

Call to Order:

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cagle, Jason Heisler, Karen Johnson, Sarah Michehl , Eric Anderson
Commissioners Absent: Linda Matthias, Michael Jacobson

Legal Counsel: Scott Puma, Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni and Krafthefer, P.C.

Staff: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Park Services, Amy Olson Manager of Park Planning and Development, Tina Becke, Superintendent of Business Services, Kurt Reckamp, Superintendent of Recreation Programs and Facility Services, Anne Sandor, Recording Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens: See Attached Sign In Sheets

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Michehl moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson. All were in favor.

Matters from the Public

Marty Moister, Resident stated that The weeds have impacted the SPOA members the last 3-4 years, and he said was in favor of the Park District purchasing a weed harvester as it will be a very valuable asset so it can be used when the weeds need to be harvested and not having to wait for the current contractor to harvest on their schedule.

Michael Kane, Resident, stated that he was in favor of the Park District purchasing a weed harvester, as hundreds of Park District residents are lake users and will benefit from taking care of the weed issue.

Joe LaMonica, Resident, expressed the importance of caring for the lake and stated that the weed issue is getting worse and said that he was in favor of the Park District purchasing a weed harvester. Boaters, swimmers, fishermen, paddle boards and property owners are hampered by the weeds causing a smaller circumference to the lake, creating a higher concentration of users. The Park District fought to gain control of the bottom of the lake and asked that the District invest in a harvester to preserve our namesake.

Bill Carvel, Resident, reported a harvester was out on the lake today, and he thanked the Board. He stated that a weed harvester is the most ecological way to maintain the lake. Chemicals are not always the only solution. The town is called Crystal Lake (not NUNDA) and the lake should be crystal clear and not look like a marsh.

Wes Pucinski, Resident, distributed pictures of the weeds on the lake to the Park Board and shared them with the public.

Trudy Orzechowski, Resident, stated that she was upset with the statement printed in the Northwest Herald that Crystal Lake is a private lake and we are responsible for purchasing a harvester. In no way is the lake private, as stated in the Park District brochure, the District rents watercraft and has public boat launch, which adds extra traffic to the lake.

The lakefront property owners are neighbors of the Park District. The District 94% ownership of the lake bed, which is where the weeds grow. The Park District should be responsible for paying for a weed harvester. The Park District does not treat the lake as a private lake. Be a good neighbor and deal with the eelgrass and don't expect the lakefront homeowners to fund the District's responsibility.

Mr. Waldron, Resident, reported he has had trouble with using his watercraft because of the weed problem. He stated he was willing to chip in if the Park District comes up with a plan to purchase the weed harvester.

Jeff Thorsen, Resident, stated he supports his neighbors and said he was in favor of purchasing a weed harvester and felt that the investment is small and would go along way with the people and their sensitivity of the lake. The City and Park District should all share the issues on the lake.

Silvana Tasic, Resident, stated was in favor of the purchase of a weed harvester so that harvesting could be done so the weed issue doesn't worsen, and added that the responsibility of funding should be a communal responsibility.

Laurie Obermeier, Resident, stated she was in favor of purchasing the Harvester as the weed issue will worsen if the harvester is not purchased. She asked the Board for integrity and transparency to this community problem and decide to purchase the harvester.

Sally M. thanked Cathy Cagle for the opportunity to give input on this issue. She agreed that the lake property owners and non-owners should pay for the harvester together.

Monica Fiedler asked for the district to follow research and data and share the information with the public.

Tim Parrish, Resident, reported that there is a bridge of weeds that can be walked on to West Beach. He stated the weeds are atrocious; he is 6'10" and the weed are almost up to his waist. He strongly supports the purchase of the harvester and asked the Board to preserve the community's namesake.

Carroll Campbell, Resident, stated that clearly some work is needed on Crystal Lake. She expressed concerns about maintaining a balance of lake health and users on the lake. She noted the City did not approve the proposal and encouraged the Board to go to City Councilmembers to discuss this issue and ask them to contribute to the cause.

Bob Buelow, Resident, noted the weed problem has worsened and was in favor of the District purchasing a weed harvester. He asked if his home was backed up to Lippold Park property, would it be his responsibility to maintain the grass in Lippold park. Weeds are making the lake space smaller and dangerous for lake users.

Dianne Miller, Resident, reported that the lighting at the driving range in Lippold Park are shining directly on her property. She thanked Herbster for FOIA information and expressed her disappointment that she was not notified that these lights were to be turned on.

She distributed a picture to show the view of the lighting and her home. She stated that she filed a complaint with the City that the District is not complying with City Ordinance 7200.

Bob Miller, Resident, stated that there has been 30 years without lights from the driving range and now the wetlands are lit up light daytime. He expressed his disappointment that he did not

receive notice from the Director regarding these lights. He encouraged the Board to view the Dark Skies website that covers Park District lighting.

Commissioner Anderson noted that the light issue is on the agenda and will be discussed.

Greg Kobelinski, Lake Advisory Committee, stated the Committee was formed to address the ecology of the lake. He expressed the importance of the work done by Hey and Associates and the need for a weed harvester. He distributed pictures of two different harvesters, one with cutter blades, (not needed) and one with a roller/conveyor belt will pick up the weeds from the surface and down 4ft.

Executive Director Herbster thanked the public for their input. He reported that he spoke with a harvester manufacturer regarding the costs. The harvester with trailer is \$105,000.00 and the manufacturer will provide training. Two additional staff will be needed to operate the machine. Herbster added disposal of the weeds can be done at Lippold Park.

Herbster had contacted the City of Wauconda. They have been harvesting milfoil at Bangs Lake for at least 20 years. The manpower cost are approximately \$14,000/year.

Lake Harvesting Concept/Report from Staff

The Lake Advisory Committee approached the City of Crystal Lake to request funding assistance to cover the cost of weed harvesting. It was suggested a staggard fee be added to the lake usage decal to cover lake ecology. The request was denied. Gregg Kobelinski asked the Board to reach out. Director Herbster anticipates meeting with the City Manager in a couple of weeks to discuss this topic.

Commissioner Anderson asked Erik Jakubowski, Superintendent of Parks for his thoughts on the purchase of a weed harvester and staffing issues. Jakubowski stated he was confident with the decision of the Board.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he was in favor of purchasing the harvester while it is available and would like to get it in place this summer.

Executive Director noted that weed harvesting cannot be done to the shoreline. Gregg Kobelinski reported many shoreline homeowners have contracted with Hey and Associates. Commissioner Michehl noted concerns that staff is trained and asked if the removal of vegetation would affect the lake. Herbster said the harvester will remove weeds on the surface and the company will train the staff and staff will work with Hey and Associates on the timing of removal.

Commissioner Johnson asked how Wauconda finances their weed harvesting and would like to see a commitment from the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake for a lake ecology fee added to the lake usage decal.

Commissioner Cagle expressed concerns on not knowing the science of weed harvesting and acting on the word of the Lake Advisory Committee. She was concerned about where to store the machine and the increase of wages and pension for hiring staff to operate the machine. She requested tabling the discussion until the Park District, the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake meet.

Commissioner Heisler stated that he was in favor of purchasing the harvester and hiring two additional staff.

Commissioner Michehl requested that a representative from Hey and Associates be invited to the next Park Board meeting to discuss this issue. Commissioner Anderson requested Hey and Associates and the Weed Harvester be placed on the agenda for discussion at the regular Park Board meeting on July 20, 2023.

B. Lippold Golf Center Driving Range Lights

Executive Director Herbster reported the lights in question were installed in the 1990's and have not been working for 13 years. This year the lights were updated by installing LED fixtures. The lights will not be used if the driving range is not being used, and staff will be sure the lights are turned off at closing of the Golf Center. Park Police will also include the Golf Center in their evening rounds. Commissioner Cagle asked what the City Ordinance stated on lighting. Executive Director Herbster stated the lights need to be turned off no later than 10pm. Commissioner Anderson stated there is no legal problem and is a problem for the neighbors. Executive Director Herbster noted that staff is looking in to modifying the fixtures, i.e., light deflectors.

C. Shamrock Hills Community Input Meeting

Amy Olson noted that her goal is to hold community meetings to gather input on parks to develop a design. Commissioner Cagle asked if this property was being planned as a destination park because the Board and staff have discussed ideas such as a ropes course. Commissioner Anderson commented that the ropes course might be perfect for team building. He will forward information on the ropes course in Homewood Flossmoor Park District. It was suggested to invite the school staff from District 47, District 155 and the Conservation District to the input meetings.

D. Hill Farm Community Input Meeting

Amy Olson reported that many ideas have been given for the Hillfarm property after the barn is removed such as an interpretive center, fenced in playground, picnic shelter, farmer's market, garden beds. Commissioner Michehl noted the importance of clear messaging to the public on this project. Commissioner Cagle asked if the property is listed under historical preservation. A report was done approximately 10 years ago, and no historical significance was found. Commissioner Johnson asked if a restoration company was contacted. Amy Olson said they would be happy to take the wood, but it needs to be physically removed. Herbster stated a community input meeting will be scheduled late summer or early fall.

E. Haligus Playground Community Input Meeting

Amy Olson reported that staff has had site meetings with the Hitchcock Design Group design team. Community engage meetings will be scheduled for splash pad and playground, when ready. The design team will be looking again at the site, they will be identifying the wetland area. Herbster reported the IDNR has requested a phase I archaeological study be done. Three contractors have submitted quotes. The OSLAD grant has not been received. Staff will be asking for an extension of completion date. Parks Services have been working on grounds work. Olson informed the Board of a 50% grant that will give \$100,000 for the playground design. Commissioner Cagle asked if the design is a natural theme. Herbster stated the natural design will be reviewed at future community input meetings.

F. Quarterly Goal Update

Executive Director Herbster provided a quarterly update on the goals. Commissioner Cagle requested that teen programming discussion be moved up so that ideas can be included in the upcoming budget. Herbster stated the goal will begin in the fall.

G. Della Street Park Playground Replacement

Executive Director Herbster reported Manager Olson has been working on an OSLAD Grant for the replacement of the Dell Park playground. A community input meeting will be scheduled to discuss playground replacement options.

There are 2 parcels that are located in a right of way. The Highway Commissioner will be needed to vacate the property and a resolution will need to be passed in July to accept this property. The Board agreed to place a resolution to accept the property on the agenda for the Regular Park Board meeting in July.

H. Park Board Decision Making

Commissioner Anderson reviewed the Board's ability to follow and to suspend policies and the requirement to make motions to obtain a census to approve items needed at meetings. Cathy Cagle stated there are policies in place that were approved by the Board. Commissioner Anderson stated the Board can suspend or override policy to make decisions to take care of issues needing Board approval.

Discussion Items

Main Beach Band Shell

Executive Director Herbster reported that a discussion took place regarding the dedication of the Main Beach Band Shell be made to Crystal Lake Park Initiative Foundation to help with the foundation's identity and purpose. The band shell was built with funds raised by the previous Park Foundation. The Board agreed that the dedication of the band shell made sense and was supportive of the idea.

Matters from the Board:

Commissioner Cathy Cagle

- Requested a contact list of Lake Advisory Committee members
- Requested the system be set up to televise the Board meetings.
- Requested the Committee of the Whole Board Packets be posted on the District's website. Executive Director Herbster explained the packets have not been posted as they include information that is not in final format. The Board agreed to place the packets on the website and the information will be marked draft.
- Requested information that is presented to the Board include viewpoints of both sides for discussion

Adjourn:

Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:24pm.

Approve: _____ Attest: _____
President Secretary

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE 07.06.23



PLEASE SIGN-IN

Please Print		Wish to Speak Y/N	Please Print		Wish to Speak Y/N
Name <u>MARTIN MALSTER</u>			Name <u>Ann Boze</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>MICHAEL KANE</u>			Name <u>DENNIS COTER</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>JOE LAMONICA</u>		Y	Name <u>LARRY VESTRICK</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>JEN MCCORMICK</u>			Name <u>MICHELE KASUBOSKE</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>SEU CARVELL</u>			Name <u>Carolyn Campbell</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>WES NOCIWSKI</u>		Y	Name <u>Edward G. G. G.</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Trudy Orzechowski</u>			Name <u>JAM HOST</u>		
Address _____ <u>CL</u>			Address _____		
Email Address _____ <u>na</u>			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE 07.06.23



PLEASE SIGN-IN

Please Print		Wish to Speak Y/N	Please Print		Wish to Speak Y/N
Name <u>Laurie Obermeier</u>			Name <u>WASH DUBO</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Silvana Tosic</u>			Name <u>TIM PARRISH</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Jason Methier</u>			Name <u>BOB BUELOW</u>		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>MARC SPARBER</u>			Name _____		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Donna Miller</u>			Name _____		
Address _____			Address _____		
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Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Bob Mues</u>			Name _____		
Address _____			Address _____		
Email Address _____			Email Address _____		
Phone _____			Phone _____		
Name <u>Monica Fiedler</u>			Name _____		
Address _____			Address _____		
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