

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Golf Clubhouse, 365 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Considine.

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

Also present were Ron Salski, Executive Director; Ed Heiser, Asst. Golf Operations Manager; Rich Grodsky, Special Projects Consultant; and Bob Troyer, resident.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Douglas moved, seconded by Commissioner Gronau, to approve the January 21, 2013 Agenda as presented.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: K. McKendry

Motion carried.

Commissioner McKendry now present at 6:02 p.m.

STATEMENT OF VISITORS – None

BOARD RETREAT – DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director Salski introduced Rich Grodsky, Consultant for Special Projects. Mr. Grodsky gave a brief summary of his background and said he was looking forward to working with the staff and Board of the Lake Bluff Park District.

Strategic Plan Objectives, Initiatives and Tactics

Sale of Land Proceeds

Director Salski stated that Park District attorneys were working with Chicago Title on legal classification of the property at 718 Mountain Avenue, Lake Bluff. They hope to have everything finalized within the next two weeks. He asked Commissioners where they wanted the \$199,000.00 from the sale of the property to be allocated. He suggested the funds can be put into the Capital Fund and then possibly earmarked for the beach or pool project. The District could then apply for an OSLAD Grant to match the funds. The first step would be to send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for design.

Mr. Grodsky gave a brief overview of several types of grants available: OSLAD (50/50 match), PARC Program (80/20 match), and Line Item Appropriation. He said it is important to develop a list of projects that need to be done and then apply for the grants.

Commissioners discussed some options, including the beach and pool and all felt that the beach and bluff restoration was the number one priority. Using the funds acquired from the Mountain Avenue property would show the Board's commitment to the beach project.

President Considine said that a resolution could be prepared, for the February 25th Board agenda, stating that the Board of Commissioners is committed to spending funds from the sale of property toward beach and bluff restoration. All Commissioners were in favor.

Director Salski noted that staff will move forward with the grant process – OSLAD Grant for the beach and bluff and PARC Grant for the pool.

Board Benefits

Commissioner Douglass stated the question of giving benefits to Commissioners arises every couple of years and he listed three possible options: keep the current benefits; have no benefits; or create a "Commissioner Category", with a certain percentage discount, in the Administrative Policy Manual. Director Salski provided a survey of surrounding area Park Districts and said most of them provide some type of benefits.

A lengthy discussion ensued with majority of the Commissioners in favor of keeping the current benefits. Some of the points brought out were that it is good for Commissioners to be visible on site where they get questions and feedback and it is really an obligation of the Board to experience the various activities and programs being held at the Park District. Also, it was suggested that if a Commissioner doesn't feel comfortable using the benefit, they could possibly donate the cost of the activity to the Foundation.

Commissioner Wallace exited the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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Resident Bob Troyer commented that he was against the Board having benefits because it was just the principle of the whole thing. Mr. Troyer also complimented Commissioners for their hard work the last two years and said they were going in the right direction.

Skate Park

Director Salski said that the Skate Park is a wooden structure which was built in 2001 and now needs significant repairs estimated to cost approximately \$32,000.00 and last five to ten years. PDRMA determined that it is unsafe, so staff has it temporarily closed. He presented three options: repair the park, fund a new park at an approximate cost of \$300,000.00 or close it down permanently. Usage is low with an average of 20 to 30 kids per week.

Director Salski said he would like to hold a forum and get more information as soon as possible before spring. He will contact the City of Lake Bluff, Lake Forest Park District and CROYA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults) to get more feedback.

After some discussion, Commissioners were all in favor of holding a forum. Suggestions were made to contact the local indoor skate park owners and try to raise funds from other groups.

Grant Process

Mr. Grodsky advised that prioritization is the most important part of the grant process. After priorities are determined, the grant writers will know which grant to pursue for each project. He said it is possible to wrap several projects together for one grant, such as the pool and skate park.

Naming Rights of Parks and Facilities

Director Salski said that in 2009, the Board adopted a policy which states that the District may consider naming rights. He asked if the current Board was in favor of continuing this policy. Commissioners felt that it was important to keep up the history and heritage of the Park District. They said they would consider naming rooms, shelters and possibly the aquatic facility, but were not in favor of corporate rights.

The Finance, Administration, and Future Planning Committee will explore options and bring back further information to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting. The tolerance level of the Foundation needs to be determined and then a list compiled of what should be named and at what cost. A recommendation should be ready to present to the Board by the end of March, 2013.

Mr. Grodsky exited the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Fourth Paddle Court

President Considine informed the Commissioners that paddle tennis is very popular and the District has hit capacity for memberships. He said with three courts there will never be a profit, but with a fourth court there is a chance. The approximate cost of a fourth court is \$87,000.00 and since this is not a budgeted item, the players will have to raise the money. There is also a possibility that it can be built by a private contractor and then given to the Park District.

The Facilities, Parks and Programs Committee will meet regarding this matter. Director Salski will provide the Committee with more accurate construction costs and yearly maintenance costs. He will also contact the Park District Attorney to review and get PDRMA's opinion on different ways to handle the situation.

Mr. Troyer exited the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 4, 2013

Due to lack of agenda items, Commissioners agreed to cancel the February 4, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Committees and Vice President appointments will be an agenda item for the February 25th Board Meeting.

Commissioners can share information from the IAPD/IPRA Conference during the Commissioners Comments section of the next Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Gronau, seconded by Commissioner Douglass, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approved this 28th day of January, 2013
Board of Commissioners
Lake Bluff Park District