



100 E. Michigan Blvd. / Suite 2

~~Six on the Lake~~

~~Washington Park~~

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The Michigan City Park and Recreation Board held a public hearing Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at the hour of 5:30 P.M. in the Emergency Operation Center at City Hall, City of Michigan City, Indiana.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Messrs. Dabney, Latchford, Freese and Chatfield. Also in attendance were Park Board Attorney Jeff Katz, Administrative Director Shannon Eason, Mark O'Leary, Smith Group, JJR, Jessica O'Brien, The News Dispatch, and Andre Steele, ALCO TV.

A sign in sheet listing participant attendance is attached.

Park Board Attorney Jeff Katz presented the history of Sheridan Beach and the Esplanade, encroachment leases and restoration license agreements.

Mark O'Leary presented the Public Access, Land Management and Implementation Plan.

The meeting was opened to comments from the Sheridan Beach and Esplanade Restoration Committee.

Dale Engquist, resident and former Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, stated the plan is excellent, the process for drafting this plan was also excellent. His only concern is the proposed plan only encourages collector paths and shared paths. He would rather see volunteer paths prohibited.

Ed Hogan, resident, agrees with the plan entirely. He would like the Park Board to adopt the plan immediately. If amendments are needed in the future, they can be addressed in the future. It's time to take the first step.

Nicole Barker, Executive Director of Save the Dunes, stated the process went extremely well; many very difficult issues were addressed and many compromises were made. Her only concern is not prohibiting volunteer paths. More paths will mean more blowing sand. Healthy dunes protect land and property from storms as witnessed during Super Storm Sandy.

The meeting was opened to the public for comments.

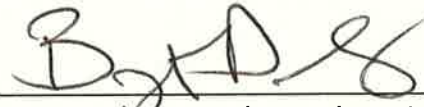
Harvey Pokorny commented one of the shared paths shown in the plan is directly behind his residence and that concerns him. He stated homeowner's weren't notified of the process of creating the plan. He questioned the basis for the native species list and questioned the paradigm of native plants in the proposed plan. He suggested an email list be created to distribute notifications to homeowners.

Jean Pokorny, 905 Colfax Street, stated she was concerned about the overflow of people from Washington Park into Sheridan Beach noting there is not sufficient public parking.

Howard Mason, 108 Carolina Avenue, commented public parking should be addressed before designating public access points to the beach.

Dennis Gates, 804 Colfax Avenue, stated the plan is excellent and he is glad this is being addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Bryant Dabney, Park Board President



Phil Freese, Park Board Secretary

Minutes prepared by Shannon Eason