

**LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MAY 7, 2018**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake County, Illinois, was held at the Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Douglass.

The following Commissioners were present when the roll was called: S. Ehrhard, B. Gordon, C. Mosbarger, F. Pitera, B. Wallace and R. Douglass.

Commissioner K. McKendry present at 6:32 p.m.

Staff members present were Ron Salski, Executive Director; Jim Lakeman, Superintendent of Recreation, Safety and Outreach Services; Ed Heiser, Superintendent of Facility Services; Rob Foster, Superintendent of Golf, Park and Facility Maintenance, Cheryl Mosqueda, Superintendent of Finance and Human Resources; and Marcia Jendreas, Recording Secretary.

Also present were residents Tom Fox, George Russell, Al Trefts, Eric Asmussen, John McIntosh, Jim Mocogni, Adam Smith, Bob Nelson, Larry McCotter, William Stein, Robert Taubenheim, Debbie Gallagher, Ed Kostizki, Colette Asmussen, John Krzynowek, Sue Slaughter, Deb Fischer, Rich Lesser, Terry Lesser, Dick Driver and Mike Galeski.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mosbarger moved, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to approve the May 7, 2018 Agenda as submitted.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: S. Ehrhard, B. Gordon, K. McKendry, C. Mosbarger, F. Pitera, B. Wallace, R. Douglass

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Statement of Visitors

Colette Asmussen, resident and member of the Lake Bluff Golf Course Association (LBGCA), explained that they were in the navigating process right now of working together with staff on operations and customer experience improvements.

Debbie Gallagher said that the golf course property is an asset to Lake Bluff and it should be kept as open land. She said soccer fields are needed, as well as bike and walking trails.

Special Board Meeting of May 7, 2018

A member of the audience said they are working on a plan to spruce up the clubhouse with paint and other donated items.

Ed Kostizki urged the Board to consider keeping the golf course open through 2019.

Larry McCotter commented that some of the golf course property is wetlands and, if the golf course closes, the wetlands should be restored and the rest of the property kept as open land for dog walking, mountain biking, birders, and other outdoor activities.

OLD BUSINESS

Fundraising Goal and Timetable – Approval

President Douglass highlighted the process that has occurred thus far, regarding the golf course situation. He said open forum meetings were held in February and March and this resulted in the following four action items: rate change, Request For Proposals (RFPs) for a long-term lease to run the golf course, a letter to the Village of Lake Bluff requesting a zoning change from residential to institutional zoning, and fundraising.

Commissioner Mosbarger, Chairman of the Facilities and Programs Committee, stated that they recently had a meeting regarding fundraising goals and timetables. He said the year just started for golfing so it is unknown what the revenue will be, but the Board needs to set a goal now. After much discussion, he said it was determined that the goal should be \$265,000 raised by October 31, 2018. If the goal is achieved, he said the Committee agreed to commit to leaving the course open in 2019. He emphasized that he was not saying if the goal is not achieved, the course will close, noting that other things could happen between now and the end of October. He said this is the recommendation from the Facilities and Programs Committee that the Board now needs to discuss.

Commissioner Wallace said he liked the date and the dollar amount is reasonable. He commented that he is struggling and right now he would not support the course remaining open in 2019. He stated that the golf course was \$140,000 short of budget last year and there are too many unknowns for the Board to restrict themselves.

Commissioner Mosbarger noted that the date of October 31, 2018 was decided upon because of budget talks beginning shortly after that date.

Commissioner Ehrhard stated that she agreed with Commissioner Wallace about not committing to a final decision.

Commissioner Gordon was in agreement of the October 31, 2018 date.

Commissioner Wallace recommended waiting until all the data is received in the next several months, and re-think the decision in the fall.

President Douglass said they are trying to ask everyone to stretch as far as they can. He noted June and July will give the Board some very good markers. He questioned the possibility of setting an interim date. He asked about possible pledges received and if they needed to be converted by October 31, 2018.

Special Board Meeting of May 7, 2018

Commissioner Pitera said that the Committee wants to meet monthly and monitor everything. That way, they can correct the course or change strategies, if necessary.

Commissioner Wallace said he liked the monthly meetings idea, and said all pledges need to be real dollars by October 31, 2018. He said real dollars will be spent by the Park District starting January 1, 2019.

President Douglass opened the meeting for public comments.

A member of the audience suggested asking for the money from the upcoming 5K fundraiser to go to the golf course, and also checking into grant money. He was confused about the dollar amount and wanted to see the methodology that was used to come up with that number. He asked who was going to be in charge of the fundraiser and who will the donations go to.

Adam Smith commented that \$265,000 does seem like an attainable goal and if the residents can't fund that, the golf club should close.

Al Trefts said that the cash should be in the bank by October 31, 2018, and pointed out that a commitment with Billy Casper Golf must be made by next year.

Jenifer Beeler, member of the Friends of Lake Bluff, was concerned about the pledges and said that dollars are needed in the bank. She said there is no ability to give back donations if the goal is not reached.

Colette Asmussen said that when people are asked for donations they need to be told what the money will be used for. She asked where the money would go if the golf course is closed. She said the Committee has a fundraising plan, but they are not professionals. She commented that the Board is asking for two years up front by October 31, 2018.

There being no further comments, President Douglass brought the discussion back to the Board.

Commissioner Mosbarger stated that they were asking for two years of capital, and suggested one-half by October 31, 2018, and one-half by January 2, 2019.

Commissioner Wallace said he would agree with that if there are credit card numbers or checking account numbers with the pledges. Commissioners were in agreement with the suggestion.

Regarding what happens to the donations if the goal is not reached, Commissioner Wallace said he doesn't have the answer to that question, but emphasized that he does not want the money if the golf course is not open. He commented that there was never an intent to get a windfall if the golf course does not remain open.

Jennifer Beeler led a discussion about what the money would be used for, if the golf course does not remain open, and there was really no way to earmark the donations to something other than the Park District General Fund.

Commissioner Wallace stated that he cannot commit tonight to keeping the golf course open without knowing more facts.

Special Board Meeting of May 7, 2018

Commissioner McKendry suggested that if the golf course does not stay open, the funds can go toward the beach erosion problems.

President Douglass reminded everyone that the Board is not doing the fundraising.

Commissioner Wallace commented that the Board did not ask residents to fundraise, it was voluntarily offered and it is up to those residents or committee to decide what will happen to the donations.

Commissioner Mosbarger said that he is in favor of a goal of \$265,000, one-half received by October 31, 2018, and one-half received by January 2, 2019, and if this condition is met, the Board would commit to the 2019 golf season.

Commissioner Mosbarger said the Committee will provide the back-up of how they reached the goal of \$265,000.

Commissioner Mosbarger moved, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to establish a fundraising goal for golf of \$265,000, of which 50% will be received in cash by October 31, 2018; and the other 50% will be pledges (which will have credit card or checking account numbers on file), and which will be received in cash by January 2, 2019. If these goals are met, then the Golf Course will be open in 2019.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYE: S. Ehrhard, B. Gordon, K. McKendry, C. Mosbarger, F. Pitera

NAY: B. Wallace, R. Douglass

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Mosbarger, seconded by Commissioner Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approved this 21st day of May 2018

Board of Commissioners

Lake Bluff Park District