

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
PARKS AND BEACHES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014
COMMUNITY ROOM
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioner Teresa Claybrook called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Commissioners present: Brad McLane, Ed Harney, Ian Larkin, John Thomas, Teresa Claybrook and Richard Pierce. Commissioners absent: None. Staff present: Robert Smith, Executive Director; John Muno, Superintendent of Recreation; Bob Farmer, Chief Financial Officer; Tom Gullen, Ice Arena/Platform Manager; Mary Cherveney, Communication/Marketing Manager. Visitors present: Jon Shabica

State of the Lake

Director Smith introduced Jon Shabica, Vice President, Shabica & Associates, Inc. Jon gave a presentation on the state of the lake and water levels. Jon explained that over 90% of Lake Michigan was covered with ice in the peak of the winter and last year there was barely 8% coverage. Water levels are up over 2 feet from last year. The Army Corps of Engineers anticipates an 8-18 inch rise in the lake level over the next 6-9 months. Jon stated that the lake is getting back to normal levels. Water temperatures currently are 39.8 degrees and will remain colder than usual throughout the summer season. He also noted that we will probably see bigger waves this season due to the higher lake levels.

Outdoor Ice Report

Manager Gullen recapped the first skating season at the new outdoor rink, detailing the construction and operational costs associated with the project. Overall costs were slightly higher due to excavation, sight leveling, drainage, and concrete and asphalt needs. The project was completed close to budget. Electrical costs were higher than anticipated, ranging from \$150-160/day. He noted that revenue was about \$17,000. Some wish list items for next year include: a place to change skates, possibly an all-season tent that could also serve the nearby sled hill, sound system, covered benches, and a snow making machine for the sled hill.

Lakefront Master Plan Budget

Director Smith hopes to hear if we have received the grant in the next week. He met with Scott Freres Thursday morning to go over the budget numbers and feels confident that with a good rapport with the community some of hours set aside for community meetings could be pulled back from the contractors. \$150,000 has been budgeted for the Master Plan. The \$119,000 grant could offset the overall cost and would bring the cost \$31,000 below the 2014 budget. Director Smith reminded the Board that this is a matching grant which means so we make all the

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payments and upon completion of the plan we are reimbursed. Moving forward it will be important to put together a strong advisory group.

Skokie Playfield Service Center Bid Results

Director Smith explained the two bids received and the renovation plans for the Service Center. His recommendation is for approval of the contracts at the next Regular Board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Brad McLane, President

Robert Smith, Secretary