

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
PARKS AND BEACHES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016
COMMUNITY ROOM
5:30 P.M.**

Committee Chair Teresa Claybrook called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Committee members present: Mickey Archambault, Teresa Claybrook, and John Thomas. Also present: Commissioners Gerri Kahnweiler and John Peterson. Staff present: Robert Smith, Executive Director; Bob Farmer, Chief Financial Officer; John Muno, Superintendent of Facilities; Mary Cherveney, Communication & Marketing Manager; John Shea, Superintendent of Recreation; Costa Kutulas, Superintendent of Parks; Britni Purnell, HR & Benefits Administrator and Libby Baker, Administrative Manager/Safety Coordinator. Visitors: Krysia Miller, Don Smith and Zosia Schar.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Lakefront Accessibility

Commissioner Claybrook led a discussion regarding the plans for short and long term accessibility to the beaches. She began with access to Tower Road Beach, noting that parking is already available at Tower so new additional access was not considered as part of the short term initiatives. Commissioner Claybrook suggested that the designation of the current parking spaces could be evaluated. The possibility of valet parking and a shuttle service were also discussed. Staff will research these options to see if they are viable. Commissioner Thomas expressed his desire to consider expansion of the parking now, rather than in five years. Director Smith noted that he will have Rick Schram begin exploring parking options before the start of the 2016 beach season.

Commissioner Claybrook continued the discussion on Lloyd, Maple, and Elder, stating that parking at the bottom of the bluffs is very limited. Access improvements at these sites will be costly and there are no easy solutions. Maple St. Beach is probably the most difficult beach. It has an access road that goes to the water front with a small turnaround, but it is not a large area. Commissioner Claybrook noted that the LAC felt that the possible addition of parking to the waterfront at Elder Lane was not the right solution and instead the plan includes two turnaround points. Turnaround points are also included for Centennial.

Director Smith will begin discussions with the Village and Gewalt Hamilton to address the current parking needs until a permanent plan can be established.

Continued minutes of the
Parks and Beaches Committee meeting
March 17, 2016

Northfield Park District – Beach Access

The committee discussed the request received from the Northfield Park District to grant beach passes to Northfield residents at resident rates. Commissioner Claybrook inquired if the Park District has offered residents rates to other districts. It was noted that Glenview was offered resident rates a number of years ago in exchange for Winnetka residents using the Glenview pool at resident rates and very few families from Glenview purchased a beach pass. Commissioner Kahnweiler stated that since the beach is not an enterprises fund she is not comfortable offering resident rates without receiving anything in return. The committee directed Superintendent of Recreation John Shea to reach out to Northfield to see what they might offer in return.

Lakefront Master Plan Initiatives

At the request of President McLane, Director Smith and Superintendent of Parks Costa Kutulas have discussed lakefront initiatives that can be implemented with in-house labor and with minimal outside costs such as engineering and design. Director Smith asked the Parks and Beaches Committee to review and consider the list of initiatives. Costa gave an overview of the various projects being considered. Staff will prioritize the projects and begin work in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Brad McLane, President

Robert Smith, Secretary