars that go into your community through various streams, and we are happy to do so because of our connection to LLRC.

Even though this is the state of 10,000 lakes, there are not many rowing clubs. Especially important, there are not many people who would value the community and take the care and dedication it takes to make a great rowing club like LLRC.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Tobin Oslé

Long Lake City Council,

The Long Lake Rowing Crew has carried the Long Lake name across the state of Minnesota, across the United States of America, and even internationally. This club has represented Long Lake well at numerous regattas', at rowing camps, at universities, and even at international rowing venues. We often get praised for the great character of our rowers. We are Long Lake! My husband and I have lived in Independence for the past 30 years. We have raised five children that went to the Orono Schools – the youngest of which became a Long Lake Rower in 2015. My husband and I then became rowers in 2017.

Our daughter Ava rowed all through high school at Long Lake and then eventually rowed D1 at the University of Kansas. After graduating from college, Ava's heart brought her back to Long Lake to coach for the Long Lake Rowing Crew for the past 3 years. She has coached the junior's program, the master's program, has taught more children from the community to row through the community education program than she can count, and has even started coaching disabled athletes with the North Star rowing program in Minneapolis. This past Fall Ava became the head coach for the Long Lake Juniors program. She has made a huge impact on the Long Lake community and the broader Minnesota community because of what she learned at Long Lake.

As a family, Long Lake has become our community! The city feels like home, and we spend so much more time in Long Lake than we ever did before rowing. The lake itself has been a place of challenge, a place of tremendous growth, and a place of peace. In addition to our daughter's growth, my husband and I have the club to thank for our continued good health as we age. The exercise regime has been a gift, the friends gained are a gift, and the community that we have embraced in volunteering is also a gift.

Ideally these gifts could be shared with more people throughout our community. Additional access to the lake would allow for our club to provide these opportunities to others. It would allow us to bring more people to Long Lake and have them add value to the community. As we have seen across the nation, small towns that do not grow and bring new life into them eventually fade away and die. Please let Long Lake Rowing Crew help the city of Long Lake flourish! We are a team – the city of Long Lake and Long Lake Rowing Crew!

Best Regards,
Rose and Tom Winkels

February 10, 2025

Dear Long Lake Mayor Miner and City Council Members,

I have been a resident of Long Lake since June of 2013. I first learned to row as an adult in 2008 at the historic Minnesota Boat Club that was established in 1870. It was at this time that I learned rowing to be both mentally and physically challenging all while promoting a strong sense of community, teamwork, and a connection with nature. It's only limiting factors being the weather and access to water. I have a life long love of the outdoors, and being on or near the water.

I was so very happy and excited when I found out about the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC) being formed and active so near to my house. I have been a long term supporter of this organization as it has provided recreational and competitive athletic activity for kids and adults alike. This organization also works to support and promote activities within our communities, the Long Lake Fire Department, Long Lake Water Association, and other organizations to help give back and enhance our communities.

I hope that my three kids and many other kids and adults will have the opportunity to take a rowing class, join a team, or simply learn more about physical fitness, mental discipline, teamwork, improving social skills, connecting with nature, and setting goals.

I believe that LLRC is something to be treasured and promoted, but not limited, as it is an asset to our community. Thank you for your time, and for making Long Lake a great place to call home now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Jason Spiller

254 Upper Lea Lane

Long Lake, MN 55356

Dear Mayor Minor and Council Members,

I have been a resident of Long Lake for more than 20 years, and am writing in support of the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC)'s request to extend their hours of operation on the lake.

Two of our daughters were involved with LLRC for several years, and we have been so impressed with the club. The coaches do an incredible job teaching the kids to not only learn the rowing skills, but also how to row as a team -- all while pushing your body to the limit. These learnings continue to translate in their college and adult lives.

I have also seen firsthand how LLRC is an active partner with the city, volunteering with many local events and community projects. Additionally, the club's Introduction to Rowing class is incredibly popular (almost always selling out), which only reinforces the interest in rowing throughout our larger community. As you know, having a successful club that is unique to the area (the closest is Minneapolis Rowing Club), also draws additional families to the area, helping our local economy.

Finally, I often take advantage of the lake walk along Wayzata Blvd. in the summer, and I love seeing the rowers gliding along the lake. It is both enjoyable and satisfying to see the lake being used by a variety of boats.

With all this in mind, I appreciate your consideration in approving the amendment of additional hours to the Conditional Use Permit that LLRC is requesting.

Thank you for your time.

With much appreciation,

Rea James

167 Meadow Lane

Monday, February 10, 2025

Long Lake Mayor Minor and Council Members:

I am writing in support of Long Lake Rowing Club's request to add additional days and times for practices.

All three of our girls were rowers. Our first child started with rowing at the University of St. Thomas as a walk on Novice Athlete. Her sisters were introduced to the sport watching regattas on the Mississippi River.

Naturally our two youngest daughters wanted to try rowing as soon as they were old enough. LLRC allowed our high school aged girls to participate in a local team sport that requires dedication, strength, skill, and most importantly teamwork.

This sport has unique challenges due to the type of lake or river that rowing requires. Long Lake (as per its name) is an ideal location. This also gives local community access to participate in a healthy and social sport that may otherwise be inaccessible. This Club not only introduces teenagers to Rowing but allows mature adults (Masters Class) to learn about a healthy activity with lifelong benefits.

We have watched our girls develop into strong and dedicated young adults – which we attribute to years spent honing the craft of rowing. A community needs to foster these types outdoor activities. We hope you will consider expanding LLRC's request for more time on the water.

Please reach out to me with any comments.

Regards,
Matthew James
167 Meadow Lane
Long Lake, MN 55356

Dear Long Lake Mayor & City Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the Long Lake Rowing Crew (LLRC) in their request to extend their allotted time on the lake. As both a shoreline resident of Long Lake and an active participant in LLRC, I believe this extension will not only benefit the crew, but will also contribute positively to our community.

Rowing is one of the “greenest” activities on the lake. It has minimal environmental impact, relying on human power rather than fossil fuels. The sport provides a sustainable and eco-friendly way to enjoy and connect with the lake’s natural beauty. Furthermore, the Long Lake Rowing Crew is a remarkable community-building program that brings together passionate and enthusiastic individuals. Participants in LLRC are dedicated to preserving the pristine environment of Long Lake while enjoying the benefits of camaraderie and physical exercise.

As a resident, I see firsthand how the rowing crew fosters a deep appreciation for the lake among its members. They share a genuine respect for our surroundings, and their presence on the water enhances the sense of community that makes Long Lake such a special place. Extending their time on the lake would not only allow them to continue this positive impact but also further enrich the connection we all share with the lake.

I strongly encourage you to consider their request favorably and allow the Long Lake Rowing Crew to extend their allotted time on the water.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Montgomerie

1669 North Farm Road

Long Lake

February 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As members of the Long Lake neighboring communities, we are writing to express our strong support for the Long Lake Rowing Club (LLRC) and their request for additional instruction hours.

We are firm believers in the importance of healthy lifestyles and community, and we particularly appreciate the opportunity that LLRC provides for both. It's a fantastic activity that benefits people of all ages, and we would love to see even more availability for it. The club's programs are invaluable, especially for our youth. Our son is one of the Junior rowers. We cannot express how much rowing has been incredibly vital for him. Coming from a military family that has moved often over the past 20 years, rowing has provided a built-in family for him, LLRC in particular. These programs teach teamwork, cooperation, and discipline, all while enjoying the natural beauty of Long Lake.

Rowing stands out as one of the most environmentally friendly activities on the lake. Unlike powerboats, it's quiet and doesn't disrupt the lake bottom or shoreline. There's something truly special about watching the rowing shells glide across the water – it adds to the beauty and tranquility of Long Lake.

Having a unique activity like rowing right here on Long Lake is a tremendous asset to our community. There are relatively few other rowing groups in Minnesota, which makes LLRC a true gem for the community.

Beyond the personal benefits, LLRC connects us and our family to the Long Lake community. We regularly patronize local businesses, and the club strengthens the bonds within our neighborhoods, making Long Lake an even more vibrant and desirable place to live.

For all these reasons, we wholeheartedly support allowing additional instruction hours for LLRC. It's an investment in our community, our youth, and the health of Long Lake.

Sincerely,

Erin and Joshua Lorenz

Fran Born

1811 May Street Apt. 10

Long Lake, MN 55356

2/09/2025

RE: Support for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Long Lake Rowing Club

Dear Long Lake City Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Long Lake Rowing Club (LLRC). As a resident of Long Lake, I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand the positive impact this club has on our community, and I strongly believe that it is an asset we should continue to support.

Through the community education programming, I was able to try rowing for the first time—even as someone over 70 years old! I was welcomed with open arms and encouraged to try it which was an incredible experience for me. I was surprised to find out that it is accessible to all ages and skill levels. I never imagined I would be able to try rowing at this stage in my life, but thanks to LLRC, I was able to take a class that was both challenging and rewarding.

Beyond the personal benefits, I have also been impressed by how environmentally friendly rowing is for Long Lake. Unlike motorized water sports, rowing does not contribute to noise pollution, shoreline erosion, or water contamination. It allows residents to enjoy the natural beauty of the lake in a sustainable way.

Additionally, LLRC is engaged in the Long Lake community. I have seen club members volunteering at the Long Lake Fire Department's annual 5K, assisting at the Lions' annual golf event, and even participating in the Corn Days parade. Their involvement demonstrates a true commitment to our town, making Long Lake a better place for all residents. This is exactly the type of community organization we should support and encourage.

I urge the City Council to approve the CUP for Long Lake Rowing Club. It provides an incredible recreational opportunity, promotes lifelong fitness, and strengthens our community spirit—all while preserving the natural beauty of Long Lake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fran Born

Fran Born

Long Lake Resident