

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
PARKS AND BEACH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 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 10:30 a.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; Rob Foster, Superintendent of Golf, Park and Facility Maintenance; Jim Lakeman, Superintendent of Recreation, Safety and Outreach Services; and Noah Mach, Park Services Manager.

Visitors: Lars Barber, Caleb Barth

Approval of Agenda

Member Ehrhard moved, seconded by Member Russell, to approve the November 3, 2017 Agenda.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: S. Ehrhard, G. Russell, K. McKendry

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Statement of Visitors – None

Approval of Minutes

Member Russell made the following correction to the August 31, 2017 Minutes: Page 3, last sentence, should read: Members felt that the program should not continue and needs further study.

Member Ehrhard moved, seconded by Chair McKendry, to approve the meeting minutes of the Parks and Beach Committee Meeting of August 31, 2017, as amended.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: S. Ehrhard, G. Russell, K. McKendry

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Sunrise Park & Beach – Short & Long-Term Priorities – Baird – Presentation

Executive Director Salski advised that the Committee had instructed staff to send out a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to coastal engineers to determine short and long-term priorities for Sunrise Park & Beach, and W. F. Baird & Associates, Ltd. responded with a proposal. He said there is no money in the budget for repairs, at this time, but Baird will present their proposal and answer questions. A separate meeting will then be held in the future to discuss next steps.

Lars Barber provided information on the company's background and said they have specialized staff relating to coastal engineering and they concentrate around the Great Lakes area. His initial observation of the beach was that the build-up by the groins is bigger on the north part of the beach. Regarding water levels, he said they are two feet lower now than the all-time high level. The last 15 years there have been lower levels, but lately they have been starting to creep up.

Member Russell asked if the level can possibly go higher than the record in 1986. Mr. Barber said it hasn't happened yet and it's not likely, but this is really an unknown.

Mr. Barber said that his company's objectives would be to protect the Bluff from erosion, protect sliding of the Bluff, prevent excessive gaps and protect the shoreline. He noted that Lake Forest, Rosewood Beach in Highland Park and Glencoe Beach, all have T-shaped structures to prevent erosion. It might be possible, at Lake Bluff, to extend the breakwater by adding another groin and grow the beach in the middle. He said there could be a combination of lake water rising and erosion.

Regarding price of repairs, the further out you go into the lake the water gets deeper and the price goes up for the structure. Mr. Barber said they have used a pea-gravel/sand mixture to lessen the price and it provides more stabilization. He noted the geometry is different at all sites, and Coastal Engineering is concerned with the impact in areas up and downstream of Sunrise Beach.

Mr. Barber said that the current proposal is a preliminary design. They would have to monitor and check out the future geometry before any design is finalized. Also, monitoring will be a permanent occurrence in the future.

Another question the Committee had was if something could be done immediately and be less costly. Mr. Barber said to do anything now would be difficult because the lake levels are high. The only possibility would be to reinforce the revetment and add sand.

Mr. Barber said it is essential to understand the site. They would need surveys of the water and area; would need to know where the hard plate layer is under the sand and how deep it is; and would need to take samples of all materials on the beach.

Member Russell asked if the sand depth changes and how long data would be valid. Mr. Barber said that beaches are dynamic and always changing. Surveys would have to be repeated if a big event occurred, such as a bad storm.

Member Ehrhard asked what would happen if nothing is done. Mr. Barber said it is hard to tell, but with the erosion currently occurring on the back shore, there would be a much higher risk of something worse.

Member Russell said that if an immediate band aid is needed, he would suggest controlling the erosion by the road.

Members thanked Mr. Barber for all the information he provided in his presentation.

Sunrise Park & Beach – Daily Fees – Approval

Superintendent Lakeman said they started seeing an increase in non-residents at the Beach since 2014, so fees were raised last year from \$10 to \$12. Since then, non-residents have declined, but resident attendance has remained about the same. He said staff is recommending to not raise the daily fee for residents or non-residents at this time.

Committee members were in agreement.

Sunrise Park & Beach – Shelter Rental Fees – Approval

Superintendent Lakeman advised that shelter rentals have increased for weekends, but declined for weekdays.

Manager Mach advised that the fireplaces at the shelters still need some work. \$5,000 has been spent on tuck pointing the south shelter fireplace and the north shelter fireplace still needs to be done.

Superintendent Lakeman said staff recommended a slight increase for shelter fees from \$50 to \$52 from Monday through Thursday and \$150 to \$155 from Friday through Sunday.

Members were in favor of the increase.

A discussion ensued on resident/non-resident parking and Mr. Salski said they will track it this coming year and address some guidelines in the future.

Sunrise Park & Beach – Dog Tag Fees – Approval

Superintendent Lakeman said staff is recommending raising the dog tag fee from \$7.50 to \$8.50 to cover the tags, doggie clean-up bags and partial cost of a park attendant to monitor the attendance.

Chair McKendry suggested raising the fee to \$10.00, rather than having the front desk deal with making change from \$7.50. In her opinion, she said no one will mind paying \$10 and a \$10 fee would help cover more of the costs involved with the dog beach. All members agreed.

Sunrise Park & Beach – Future Improvements – Discussion

Executive Director Salski said he doesn't have prices for improvements yet, but Phase I will consist of improving the entrance of the beach and Phase II will be improving the path along the top of the bluff and possibly using the red rock concept.

Mr. Salski reported that an ADA complaint has been received from a resident who is unable to get down the stairs easily because there are no handrails. WT Engineering has been contacted and they advised they can add a railing. Also, there are complaints coming in about the old limestone steps, in general. Mr. Salski said these areas would be considered for a 2018 project if budget constraints allow. Member Russell suggested that if a larger project cannot be performed, that maybe Park District personnel can replace some of the timbers on the steps at the Open Lands planting area that are in the worst condition and also improve the last step on the limestone path immediately uphill of the roadway crossing.

Knollwood Park System Projects - \$55,000 – Discussion

Superintendent Foster said that the Committee had suggested some projects, at the last meeting, for spending the \$55,000 referendum money, so he is working on getting some price quotes. The projects include bituminous path improvements at Knollwood Park, drainage swale at West Park playground extension of two more pieces of equipment, mulch and railroad ties at Knollwood Park. Also, a metal roof will be professionally installed on the shelter at Sanctuary, so the price has increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000. The shelter floor will also be re-leveled at a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000. The Sanctuary walking path mulch will be replaced with red rock.

Member Russell was disappointed that not much was being done to enhance the south playground at Knollwood Park a little more and also believed that the Sanctuary brick shelter floor did not need to be completely replaced. He acknowledged they are space constraints for the Knollwood playground improvements but wanted to see more money spent on equipment. Mr. Salski commented that they only have \$55,000 to work with and equipment is expensive. Chair McKendry concurred that there should be emphasis on playground improvements. Superintendent Foster agreed to meet with Member Russell.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Member Ehrhard, seconded by Member Russell, and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Approved this 12th day of December 2017
Lake Bluff Park District