

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
PARKS AND BEACH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

The Parks and Beach Committee Meeting of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair McKendry.

The following Committee Members were present when the roll was called: Susan Ehrhard, Kauri McKendry and George Russell.

Staff members present were Ron Salski, Executive Director; Ed Heiser, Superintendent of Facility Services, Jim Lakeman, Superintendent of Recreation, Safety and Outreach Services; and Noah Mach, Park Services Manager.

Approval of Agenda

Committee Member Russell moved, seconded by Commissioner Ehrhard, to approve the February 7, 2017 Agenda. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Statement of Visitors – None

Approval of Minutes

Chair McKendry noted that a correction should be made under the “Dog Passes” section to show that the dog pass charge would be \$7.00 per pass, per year, and not \$7.00 per day. Also, Member Russell felt that the Sunrise Park and Beach – Daily and Shelter Rental Fees discussion was not complete. Executive Director Salski said he would amend the minutes to show a recommendation by the Committee regarding this discussion.

Member Russell moved, seconded by Chair McKendry, to approve the meeting minutes of the Parks and Beach Committee for October 19, 2016, as amended. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Artesian Park Playground Poured in Place Surface

Superintendent Heiser provided information on the two colored hills at Artesian Park. There was a lengthy Committee discussion on tying the hills together and also making sure the colors of the hills fit the playground. The samples show a green hill with three shades of green, and a red hill with 3 shades of red. Superintendent Heiser said that the reds need to be adjusted because they were too orange. He said gold chips could be added into both hills, and shades of colors could be reduced to two instead of three. The new samples, which should arrive soon, will only have 10% of the color black. He noted that black chips give texture and more colors give a natural feel and added texture.

Member Russell did not like yellow or gold because these colors get dirty faster, and everyone agreed with him.

Superintendent Heiser said he will try to get the colors in the new samples re-worked, but if they were already shipped, Committee members will still see a drastic difference from the original samples. He said a decision on the colors needs to be made by the end of February.

Artesian Park and Other Park Amenities and Standards – Picnic Tables, Trash Receptacles and Benches

Executive Director Salski advised that they have ordered a slightly different style of benches and tables for all the parks which have a mesh look and cost less than the original standard that was used. The table is a circular bistro style made of black metal. He said everything would match, tables, benches, recycling bins and trash receptacles.

Commissioner McKendry suggested looking into the cost of water fountains which feature a water bottle filler. Staff will get further information on this product.

Superintendent Heiser advised that the playground at Blair Park is 95% complete, and was inspected February 3rd. Grading and seeding will be completed when weather permits.

Regarding Artesian Park, Superintendent Heiser said the playground equipment has been installed and the undesirable soil has been removed. The poured in place surface and asphalt will be done in April.

Commissioner McKendry made the suggestion of contacting various landscapers and asking them to donate shrubs and/or trees, and then allow them to put up a sign which shows the name of their business. Superintendent Heiser noted that replacement trees were included in the plan already. Member Russell commented that a lot of landscaping was eliminated in order to keep maintenance work down.

Commissioner Ehrhard felt that the donation discussion should be tabled for another meeting and perhaps brought before the Foundation.

There was discussion about residents who abut Park District land and make changes such as removing buckthorn, etc. Executive Director Salski said that he would prepare a draft policy to address this type of issue.

Ash Tree Removal – Resident Requests

Manager Mach questioned how he should prioritize ash tree removal, especially when he receives a call from a resident wanting a tree taken down right away. Member Russell said that Manager Mach should use his own judgement as to when a tree should be taken down. Executive Director Salski said that the District budgets a certain amount each year for ash tree removal.

Blair Park – Recreation Center Lighting

Executive Director Salski said that Phase 1 of the lighting project is done, and asked the Committee what they thought the next step should be. He suggested reviewing the solar option, and also the options recommended by Member Russell, Superintendent Heiser and Manager Mach, and getting price quotes on each option. All were in agreement, and Member Russell felt that this information should be prepared for the next budget.

Executive Director Salski said that funding would probably come out of the 2013 Bond or from impact fees, because this is a safety priority need. He said he would work with Member Russell on price quotes and present it before the Finance Committee.

Sunrise Park and Beach – Short and Long Term Breakwater and Shoreline Erosion Control Plan - Proposal

Executive Director Salski said that he received a proposal from Baird and the price is higher than the budgeted amount. He noted that Shabica is recommending to not implement the current Master Plan because of high Lake water. At the time, there was only \$20,000 budgeted on the project but this amount was set when the Lake water was low. Member Russell stated that the Beach needs to be protected and the District is already spending a lot of money on sand replacement.

Executive Director Salski said that Baird has very strong references on this type of work. He asked Committee members if he should invite them to an April meeting to give a presentation on the Park District's existing plan and what they would recommend and how they would go about prioritizing. Member Russell said that the North Shore Sanitary District Project is very big and no one knows when it will start up again, nor do they know what it will do to the Beach. Executive Director Salski stated the Institutional Zoning was not included in the budget so the North Shore Sanitary District project is on hold. He felt that technical advice is needed by the Park District. All Committee members agreed that Baird should be invited to a future meeting.

Member Russell asked if the Park District can get a permit to replenish sand at the Beach rather than pay Shabica to do it. Executive Director Salski said yes, and they have applied for a ten-year permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Property and Public Land Use Recommendations

Executive Director Salski said that he and Member Russell will review the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and have a report of the top five parcels ready to present at the April Regular Board Meeting.

Lake Bluff Garden Club - Request

Executive Director Salski advised that the Village is remodeling the downtown area and wants to remove and donate a statue of three children. The Garden Club suggested that the Park District accept the donation and place it to the circle area in Blair Park. A discussion ensued and concerns were that the statue has sharp edges and would be a safety issue if children climbed on it, so it would have to be surrounded by a flower bed; there is no water source in the circle; and who would be responsible to plant and maintain the flower bed.

The Committee asked Executive Director Salski to contact the Garden Club and ask them for more information, in writing, as to what part they will play in the future maintenance of both the statue and a garden area which would need to be constructed around the statue. Executive Director Salski will also ask the Garden Club representative if they might be interested in donating some White Birch trees for the Bluff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Ehrhard, seconded by Member Russell, and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of May, 2017
Lake Bluff Park District