

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Shields Township Office, 906 Muir Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Considine.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: R. Douglass, S. Ehrhard, B. Gordon, K. McKendry, R. Wallace, and President K. Considine.

Commissioner K. Gronau was absent with prior notice.

Staff members present were Ron Salski, Executive Director; Jim Lakeman, Superintendent of Recreation, Safety, and Outreach Services; Ed Heiser, Superintendent of Facility Services & Head Golf Professional; and Rob Foster, Superintendent of Golf & Parks Maintenance.

Also present were residents Al Trefts, Carol Russ, Bill Nordeen, Jim Moss, Larry McCotter, Mary Ryan, and Steve Ryan.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Douglass moved, seconded by Commissioner McKendry, to approve the October 7, 2013 Agenda as submitted.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: R. Douglass, S. Ehrhard, B. Gordon, K. McKendry, R. Wallace, K. Considine

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: K. Gronau

Motion carried.

Statement of Visitors - None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10 Year Capital Plan

Executive Director Salski listed points of discussion for tonight's meeting:

- Revised 10 Year Capital Expenses

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- Timing of Assets
- Funding – Preliminary options pending discussion of timing
- Next Meeting

Consultant Capital Expenses - Prior \$8,232,306 Revised \$8,551,006

Executive Team Expenses with Board Revisions (ADA included)

Prior \$3,789,784 Revised \$5,174,784 (covers fitness, aquatic facility, Blair & Artesian playgrounds, and Artesian tennis court)

Timing of Assets:

- Expected shortfall in 2014-2015
- Pushing back assets is not an option
- Aquatic facility requires immediate repair
- Wading pool (\$650,000) needs to be pulled off the list
- \$3 million is needed for projects in the next two years

Commissioners reviewed the assets again to determine what else can be removed. Suggestions were to keep the existing equipment at Artesian and Blair Parks, as long as it is safe; hold off on beach improvements, wading pool and recreation center, and lease fitness and golf equipment. This could bring expenses down to \$1.2 million, which includes ADA improvements.

Funding was broken down to years 1 and 2, and 3 to 10. Ideas for raising \$1.2 million for the next two years included: selling certain parcels of Park District owned property, assessing a Special Recreation Levy of 4.0¢ (currently at 2.5¢). The Levy could be earmarked for ADA projects. Other ideas included: donations, closing a facility, a tax referendum, or funding resulting from the Joint Task Force with Lake Forest (which could occur in years 3 to 10).

Commissioner Douglass suggested forming a Citizens Task Force to determine which Park District properties could possibly be sold. Commissioners agreed and said it should be formed now so they would have at least one meeting by the end of 2014. Staff was asked to define the scope and put together a list of requirements for the Citizens Task Force. Director Salski noted that the sale of any property over three acres would require a referendum.

Naming rights, which could be a short term solution to raising funds, were discussed. A list of needed improvements could be put together for future donors to determine what they wanted named after themselves or their company. Staff could put together a policy for naming rights, if the Board decides to move forward with this idea.

President Considine called for a short break at 7:39 p.m. He called the meeting back to order at 7:52 p.m.

Commissioners agreed that if the Board recommends a tax referendum, it must be clearly explained to the residents that all other available options to raise funds were exhausted. The tax referendum would be for \$4 million and expenses should be broken down for each asset.

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Director Salski said that staff would meet to tighten up the ideas that were presented tonight and bring a report back to the Board at the next meeting. They would also present details of a tax referendum including the wading pool. He said a tax referendum could always be abated if grant monies were received.

President Considine said that the Board and staff should develop strategies and work on years one and two, but simultaneously work on years three to ten. He commented that the Park District has more amenities and assets than the Village of Lake Bluff can support, so the choices are to reduce the size or raise taxes. If a tax referendum is voted down, then they have to either cut back or cut out on programs and/or facilities. All Commissioners agreed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., at Shields Township, 906 Muir Avenue, 2nd Floor, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Erhardt, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Considine, President

Ron Salski, Secretary

Marcia Jendreas, Recording Secretary

Approved this 21st day of October 2013
Board of Commissioners
Lake Bluff Park District