

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014
COMMUNITY ROOM
5:30 P.M.**

President Brad McLane called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Commissioners present: Teresa Claybrook, Richard Pierce, Ian Larkin, Brad McLane, Gerri Kahnweiler and John Thomas. Staff present: Robert Smith, Executive Director; Tom Gullen, Superintendent of Parks; Bob Farmer, Chief Financial Officer; John Muno, Superintendent of Recreation; Mary Cherveney, Communication/Marketing Manager and Libby Baker, Administrative Assistant/Safety Coordinator. Visitors present: none

Crow Island Tribal Council Circle

Bob Smith shared with the board that staff is working with Artist, Dennis Downes of Downes Studio on the inclusion of a Tribal Council Circle at Crow Island. He also described a family special event that will take place at Crow Island on April 26, in cooperation with the Historical Society. The park district will give away 100 native hardwood saplings. Program Supervisor Toby Ross is heading up this program. Commissioner Larkin suggested reaching out to some local Native American group to get their support. Dennis may have some contacts.

Budget Options For Lakefront Master Planning Process

Bob Smith has met several times with Scott Freres to come up with a cost proposal. Bob described the budget proposal submitted by The Lakota Group for facilitation of the master planning process for the lakefront parks. We should know about our grant by April 1. Bob expressed that he feels very confident that we will receive the grant. We are not able to spend money until the grant is approved. The Board would like the presentation to include more dollar amounts. Commissioner Kahnweiler would like to wait to move forward until we know if we get the grant because the cost is already over what we thought. Staff recommended that the Committee of the Whole forward the budget proposal to the full Park Board for consideration and approval on a “not to exceed” basis at the February 27, 2014 meeting.

Golf Car Bids

Tom Gullen spoke to the Board about the bid opening that was held on January 23, 2014 for the replacement of fifty golf cars according to bid specification.

Staff recommends accepting the low bid from EZ-Go Textron on the “lease to own” option of 50 cars, range picker and service plan. Bob F. explained the reasoning for choosing the lease to own option vs. a straight lease. Commissioner Kahnweiler asked to see the actual numbers to see a true comparison. Bob F. will re-work the numbers and will send them out to everyone. Tom

explained that these cars are much “cleaner” than the current cars. Commissioner Claybrook asked about the possibility of going with a 7 year lease. Bob S. expressed that he feels it is better to stay with a shorter lease. The beverage cart was removed because staff felt that the cost was not worth the limited use it may receive. Commissioner Kahnweiler asked what the total cost of the package of a round of golf would cost with a cart. The Board asked if we are competitive with other local courses. Tom explained that our course fees are a bit higher. Bob explained that given the state of the course, we are not in a position to be subsidizing these carts.

Golf Car Rental Fee Increase

In order to reduce the negative financial impact of the new golf cars, staff is recommending a \$3 increase to the cart rental fee from \$32 to \$35. If approved, new rates would take effect on April 8, 2014. Commissioner Thomas would like to hold off on raising cart fees until there are some improvements in the golf operation. Staff was directed to do a survey of local golf courses to find out what an average round of golf costs as well as cart fees. The Board will discuss this item again at the February 27 meeting.

Dashboards/Staff Reports

Bob explained that after his one on one meetings with the Board members it is obvious that each board member has different ideas of what they want. This will go to the Administration Committee. It is important to have consistency across the departments. Commissioner Thomas asked who the main beneficiary of the information is. Is it staff, the Board or the Public? Bob S. feels that all three are important. Commissioner McLane feels that the dashboards should be more easily navigated and accessible on the website per Caucus observation. District 36 has dashboards on their website. Should we ask them how effective they are? We need to determine what the meaningful information is?

Hubbard Woods Master Plan Update

Two open houses have been held. Village staff was present at the first. Attendance was minimal. The information presented at the open houses has also been posted on the website. Bob asked that Board members email him if they have ideas and comments. The Board is encouraging Bob to continue conversations with Metra regarding their plans for the building near the property. The next open houses will be Wednesday, March 19 and Saturday, March 22.

Budget

Bob Farmer gave everyone a draft of the budget and asked the board to contact him as soon as possible with any comments or changes. During the preliminary budget process, a question that came up again was where should the revenue from North Shore Country Day School’s use of the athletic turf be coded? Bob F. asked the auditor for his opinion and he suggested that it could be revenue for the Recreation Fund or used to offset the debt payment which is in the

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Committee of the Whole meeting
February 13, 2014

General Fund. Staff does not have a specific opinion either way. Bob F. explained that once a decision is made it will need to stay that way moving forward. It can't be changed. The Board discussed the pros and cons of each and concluded that it should go to the General Fund.

Commissioner McLane left at 6:53 p.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Claybrook moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larkin and passed by a voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Brad McLane, President

Robert Smith, Board Secretary