

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
FACILITIES & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 1, 2018**

The Special Facilities & Programs 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 8:00 a.m. by Chair Mosbarger.

The following Committee Members were present when the roll was called: Chris Mosbarger, France Pitera and Niki Walsh.

Commissioners present were Brock Gordon and Bob Wallace.

Staff members present were Ron Salski and Ed Heiser.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Mosbarger asked that *Item A* in Section II be changed to *Item B*, and the new *Item A* would be *Miscellaneous Golf*.

Member Pitera moved, seconded by Member Walsh, to approve the May 1, 2018 Agenda, as amended above. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Statement of Visitors – None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

Miscellaneous Golf

Chair Mosbarger explained that Colette Asmussen, from the Lake Bluff Golf Course Association (LBCGA), has been directing all her emails to him and Member Pitera and he then passes the information on to the staff and to Billy Casper. He noted that the Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out on April 30, 2018, and anyone who desires, can forward this RFP to any other interested parties or companies.

Regarding the survey for people who play the golf course, John Krzynowek offered his firm to work on this. Member Pitera has some suggestions for questions on the survey, so maybe Member Pitera and John can get together and review further.

Chair Mosbarger said they have removed the clubhouse from the equation for now and are waiting for more feedback on ADA requirements. Executive Director Salski said he would have more information on ADA requirements in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Mosbarger said that since this is crunch time, communication is key. He suggested having another meeting toward the end of May. He would like updates from the LBCGA and also from Superintendent Heiser on things like membership, activity and expenses. He felt the more information there is, the better.

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Chair Mosbarger noted that updates on fitness and golf, would be great also. He would like to see Dominic, from Billy Casper, attend the monthly meetings and give a report.

Chair Walsh stated that she wanted to learn more about camp registration.

Member Pitera said the main focus should be on golf and fitness and she would like to see monthly tracking.

Commissioner Gordon gave a report from the Finance Committee and said that they determined the fund goal to be \$250,000 by August 31, 2018. Then, \$250,000 over the next 12 years. He listed positive things that were currently underway like the RFP, due by June 13th, changing of zoning and not raising golf fees. Commissioner Wallace said that \$500,000 is basically the total golf capital needs for the next 12 years. He noted that the RFP lists taking over responsibility of golf carts and all equipment.

Member Pitera said that she came to a similar result for the fund goal by using a different approach. She said a minimum of \$265,000 should be the fund goal and commented that an RFP would solve all of the problems. There are a lot of things to be considered so that toward the end of the summer, the Board has good information. They need to look at operational efficiencies and revenue increases, as well as fundraising.

Member Pitera said that Billy Casper has proposed that their goal is \$1.1 million in revenue in 2018. She would like monthly progress reports from them as to how they are going to reach their goal and would like to hold the expense line for Billy Casper.

Chair Mosbarger commented that he wanted the LBCGA to understand that the Committee is not trying to place full responsibility on LBCGA and are trying to come up with solutions as well. He stated help is needed on the fundraising side and the goal is to get this operation slightly better than breakeven.

A member of the audience wanted to know how the Committee got to the goal of \$250,000 to \$265,000, and if it included debt. Member Pitera said the debt was removed. Chair Mosbarger said they would share the information on how the number was reached.

Colette Asmussen said that the LBCGA was working with the Friends group and felt the Committee was setting them up for failure. She said they were being asked to raise two years of expenses in four months. She noted that she can't go to the public and ask for part operating expenses and part capital for the golf course, for two years and raise it in four months.

A member of the audience asked if he wrote a check right now for \$1,000 and the golf course closes, what happens to the money. Colette said that the Friends cannot refund money.

Chair Mosbarger commented that if the LBCGA is successful in raising \$130,000 in four months, and Billy Casper is successful in their goal and overall operations are successful, then everyone is moving in the right direction.

Member Pitera said the money could go to the Friends and then they would determine what the Park District is in need of.

Commissioner Wallace said that the Board needs a commitment from the LBCGA and, if people want to pledge dollars, maybe that's the way to go.

Colette said they are trying to get to a realistic fundraising goal. A member of the audience commented that people are ready to commit if the Board goes that extra mile and keeps the golf course open for another year. She said otherwise there is no incentive.

Member Pitera said the Committee would need to think further about keeping the course open, and would get back to the LBCGA.

Executive Director Salski said that finalizing a goal is on the next Board Meeting agenda.

Commissioner Wallace commented that the Board never asked residents to do fundraising. He said the idea was volunteered and he thought it was fantastic.

Colette said that the LBCGA is waiting for a commitment from the Board.

Chair Mosbarger said they will legally help in any way they can.

A member of the audience commented that the Board can stop this self-created problem by extending the opening one or two years and then fundraising would not be needed.

Member Pitera said that if things were moving in the right direction in the future, that would be fine; however, the trend is that golf is decreasing.

Chair Mosbarger said the Committee will take the feedback from tonight to the Board Meeting on May 7th. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and participation.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Member Pitera, seconded by Member Walsh, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approved this 30th day of May 2018
Lake Bluff Park District