

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2010**

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

Present: Commissioners: Douglass, Ehrhard, McKendry, Nickels, Hart, Meierhoff, President Gronau
Absent: None

Visitors: Ron Salski (Executive Director), Dave Peterson (Director of Business and Facility Services), John Dzarnowski (FGM Architects), Micah Kamin (Aquatic & Facility Maintenance Specialist), Eric Anderson (BMO Capital Services), Bev Sizemore, Mary Gram, Lesley Rudolph, Teddy Burns, Deb Fischer, Dale Lomax, Carola Tanna, Maria Ferretti, Barbara Annin, Lynette Foss, Dutch Wood, Anne Hardy, James Marrone, Mary Beth Kerf, Niki Walsh, Mark Dewart, Julie Gottshall, Doug Simpson, Tom Woidct, Kristin McCain, Rachel Baker, Margaret Vrioni, Beth Keepper, Jeremy Corona, Patty Kreunon, Drew Irwin, Pam Russell, Carolyn Bielski, Bianca Catalano, Lauren Jacobs, Amy Douglas, Julie Stride, Mary Jane Brady

1. CALL TO ORDER:

President Gronau called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called:

Commissioners Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, Nickels, Meierhoff, Gronau
Commissioner McKendry arrived at 7:15pm.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Commissioner Meierhoff and seconded by Commissioner Ehrhard to approve the agenda of January 5, 2010 as presented.

Ayes: Commissioners Douglass, Ehrhard, Nickels, Hart, Meierhoff, Gronau

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: McKendry

4. STATEMENT OF VISITORS:

None

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Debt Consolidation Update – BMO Capital Services

Eric Anderson gave a review of the process for consolidating current Park District loans. He mentioned the Park District is to be congratulated on an AA rating and this rating will leverage lower interest rates from investors. Three debt certificates to be refinanced are: golf irrigation system, Rockland Road mortgage, and the platform tennis facility. If the pool surge tank repairs (\$90,000) and the slides repairs (\$15K) are approved by the Commissioners at the January 18 meeting, these costs will be added. The purpose of restructuring debt is to lower interest rates and rid the Park District of the current balloon payments.

B. Wading and Main Pool Short Term Options

Executive Director Salski presented an overview of the current pool situation and presented four separate short-term options for both the wading and the main pools.

Wading Pool:

- Option 1-No Cost: No repairs, remain open and be in violation of VGB Act / IDPH Pool Code
- Option 2-\$511,000: Replace for 2010-swim season with late opening anticipated
- Option 3-\$511,000: Close for 2010 and rebuild for 2011 season
- Option 4-\$511,000: Close pool and determine long-term options with pool to open in 2012

Main Pool:

- Option 1-\$5,000: Repair VGB and do nothing else
- Option 2-\$90,000: Repair VGB and replace surge tank
- Option 3-\$105,000: Repair VGB, replace surge tank and repair water slides
- Option 4-\$406,550: Make all recommended repairs

Commissioners Comments / Questions:

Would a fiberglass surge tank cost less? *Answer: Yes, approximately 30%.*

If surge is replaced how much time does this buy? *Answer: Approximately 5-7 years.*

Probability of surge tank failing? *Answer: High.*

Community Comments / Questions:

Ashley Yates stated: A main concern of Lake Forest users (40 on email list) is the wading pool. We come twice per day with our toddlers; the wading pool is packed with no chairs available while the main pool is practically empty. If there were no wading pool we'd have no reason to visit Lake Bluff's pool. The fees are low in comparison to other outdoor pools; would a reasonable increase help?

Lynette Foss stated: Swim team parents request keeping the 50m pool. There is no other place to practice long course swimming! Don't sacrifice anything we already have with the exception of the slides – please remove them as the novelty has worn off and they are underutilized. Make the current pool situation (tot pool, diving well, 50m pool) last as long

as possible. A zero depth pool may not be the answer for the Lake Bluff community - parents with young children may have more worries with children potentially reaching the deeper water. Pool pass rates are very inexpensive and can be raised to help defray costs. Many parents in the community would be willing to help with fundraising efforts.

Mary Daly stated: Chicago Magazine listed Blair Park Pool as a summer destination because of the 50m pool. This is unique to the town and should be saved. Uncertainty with the VGB code – do we have any grandfather clause that would allow us to open this year without being in compliance? *Answer: No grandfather clause – must comply by open 2010.*

Carola Tanner: As a swim team parent I also agree that the slides should be removed and the pool pass cost is too low. Has there been discussion in partnering with other communities, like Lake Forest, to share the cost of building a new pool? When the Community wide survey was mailed to homes, residents didn't know of the pool issues and may have rated the pool lower than if they were knowledgeable of the current situation.

Barbara Annin stated: As a swim parent and Scout Aquatic Board member, I prefer to see a long-term solution that keeps a 50m pool in Lake Bluff.

Julie Stride stated: I would also like to see a short and long term solution to our pool situation. We need to apply the band-aids to keep it going for a few years while preparing for a better pool that would allow a bigger draw of people to visit. This is an important asset to our community and I feel that the Village should take some responsibility to help with a solution that affects the Village of Lake Bluff. The Park District should not be responsible for the entire burden.

Anne Hardy stated: This complex is part of the reason people move to Lake Bluff. We need to keep the pool open – if the amenities fall by the wayside then the Village suffers. The fees are ridiculously low; the community is willing to pay a higher fee to help raise funds. Parents may not sign children up for camps if the pool is closed.

Kristen McCain stated: Newcomers Club (representing 15+ families) gave an emotional plea to keep the tot pool open. Many have small children and the gated tot pool is ideal for safety. Do whatever it takes to keep the pool open.

Mark Dewart stated: The Lake Bluff Park District has important attributes that ensure the attraction of young families to the community. The facilities are a gem to the community and I ask you to carefully consider your decision to continue the viability of the swim programs.

A resident stated: Has the Park District considered offering a Family Rate Package, with restrictions? This could incorporate the pool, golf, tennis etc and have the fee spread over a 12-month period. Many families may utilize a package like this for their families of differing interests.

A resident stated: What is the pool fund balance and has money been added each year like recommended in the 1960's? *Answer: Approximately \$55,000 is in the fund and is used for maintenance/repairs on a yearly basis.*

Have other pools been contacted about possible arrangements for Lake Bluff residents?
Answer: In progress

Are Federal Funds available? *Answer: Yes, OSLO Grants up to \$400,000*

Dutch Wood stated: A great job has been done to keep the community informed.

Maria Ferretti stated: Be aware of pool rate increases – don't skyrocket them. A long-term option should not try to attract larger crowds. The pool should stay safe and comfortable to the community.

Recap:

Executive Director Salski indicated the following:

- The Foundation Board has been resurrected and is working on fundraising ideas.
- Partnership conversations have been initiated with Lake Forest and Great Lakes.
- Long-term options will include community opinions and ideas.

6. VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

No verbal comments recorded.

- A. Staff
- B. Executive Director Report
- C. Park Foundation
- D. Parks, Recreation Programs & Facilities Committee
- E. Tri-Advisory and Intergovernmental Committee
- F. Administration and Finance Committee
- G. Golf Committee
- H. President's Report

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Hart and seconded by Commissioner Meierhoff to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approved this 18 day of January 2010
Board of Commissioners
Lake Bluff Park District