



Governor's Home Town Award Winner & Cup Finalist

Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together
A Round Lake Area Community Coalition

General Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

Jim DiDonato called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM at the Round Lake Area Public Library.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes from February 8, 2018. Mayor MacGillis made a motion and Jeanne Kearby seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Speaker: Rich Hill, Mayor of Round Lake Beach

- Member of the community since 1977.
- Began involvement with the Chamber of Commerce in the 1980's, the Park District in 1990's. In 1994, he became a Village of Round Lake Beach Trustee after having concerns with the budget.
- In 2001 he ran for mayor and won by default. He is in his 5th term and has served for over 20 years.
- HR Manager at Ace Hardware for 40 + years.
- Over the last 20 years he thinks the community has improved through changes to street repaving, water mains, and sewer infrastructure. Redone lakefront beach and will do some more this year with shore stabilization, retaining wall repair.
- Increase in rental homes since the recession.
- The village has a variety of jurisdictions including two post offices, two fire districts, and one park district. The village is governed by the Mayor, Clerk, and 6 Village Trustees.
- he village spent over \$100,000 on cleanup from the village. Unfortunately the area was not able to qualify for FEMA funding.

Q&A

- Collaboration - The village is using TIF districts to repair roads and to stabilize neighborhoods that were losing property value by adding street lights and cameras. They collaborate with school districts and other groups to use the Civic center free of charge. Collaborate for CenCom 9-1-1, joint water collaborations, and sewer systems.
- In the next two years, the Village will begin to work on extending Hook Drive over to Nicole Drive to help decrease some traffic on Rollins Road. This will also free up room for additional commercial development. There are some areas that will be preserved wetlands with walking paths.
- Business environment - Kmart has been the largest vacancy but the Sears Corporation has not been willing to sell it for the prices being offered by potential buyers. There have been multiple offers on the Garden Fresh building which is likely going to sell soon. A Northwestern Medical Center is going up at Hook Drive and Rollins.
- How do you prioritize - First on what we are responsible for: police, fire, water/sewer (reducing rates by increasing number of clients utilizing the system and maintaining the infrastructure), building permits and focusing on safe and timely housing, and creating a business atmosphere.
- Advocacy - paratransit and housing (low interest home loans, work with HUD and the Metropolitan Housing Council).
- Police Department works closely with teen court, high school and hispanic police academy. People are afraid of the police and they are trying to build bridges with the community through National Night Out.
- Mayor's Contact Information - 224-629-6535, mayorrbeach@ameritech.net.
- Martina Rocha requested a meeting with the Mayor to speak about parking issues.
- Rollins Road sidewalks - Rollins Road is managed by the County. The sidewalks are actually snow shelves and therefore are not maintained by the county as walking areas. The village has been working to put in sidewalks slowly but federal requirements sometimes increase the cost and make it prohibitive. Members encouraged the mayor to conduct advocacy with the county to

help address the problem as we need more solutions to help make this community more walkable.

- Village has decreased curb installations as it increases road costs by 30%. The village is instead focusing on fixing the roads - currently about 70% completed.
- Request for the mayor to consider initiative to add more quality and accessible bike racks.

Reports from Executive Committees

President

- Jim encouraged everyone to use the community calendar so that agencies can better plan and the community is aware of events occurring.
- Feel free to tag BEST in Facebook events that your organization is posting.

Vice President

- April's speakers will be Liz Herzberg and Mary Vallely from our Fundraising Committee who will speak about our fundraising strategy.
- December's Membership Meeting will be tabled for a B.E.S.T. 20th Anniversary Celebration and Breakfast.

Treasurer

- The Executive Committee has decided to share additional information on expenses and revenue in the monthly reports.
- Beginning cash balance for February was \$17,599.88 and ending cash balance was \$17,796.88.
- A round of applause and celebration was had for the new and continuing memberships!
- Wendy made a Motion and Carole Shook made a second to approve the February 20, 2018 Treasurer's Report. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Reports from Standing Committees

By-Laws – No report.

Fundraising - The committee's initial goal is to raise \$20,000 by 2019 to support B.E.S.T. The committee is still looking for volunteers to assist with fundraising. More information to come at the April meeting.

Membership – Reminder to all members to leave their name tags at the end of the meeting. Thank you!

Public Awareness

- Reminder to members to repost things on facebook.
- Reminder to post your events on the community calendar.
- The Community Empowerment Grant Application Deadline is March 31. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

Reports from Special Committees

Chili Supper Committee

- This year's supper is scheduled for October 15.
- Jim and Jeanne Kearby presented a \$500 Check to the Round Lake Area Fine Arts Boosters thanking the School District for their partnership and assistance with this event.

Kindergarten Readiness Committee

- The committee is in the process of applying for a grant from the United Way of Lake County's Women's United Group for preschool scholarships at the Round Lake Area Park District.
- The next meeting is April 10th at 1:00 PM at the Round Lake Area Early Education Center.

Transportation – No report.

Dementia Friendly Committee –

- Chief of Police for the Village of Round Lake Park, George Filenko, presented a very insightful and engaging conversation with the committee at our March 5th meeting. We had a chance for an in depth Q&A session.
- We will schedule a presentation from Catholic Charities at a future meeting to learn about the services they offer.
- We will continue to plan our three prong approach to increase awareness, provide education and offer support.
- Next meeting is April 2nd at 9:00 am at the Avon Township office.

Voter Engagement Committee -

- The Executive Committee approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee focused on Voter Engagement at its February meeting.
- Data collection has begun on the state of voter engagement in Avon Township.
- Over the next month we will recruit additional committee members to work on next steps and continuing reviewing existing data and best strategies on voter engagement.
- We encourage the members of BEST to get out and vote in the March 20th primaries! Not sure who's on your ballot? Visit Lake County Voter Power: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/351/Voter-Power>.

New Business

Various announcements were made from members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM. The next meeting of BEST will be April 12, 2018.