

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (“COW”) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, February 25, 2019. Village President O’Hara called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Village Clerk Joy Markee called the roll.

The following were present:

Village President:	Kathleen O’Hara
Trustees:	Barbara Ankenman Mark Dewart Eric Grenier Paul Lemieux William Meyer Aaron Towle
Also Present:	Joy Markee, Village Clerk Drew Irvin, Village Administrator Peter Friedman, Village Attorney David Graf, Fire Chief Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator

Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

President O’Hara stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the COW on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the COW.

Consideration of the Minutes from the February 11, 2019 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Trustee Dewart moved to approve the February 11, 2019 COW minutes as amended. Trustee Grenier seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

A Continued Discussion Regarding Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Beach Parking Committee

At the invitation of President O’Hara, Village Administrator Irvin presented his memorandum to the Committee-of-the-Whole including information regarding contemporary roadway standards and the Fire Department’s response plans as they concern narrow streets. He noted that most roadways on the east side of Lake Bluff are considered “lanes” 16 to 18 feet in width, which may safely be parked on one side of the street, or “streets” 24 to 26 feet in width, which may be parked safely on both sides. He also noted that the Fire Department’s pre-incident plans avoid narrow streets and tight turning radii.

Village Engineer Hansen stated that fire trucks were able to make the narrow turn areas he reviewed. Village Administrator Irvin stated that Fire Chief Graf reports that the situation is acceptable for fire

apparatus as it exists today and that these investigations were conducted at the direction of the Committee-of-the-Whole at its last meeting.

In response to a question from Trustee Lemieux, Trustee Towle described the history of the parking recommendations issued by the Ad Hoc Beach Parking Committee. He stated that he remains open to other suggestions than parking restrictions to address concerns on north/south streets, and that he continues to believe that change should be incremental if there is any at all. He concluded by stating that the Park District's policy changes may resolve these issues.

Village Administrator Irvin recalled an initial list of concerns regarding these streets, including: closely parked cars, an inability to back out of driveways or to enter or exit properties; vehicles parked too close to driveways; and excess parking volumes. He stated that the conversation later turned to "who" was responsible for parking volumes on these streets rather than "where" the parking occurred. Village President O'Hara stated that an advantage of the committee was that they sifted through these issues. Trustee Towle reiterated the conflicts that emerged regarding parking restrictions in these areas and that he is willing to wait to see the effect of the Park District's policy changes.

Trustee Lemieux concurred with Trustee Towle's incremental approach, stating that the Board should wait and see how the next beach season unfolds rather than pursue a change that residents will not support.

Trustee Dewart stated that he would ordinarily concur, but he still had concerns about positioning fire apparatus in different places. Trustee Meyer responded that he would support the "wait and see" approach unless Fire Chief Graf believes there is an important reason to implement this restriction now.

Fire Chief Graf came forward to address the Committee-of-the-Whole. Citing a number of example intersections, he stated that the Fire Department has worked with the challenges of narrow streets for years and is understanding of the situation. While he appreciates the conversation and thoughtful discussion, he stated that the Department is not requesting changes.

Trustee Ankenman recalled the public comment in June that led to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee. She does not believe anyone expects the proposed changes by the Village or the Park District to lead to any real difference as a result of the incremental approach yielding changes that are too small for anyone to see. She is worried that residents will believe we've moved too slowly and haven't been responsive to their concerns, and wants to do something more substantial.

Trustee Towle responded that, in his view, many of the concerned residents would be frustrated by anything less than restricting parking to area residents. Trustee Ankenman responded that the Board's duty is not to make anyone fully happy, but rather to conduct thoughtful study. She again expressed her concern with the scale of the proposed changes. Village Administrator Irvin noted that the Village and the Park District had cooperated to establish better measurement practices and collect better data for decisions after the next beach season. Trustee Dewart stated that, today, there's no conclusive data on who's parking where. Trustee Towle stated that the Park District's current data shows no significant increase in non-resident beach over recent years. At the same time, he is skeptical due to the lack of Park District policy enforcement and the social media discussion by residents of other communities that concludes Lake Bluff's beach access is essentially free for non-residents.

Trustee Ankenman asked if the other members of the committee or the residents who voiced their

concerns would be satisfied with this course of action. Trustee Towle reiterated that he does not believe the area's concerned residents will be satisfied until and unless parking is restricted to area residents. Village President O'Hara reiterated that the Park District's enforcement of their rules is a subject of discussion and that both the District and the Village must be more rigorous in their enforcement this year.

After further discussion, Village President O'Hara stated that the consensus of the group appears to be maintaining the status quo as to area parking regulations; more rigorously enforce existing regulations; and revisit the data next year.

In response to a comment from Trustee Towle, Village Administrator Irvin stated that Staff would bring an ordinance to the next meeting of the Village Board that amended some of the inconsistencies found between signage and the Village's ordinances during their review of parking regulations. From the audience, David Barkhausen (resident) expressed his opposition to a proposal to change signage near his residence at Sunrise and Prospect. After further discussion regarding the consistency of regulations in other areas of the Village, Village President O'Hara stated the COW's consensus was to direct Staff to proceed with changing the sign on East Prospect and amending the Code in regards to Mountain.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator