

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
PROPERTY AND PUBLIC LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

The Special Property and Public Land Use Advisory Committee Meeting of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

Present: Members: Dewart, Douglass, Gottshall, Nordeen, Reidy, Russell, Snoblin, Moss, Kraus

Visitors: Ron Salski (Executive Director)

OPENING ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kraus called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Members were present when the roll was called:

Members: Dewart, Douglass, Nordeen, Reidy, Russell, Snoblin, Moss, Kraus

Member Gottshall arrived at 7:06.

Member Douglass left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Russell to approve the agenda of February 19, 2015. Seconded by Member Douglass. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. STATEMENT OF VISITORS

None

MINUTES

1. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2015 SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

A motion was made by Member Russell to approve the minutes of January 20, 2015. Seconded by Member Moss. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. REVIEW QUADRANT SUMMARY FORM

Co-chair Moss acknowledged Member Russell's efforts for cleaning up the files. Member Co-chair Moss mentioned Stonebridge was relabeled to what exists today.

2. UPDATES – PARK DISTRICT, VILLAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LBOLA

Park District

Member Douglass outlined national standards for land and assets and how the Park District compares to the standards. Member Douglass mentioned the debt and challenges with capital in future years. He mentioned the Park District has challenges with storage and office space. He mentioned the Park District is attempting to utilize existing space within the Recreation Center to address office space. Member Douglass discussed one objective is to evaluate whether to repurpose land and find best uses of land.

Members had questions about the debt ratio, long term cash flow and how it aligns into capital, and key components of debt. Members had concerns about selling land just for cash. Member Reidy requested review of the Park District financials.

Village

Member Dewart mentioned that he met with Kathy O'Hara, Drew Irvin and George Russell. He mentioned they discussed the inventory of what they have and would be interested in formalizing lease and lease access for properties where there is coordinated use.

He mentioned the Village wants to keep the spirit of cooperation with a common plan. He mentioned meeting space is okay, storage space is okay, and office space is okay. He mentioned the Village is mindful of emergency access to Tangley Oaks right-of-way. He mentioned the Village is evaluating Lot 2 in central business district. He mentioned the scope of the Comprehensive Plan references senior/alternative housing.

LBOLA

Member Nordeen mentioned LBOLA has a long-term goal to obtain more land and maintain and find donated land and easements on private property. He mentioned there are 300 members who donate 2500 hours. He mentioned LBOLA offers educational programs in the schools and high schools. He mentioned LBOLA has spent over mid-six figures in expenses over the years. He mentioned insignificant land is valuable.

He mentioned that Shields Township does not have significant Lake County Forest Preserve acreage as compared to other Lake County Townships, average is around 1600 acres. Shields Township has less than 150 and all of that is in Lake Forest. What appear to be insignificant parcels have value as habitat islands. We have no need for office or storage space, but might use it if it were free. Also, Goetz Wetland, Skokie Preserve, Rockland Wetlands, and Lake Genevieve should be permanently protected, and maintained as close to their original character as possible due to their uniqueness. We see other open spaces worthy of being preserved as open, but their use and restoration does not have to mean being brought back to a native condition, a community garden would an example of this. The Route 176 corridor should remain open, protected and not encroached upon, but it's landscaping does not have to be brought back to pre-settlement conditions.

School District

Member Gottshall stated that she spoke with Dr. Jean Sophie, Superintendent, to determine the District's needs. The School District is satisfied with the footprint of its land and values its cooperative relationship with the Park District. The School District is planning to renovate the Middle School and have begun working with its architect to determine the scope and objectives of that project, including whether or not to expand the existing Middle School building. The District currently rents space off Waukegan Road for its Administrative offices but desires to move those offices closer to the schools.

Whether the District will build such offices or purchase or rent existing space will be the subject of future Board discussion. The District needs storage space in all forms, as the District has heavy equipment, props for school plays, and various other property requiring space. The schools have limited meeting space, no available rooms for professional development, and no available conference room at LBMS.

Knollwood Neighbors

Member Snoblin mentioned there is limited storage space. She discussed the building ownership at former West School.

3. REVIEW WORK PLAN

Co-chair Kraus outlined the next steps and discussed meeting with other groups. Member Gottshall recommended breaking the properties into categories so as to determine which ones can be eliminated from discussion and which ones require more discussion regarding potentially repurposing, etc. Members agreed.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE AND FUTURE MEETING DATES

Member Kraus mentioned the next meeting as March 19, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Member Gottshall and seconded by Member Nordeen to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Approved, March 19, 2015
Property and Public Land Use Advisory Committee
Lake Bluff Park District