

Lake Bluff Park District & Lake Forest Parks & Recreation
Joint Task Force
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2013

I. Call to Order

The Lake Bluff Park District & Lake Forest Parks & Recreation Joint Task Force Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Tighe Magnuson at 7:20 am. The following were present:

Mr. Tighe Magnuson, Co-Chairman, Lake Forest
Mr. Chris Mosbarger, Co-Chairman, Lake Bluff
Mr. Mike Adelman, 4th Ward Alderman, Lake Forest
Mr. Brock Gordon, Commissioner, Lake Bluff Park District Board of Commissioners
Mr. Dan Jasica, Board Member, Lake Forest Parks & Recreation Board
Mr. Pete Schaefer, Lake Forest
Mr. Al Trefts, Lake Bluff
Mr. Ed Heiser, Superintendent of Facility Services, Lake Bluff Park District
Ms. Sally Swarthout, Superintendent of Recreation, Lake Forest Parks & Recreation

Al Trefts questioned the rules regarding the confidentiality of the information that is distributed to the group. Ms. Swarthout stated that the information that is given out is public information already. A short discussion followed.

II. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of the November 16, 2013 Joint Task Force meeting were presented.

Task Force Member Trefts moved for approval of the minutes and Task Force Member Jascia seconded. Task Force Member Gordon abstained from voting on the minutes. The Task Force meeting minutes of the November 16, 2013 meeting were then unanimously approved.

III. Opportunities for the Public to Address the Joint Task Force on the Items Not Listed on the Agenda

There was no public in attendance.

IV. Report on the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff's Park Maintenance Operations

Co-Chairman Magnuson gave an overview on the Parks Maintenance Operations budget for both Lake Forest & Lake Bluff. Ms. Swarthout stated that the budget that was presented for Lake Forest also included the Forestry section and did not include the Recreation Center budget. The Lake Bluff budget numbers include the general fund and recreation. A question was asked about sharing that may be going on right now with joint service agreements with people or equipment. Ms. Swarthout mentioned that golf carts are really the only things that are shared at this point. A short discussion followed regarding the golf carts.

V. Report on Deerpath Golf Course and Lake Bluff Golf Club Operations

Task Force Member Trefts gave an overview on the Deerpath Golf Course and Lake Bluff Golf Club Operations. Total rounds played at the two courses were Deerpath 28,340 and Lake Bluff 27,027; Deerpath had about 5% more rounds played this year. Deerpath

generates about \$50 revenue per round played whereas Lake Bluff generates about \$37, almost a 35% difference. Ed Heiser noted that he felt the difference of revenue could be due to camps, lessons, merchandise, etc. that is offered at Deerpath. Mr. Trefts could not do a complete comparison on the expense side due to missing information from Lake Bluff. A short conversation followed regarding the difference between the two courses expenses of employee benefits. Co-Chairman asked if the dynamic pricing at Deerpath plays any part in the revenue difference. Mr. Heiser responded that it may have something to do with it but not all. A discussion followed regarding dynamic pricing, course utilization and maximizing revenues.

Task Force Member Schaefer commented how he feels that the two courses should be working on becoming stronger together. He wants to know what can be done together to drive revenue up and expenses down. Maybe that would include sharing memberships, capital equipment or personnel expenses. A short discussion followed.

VI. Task Force Definition of Process Moving Forward

Co-Chairman Magnuson gave an overview of the Task Force definition of the process moving forward. Magnuson shared the current resolution and mission of the Task Force. He asked if anyone had any changes, additions, etc. that may need to be addressed within the meetings. A discussion followed regarding shared services including capital opportunities, and activities that could be shared. Co-Chairman Magnuson felt that the biggest areas of opportunities between Lake Forest & Lake Bluff would be the golf courses, beaches and the pool. He shared that he felt that the activities reciprocity was something to look in to.

Co-Chairman Magnuson asked that there be a meeting with Sally & Ed where these items that have been discussed could be brainstormed so that it would come back to this group more boiled down as to what the group should be looking at more directly. A discussion followed looking into the financial aspect of activity reciprocity. Alderman Adelman touched on the Golf Course issues of retention of golfers to both courses and using Kemper to help Lake Bluff harvest more outside golfers. He also asked about how Lake Forest residents feel about a swimming pool, and whether it would be beneficial to build something in Lake Forest or joining forces with Lake Bluff. A discussion followed. Member Trefts felt that it would take a very long time for someone to really delve into the two golf courses to determine what could be done to make the numbers mean anything. He feels that this is not financially beneficial for either course. A conversation followed.

Co-Chairman Magnuson asked where we go from here. He shared that he would meet with Ms. Swarthout and Mr. Heiser to try to brainstorm on where to go from here. Alderman Adelman commented that he would talk to the Lake Forest City Manager and the Lake Bluff Mayor to bounce ideas off of them and see where they would like to go from here.

VII. Comments by Task Force Members

No comments.

VIII. Adjournment

Task Force Member Gordon moved to adjourn the meeting. Co-Chairman Mosbarger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 am.