

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2010**

The Special Regular 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.

Visitors: Ron Salski (Executive Director), Rob Foster (Director of Golf & Park Maintenance), Janice Schnobrich, Lynette Foss, Ed Holstein, Bill Minor, Gail Gamrath, Annie Pezza, John Donald, Milton Sumption

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice President Hart called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called:

Commissioners: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Absent with prior notice: Commissioner Gronau

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ehrhard and seconded by Commissioner Considine to approve the agenda of November 6, 2010 as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Gronau

4. STATEMENT OF VISITORS:

Janice Schnobrich (766 Mawman) explained some of the Park District history; why the Golf Course property was bought and built, the Recreation Center building and addition; and expressed her concern with the “creative financing” the Board has used in the last 15 years. Please be respectful of what the needs are and not the wants.

Lynette Foss (625 Basil) thanked the Park Board for reaching out to the Community via the Community wide survey and pool task force groups to understand the needs and wants of the community. The children are crushed with the pool referendum results, both sides need to come together to work towards a solution.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 5 Special Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Ehrhard and seconded by Commissioner Considine to approve the minutes of October 5, 2010 as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Gronau

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 6 Special Regular Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Considine and seconded by Commissioner McKendry to approve the minutes of October 6, 2010 as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: Ehrhard

Absent: Gronau

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ordinance 2010-J

A Public Hearing was held on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to allow for comments on the proposal to sell general obligation bonds of the District. This annual rollover bond issue is the payment of debt service on the recreation center and any other land improvements within the District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Considine and seconded by Commissioner Ehrhard to accept Ordinance 2010-J: An ordinance providing for the issue of \$333,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2010, of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Gronau

B. November 2, 2010 Election Referendum Results

Vice President Hart presented the Unofficial Results from the Lake County Clerk's office. Voter turnout was 50.79% with 39.50% voting "Yes" and 60.50% voting "No" on the Park District Referendum.

The following Resident comments were recorded:

Lynette Foss (625 Basil): The Park District did a great job presenting the facts, even with some misleading information floating around the community. I would like to see the Board reach out, and move forward with new packaging of the referendum for an April 2011 vote.

Annie Pezza (617 E Prospect): Indicated the importance of creating a modern pool facility that residents will want to come to. Don't take anything away from the design.

Gail Gamrath (660 Green Bay): I spoke with some residents who voted "no" and found that they are in support of having a pool but are concerned with the cost of the pool. Are there options to possibly break the pool project into phases?

Vice President Hart outlined the following steps to consider in regards to the Referendum:

- Public Input – Online survey to the community
- Public Input – Volunteer members from both “no” and “yes” groups
- Decision not to approve a referendum resolution in February or April
- Begin discussions with Foundation for donors or naming rights
- Approve a referendum resolution in February or April
- Establish a Board Sub-Committee to review all steps

Commissioners agreed that the formation of a Board Sub-Committee would be beneficial and will discuss this topic at the Regular Board Meeting on November 15, 2010.

Commissioner comments recorded:

- Slow down the process; 30, 60 or 90 days may not be enough time to figure out the next steps needed.
- The decisions to move forward cannot be made quickly.
- Capital projects are a higher priority than the pool.
- Pursue donor and naming rights through the Foundation– these take time.
- Possibility of “no” and “yes” committees working together.
- Don’t lose sight of whether the Park District can afford the pool.
- Repair rather than replace is more cost efficient.

The following Resident comments were recorded:

John Donald (109 W Washington): I was part of the Park District Board in the early days; from 1967 – 1973. Our Board was instrumental in getting the Blair Park Pool built. We worked diligently with local Congressman, governmental agencies and the community for support and donations. The process was not quick; it was a 3 ½ year process that has been enjoyed by the Community for nearly 40 years.

Lynette Foss (625 Basil): I understand the process is difficult with potential bureaucracy delays in the permit process. Time is a luxury we don’t have; the pool is aging and in need of major repairs each spring. It is essential to move forward and work together to keep the momentum going and build a new pool before the existing facility closes.

Bill Minor (552 Sunrise): My observation of today’s discussion is that all emotions need to be removed in order to have a Referendum be successful. The Park District Commissioners job is to be responsible to the tax payers to resolve past Board decisions. The Community is against a larger debt and feels the cost is excessive based on research provided by the “no” faction. A better plan is needed before going for an April referendum; affordability being the key issue.

Janice Schnobrich (766 Mawman): Previous Park District referendums have failed by an even larger percentage when asked for a second time. The “no” group is very well informed and the demographics have changed within Lake Bluff; less families with children and more older residents not interested in the pool.

Milton Sumption (360 W Hawthorne): I’m glad to know the Board is concerned with all priorities and assets managed by the Park District. The largest problem facing the referendum

is the lack of trust in any governmental institution managing taxpayer dollars. Self imposed measures for greater fiscal responsibility need to be adopted by the Board; policies, procedures and Ordinances to set aside funds for capital projects; would help residents gain greater trust and confidence in the Board. Only 1 bid was shown – why weren't there more for a more competitive price?

Executive Director Salski clarified the pool process as outlined below. The process was standard for the industry and industry professionals were engaged.

- A 2009 audit was completed by FGM Architects and Aquatic Excellence to give a complete status update on the pool facility.
- Pool task force groups input aided the Board in creating a Concept Plan for the pool design.
- Two reputable public pool construction firms verified the estimates and costs line by line.
- The Park District must meet the Prevailing Wage laws.
- Bidding process was not completed – cost is approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000.
- Cost of \$7.2 million was only an estimate.

Bill Minor (552 Sunrise): The referendum was for a pool costing \$7.2 million – the community took this as the actual amount of building a pool to meet all state and federal codes. Is this a rational cost? What is the cost to simply repair the pool?

Ed Holstein (713 Ravine): It was my understanding that the Park District was planning on selling the Build America Bonds before December 31, 2010; without knowing the actual cost of the pool. The “no” group is not opposed to the pool but to the affordability of the pool. Can a long look be taken to repair the existing pool?

Commissioner Nickels indicated dollars not used to build the pool can be abated. The Park District was planning on taking advantage of the low interest rates and was trying to avoid having to ask the Community for additional monies.

2011 Budget

Staff has finalized the 2011 Proposed Budget which will be delivered to Commissioners on November 11. Finance Committee Chair Nickels is requesting 2 meeting dates to review the Proposed 2011 Budget.

Scheduled meeting dates are: Tuesday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. (approximately 3 hours)
Monday, November 22 at 5:30 p.m.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Ehrhard, and seconded by Commissioner Considine to move into Executive Session for the following reasons:

- A. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of an employee, pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Gronau

Executive Session began at 10:55 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Considine and seconded by Commissioner McKendry to move out of Executive Session.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Considine, Douglass, Ehrhard, Hart, McKendry, Nickels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Gronau

Executive Session ended at 11:48 a.m.

9. ACTION, IF ANY, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action required.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Considine and seconded by Commissioner Douglass to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approved this 15 day of November 2010
Board of Commissioners
Lake Bluff Park District