MEETING NOTES
Lighthouse Landing Complex Committee
Wednesday, June 27, 2018
1:30 pm
Evanston Ecology Center
2024 McCormick Blvd.

Members Present: Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Erika Doroghazi, Linda Eggers, Paul D'Agostino, Marti Lannert, Ann McMahon, Don Terras

Member Absent: Pam Elesh

Guests: Libby Hill, Police Officer Arzuaga

Meeting notes for March 14, 2018 meeting were approved.

Committee Member Reports

Lighthouse Park District
D. Terras said that the renovations to the Lighthouse lens were completed and that a Coast Guard LED flashing unit has been added. He also discussed the need for new interpretive signs for the area with the Garden Club of Evanston. He said weekend tours of the facility started on June 2nd, but that the recent warm weather had affected attendance, as he cannot conduct tours when the temperature is above 90 degrees. He also mentioned that the area between the coach house and the fence needed to be cleaned up of all the overgrown plants and asked why all the recycling containers had been removed from the beach entrance. Lastly, he discussed the Lighthouse Park District’s website and what information is provided regarding their budget, board members, etc.

Garden Club of Evanston
M. Lannert reported that the Garden Club was not taking an official stance on the fate of the Harley Clark mansion, and was delaying their investments for garden improvements until the issue is settled. She also asked that City staff check on the trees at the northwest corner of the North Foghouse for potential removal.

Ecology Center
E. Doroghazi stated that both Foghouses had flooded recently and that staff had to excavate around them to allow the water to drain away. As a result, they may abandon the door on the north side to prevent future problems during heavy rains. New air conditioning has been installed prior to the start of summer camps this year. Summer programs would be continuing until August 17, and this year’s group was smaller than in previous years. She said that reservations for use of the fire pit continue, and that she would check on the official capacity for the site,
as Don Terras questioned why there was a group of 50-75 last Sunday at the site.

**Neighborhood Issues**
Ann noted that kids had recently been using a gap in the fence along the south edge of the property as a cut-through to the dune area and asked if this could be addressed. She noted that it is important to have a Police presence at the site in June to discourage late night activities, and that the spot used as a gathering space still needs to be cleared so the view is unobstructed. She asked if signs could be placed at the dune entrances that stated the hours and that no dogs are allowed, and questioned whether the hours for the beach and the dune area were the same.

**Evanston Public Works**
P. D’Agostino reported that there was an inventory of remaining Ash trees done last spring to determine how many more needed to be removed, and that this work would be done if the weather cooperated. He also noted that Noah’s Playground received a spring cleanup and replanting effort by the Cutter family and volunteers, and that City staff would be cleaning up the grotto soon.

**Alderman Revelle**
The Alderman stated that the Lighthouse Dunes group (which is advocating demolition of the mansion and restoration of the dunes) is proposing that there be a community engagement process to develop a plan for the site restoration. This would likely happen after demolition of the mansion.

**Public Comments**
Libby Hill stated she was writing an article on the history of the dune area for the July 12 issue of the Evanston Roundtable. She was trying to verify the details of the transfer of the property and the timeline of the existence of dunes at the site. She thought that the current proposals to remove the mansion and restore the dunes should be separated, as they are two distinct portions of the property. She would also like to re-introduce controlled burns and wants the City to create a “Natural Area” designation for sites like this.

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2018**