

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 05-04-2022 MINUTES

## 2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-0311

A work session of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Present: John Prince, Chair  
Robert Niemi, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Paul Schloegel  
John Sonderegger

Absent: Ed Angeli

P. Schloegel made a motion to excuse E. Angeli from the meeting, R. Niemi seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

R. Niemi made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, P. Schloegel seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

### 1. **400 E. Hampton Property Discussion**

J. Price thanked everyone in attendance and provided some opening remarks. T. Carpenter gave an overview and history of the property. The property is made up of 3 parcels, one that is deeded to the MBLP and two that are Bottomlands agreements with the State of Michigan. North American Dismantling is finalizing their work this spring, which will bring the property back to grade and re-seeded with grass. The substation will remain on the property and would be cost prohibitive to relocate; the bulk material unloading dock will also remain as it stands right now. T. Carpenter outlined the restrictions in place with the State of Michigan on the Bottomlands parcels; these agreements will need to be amended to conform with the possible future uses, these amendments will not alter the current public use stipulations that are outlined in the agreements with the State of Michigan. T. Carpenter explained what the MBLP's role is regarding the property, "we (the MBLP) are not developers, we provide electricity" and as such, any project that may be considered down there would be similar to the other projects we have allowed on our property, such as the Soccer Fields, Baseball Fields, BMX Track, and Disc Golf Course at the Kaufman Sports Complex; in that a third party would need to oversee the project and it would need to be for the betterment of the community.

T. Carpenter opened the floor for general questions and discussion from those in attendance.

### 2. **Public Comments:**

Michael Sekely – 1054 S Lake St

Thanked the Board for the environmental stewardship in the transition away from coal and the support of the solar garden and residents who have solar on their homes. He spoke to the shortage of parking at S.

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Beach and asked that the Board consider utilizing some of that space for a parking lot for beach-goers. He also stated support for a green space in that area.

Sharon Kemp – 824 Lake St.

Shared support for a green area with picnic tables and benches; mentioned it would be a nice area to watch the fireworks from.

Heather Holdwick – 521 W Bluff

Shared support for an open green area and the possibility of a small fenced in dog area.

Lisa Jahnke – 808 S Lake St

Appreciated the Board having the meeting and taking the time to listen to the community; shared support for a green space and the possibility of a small boat launch in that area, she also spoke to the parking shortage they have seen in that area and how additional parking could benefit everyone.

Wendy Maki – 1055 S Lake St

Supports the neighbor's comments regarding a green space for the site.

Paul Schoonveld – 803 S Lake St

Appreciates the Board taking public comment and sharing the information with the community. Spoke to the change in activity since the plant has been demolished and how tranquil it has become. Spoke to how a green space would positively impact the area and the visitors to our area.

Sam Jacques – 802 S Lake St

Inquired about the trees in front of the property. Also shared support for a green space/dog park in the area.

Barry Grenleaf - 266 Kawbagum

Shared support for a community recreational facility (12 month). Indoor tennis, curling, pickle-ball, and a reception area.

Margaret Brumm - 404 E Magnetic

Shared support for an elevated walkway such as the one in Midland. Something that could be disassembled if future use of the site is needed. Something that could provide a full 180-degree view.

Dave Campana – 1711 Grandview

Shared support for a pier/dock such as the ones being built towards Mattson Lower Harbor Park.

Tyler Penron – 9 Peter White Dr

Works at Superior Watershed Partnership. Stated that it was really encouraging to hear the community members supporting a green space and continued public access to the lakeshore. Shared that as plans continue to come forward that it would be good to think of adding native species plants and more ecosystem services to the pollinators that call Marquette home.

Jen Hill – 503 Craig St

Shared interest in the migratory birds that utilize the area surrounding the site and the possibility of a viewing area for migratory bird watchers.

Brian Carlson – Lake St

Shared interest in seeing a green space in the location and that South Marquette could use more of that.

Jenn Hill – 503 Craig St

Commented on the firework comment made earlier and shared concern for managing the traffic in that area.

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 05-04-2022 MINUTES

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Margaret Brumm - 404 E Magnetic

Asked that the Board consider utilizing clover seed for ground cover in addition to whatever cover may be utilized.

3. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present:**

T. Carpenter mentioned the new SmartHub portal.

4. **Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present:**

P Schloegel – Thanked everyone for coming, spoke briefly to the rumors currently being shared on social media and asked that those who attended the meeting tonight share the information they received from us with their neighbors and friends. He also shared a bit of information he gathered outside of the meeting as far as uses for the space; he also stated that a green space/general access were the leading comments he received. He thanked everyone again for their time and comments.

J. Sonderegger - Echoed P. Schloegel's comments, was happy to see everyone here that took an interest in the property, J. Sonderegger shared his thoughts as a community member regarding the different facilities that could be on the site and he would be interested in communicating with those who attended tonight.

R. Niemi – Spoke to the amount of shoreline that the city currently has and that is a point of pride; shared that anything going on there should be for the betterment of the community. He also touched on some comments made in the community regarding the possibility of lost revenue to the city from the closing of the plant; stated that how our payments to the city work, the demolition of Shiras has had no effect on the dollar amount to the City.

J. Prince – Stated he appreciated the attendance and all the questions that were asked. Shared the thought that once the site is fully cleared we may hold a meeting down at the property. Let everyone know if they have any further questions they are free to reach out to Board Members or Tom Carpenter with those inquiries. Thanked everyone again for attending

5. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



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Robert Niemi,  
Vice Chair/Secretary