

## September 13, 2018 General Meeting Minutes

Jim DiDonato called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM at the Round Lake Village Hall with a welcome and introductions.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes from August 9, 2018. Georgeann made a motion and Dayle made a second. Judy, Jeanne, and Deanna abstained. All other present voting members were in favor and the motion passed.

### Presentation from the Kindergarten Readiness Committee

- The Kindergarten Readiness Committee was created after a presentation from the Preschool Principal in Round Lake who indicated almost 95% of Kindergartners were not ready to start school.
- BEST brought multiple Coalition members together to address the issue.
- Initial work by the committee included hosting multiple community events to raise awareness and learn how we could address this issue from other community members.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Committee has moved the needle through program expansion and creation. Examples included larger distribution of Kindergarten Readiness Calendars, increased number of Early Learning Clubs, engagement with OB-GYNs in the area, the Library started 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and the Park District started Pop Up Preschool, applied for and received a grant to fund preschool slots, engaged with leading coalitions, and created the Mountain Top project.
- Joan Ellis gave an overview of the preschool scholarship program at the Round Lake Area Park District and showed a video thanking the Women's United Group. The program costs \$2,000 per child per year and 60 children can be served per day in the preschool. Students do not have to be screened to enter the preschool. However, students must have a financial need or show lack of readiness to participate in the scholarship program. Most families find out about the program from word of mouth, referrals, and social media.
- The Grounds for Change event will be held on November 13th and will provide an update on the state of Kindergarten Readiness in the Round Lake Area.
- Jeanne Kearby has begun chairing the committee. She shared that the preschool is beneficial to all student. Jeanne also noted that the U.S. is one of the only industrialized nations without a universal preschool program and encouraged the Coalition to ask their local leaders about their thoughts on preschool and early childhood education.
- The committee will expand its focus this year on children from birth to Kindergarten, engaging local pediatricians, collecting data on the need for preschool in the Round Lake Area, and helping parents understand opportunities for students to prepare for Kindergarten.
- Eric Apgar noted that students are screened for Early Intervention by the school district. 260 students are served at the Early Education Center that are considered at-risk or have a disability. Eric also spoke about the importance of the Round Lake Area Park District preschool program as a resource for families.
- There are approximately 1,500 preschool age students in the Round Lake Area. Only 420 are served by the district, park district, and head start. Jeanne indicated that there are more preschool opportunities available in home daycares and other centers around the community.

### Reports from Executive Committees

President - Jim thanked all of the committees for their great work in the community and indicated that the Executive Committee has been working on the budget, audit, nonprofit filings, and goals.

Vice President - Absent

Treasurer - Eric presented the August Treasurer's Report. Judy made a motion and Jeanne made a second. All in favor.

### Reports from Standing Committees

By-Laws - No report.

Fundraising - Kathy Breen is the new chair of the Membership Committee and has been working with committee members to understand and continue the work done so far. Committee.

Membership - A new online membership application and payment system has been developed.

Public Awareness - Please share any information with BEST that you would like distributed.

### Reports from Special Committees

Chili Supper - Seeking volunteers to assist with the event and soliciting baskets from the municipalities.

Dementia Friendly Committee - The next committee meeting is the first monday of October at 9:00 AM at the Round Lake Area Park Village Hall.

Kindergarten Readiness Committee - No report beyond presentation

### Transportation

- A Tri-County Access Project Open House was held on September 6th to allow community members to give input on alternatives to Route 53 expansion and voice their concerns on potential environmental impact.
- The Lake County Transportation Study had a series of open houses where short and longer term solutions were discussed such as: dissolving LCCTSC and create a working group of various stakeholders to implement solutions, utilize Uber and Lyft to expand paratransit, extend hours of service to provide service to second and third shift employees as well as weekend service.

### Voter Engagement

- An estimated 100 volunteers will be needed to reach all households in our target precincts. Please contact Sandra Diaz to volunteer.
- Coalition members are encouraged to verify if they are registered and review sources such as the Illinois Voter Guide to educate themselves on candidates for the November election.

### New Business

Dayle Kehr requested that a special committee be considered for food access.

Various announcements were made from members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM. The next meeting of BEST will be October 11, 2018.