

Warren County Board of Supervisors

Committee: Park Operations & Management (O&M)

Date: August 23, 2013

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Monroe
Merlino
Kenny

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor Dickinson

Others Present:

Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of the
Department of Public Works
Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Administrator
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Frank E. Thomas, Budget Officer
Supervisors Conover
Frasier
Mason
Montesi
Strainer
Taylor
Westcott
Wood
Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George
Michael Consuelo, Executive Director of the Lake
George Chamber of Commerce
William Lamy, Project Management Executive
Committee Member
Tanya Brand, Group Tour Promoter
Walt Lender, Executive Director of the Lake
George Association
Dean Boucher, Resident of the Town of
Queensbury
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

Mr. Monroe called the meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the agenda were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the Agenda review with New Business, Mr. Monroe referred to Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, to provide the Committee with an update on the development of the Park Maintenance Costs. Mr. Tennyson advised he and Mr. Monroe had met with Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George; and Dave Harrington, Superintendent of Public Works for the Village of Lake George. He stated they reviewed a proposal submitted by the Village to conduct the routine maintenance of the Park, which included cleaning the bathrooms and trash removal, as well as regular landscaping duties. He noted the proposal was still being developed and it was agreed that there was time to finalize the plan because the full maintenance would not even occur until the construction was completed next season or later. Mr. Tennyson mentioned they were attempting to include an attendant for the Park in the development of the

maintenance costs. He added they were also continuing to work on budget items for repairs and replacement materials and the budget for the next cycle would be very similar to the one this year. He reminded the Committee they had been using funds from the Park Reserve for any expenses of the Park and that had been adequate to cover any of those costs. Mr. Monroe interjected the anticipated balance of the Reserve at the end of this season was approximately \$70,000.

Mr. Monroe stated the next item was an update on recent events and he referred to Mayor Blais to expound on that topic. Mayor Blais informed the attendance for the Big Apple Circus had decreased from last year, mostly due to the extreme heat during the week of the event. He noted that the lack of signage and access to Beach Road over the lands planned in the land swap also contributed to the decrease in numbers. He pointed out that once LED signs were placed on Route 9 and Beach Road, the Circus had a 27% increase in attendance, although it still did not reach their expectations. Mayor Blais remarked that he was encouraging the Big Apple Circus to return again next year because the Festival Space would be completed. He advised the Carnival that was held after the Circus was a complete failure, again due to the weather, the lack of signage and access to Beach Road, and he did not believe they would come back next year. He mentioned there were two craft shows interested in holding their events on the property next year.

Mr. Monroe apprised the next item on the Agenda concerned the Park Construction Schedule-TEP (Transportation Enhancement Program) and Festival Space. Mr. Tennyson said the bids had gone out for the Festival Space and were due on September 20th and the TEP grant would be closely behind. He noted they were in the process of making final revisions to the plans for the TEP grant and the bids should be released in early to mid-September. With regard to the Winter Carnival utilizing the Festival Space this winter, Mr. Tennyson reported it would depend on the status of the turf and how much work was completed this fall into the winter. He added that he had advised the snowmobile groups that had used the space last year for races not to plan on using it again this year because they needed to be cautious to not impair any of the construction work that would be occurring.

Mr. Monroe reviewed the Referrals portion of the agenda, noting the park maintenance schedule and estimated budget had been discussed. He added a cost estimate for park signage had been obtained and he referred to Mr. Tennyson for more information. Mr. Tennyson stated the portable LED signs could be feasible for event usage and cost approximately \$18,000. Mayor Blais asserted that the grant application that was filed last week included the cost for two permanent LED signs for an estimated amount of \$75,000.

Mr. Tennyson apprised he did not have an update on Referral Item 2, relative to the Park Rules. He stated the Village and Town of Lake George needed to take action before the County could proceed. Mayor Blais said the Park Rules were ready to go to a Public Hearing for consideration.

As there was no further business to come before the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee, on motion made by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. Kenny, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk