

**CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Special Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District, Bossier Parish, Louisiana was held on the 31st day of July, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Nature Center building, located at 135 Cypress Park Drive, Benton, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Jerry Fowler. The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Mel Allen. Chelle Carroll called the roll, with all members present as follows:

Walter Bigby	Gary Wyche
Jerry Fowler	Robert Berry
Mel Allen	

Others present include Chelle Carroll, Office Administrator for the District; Alex Vozzella, Legal Counsel for the District; Bruce Easterly, Engineer for the District.

Please see attached sign-in sheet for members of the public who were also present.

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**Old Business: None**

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**New Business:**

Mr. Fowler announced the consideration of the boathouse permit request by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Easter (254 South Lakeshore Drive).

Mr. Fowler stated that one of the requirements for obtaining a boathouse permit is to have written consent from both adjacent property owners. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey are opposed to the Easters' proposed boathouse.

Mr. Fowler asked if both parties, Mrs. Easter and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, would like to step out into the meeting room to resolve this matters without the Board having to get involved. The parties agreed to discuss the matter outside of the meeting room.

The parties returned to the meeting room and stated that they have come to an agreement on a new proposed plan and presented the new plan to the Board.

There was significant discussion among the Harveys, Mrs. Tony Easter, Mr. Easterly, and the Board regarding the specifics of the new proposed plan.

Ms. Vozzella stated since all the necessary landowners consent to the new proposed plan, the Board does not need to decide on the permit. Ms. Vozzella recommends that the Easters work out their proposal with Mr. Easterly and get the Harveys and Mr. Smith to provide written consent, and the Harveys get their proposal together and get written consent from the Easters.

Mr. Berry stated that the landowners could have reached this agreement prior to this meeting but instead wasted taxpayer money by making the Board have this special meeting to deal with a private landowner issue that could have been resolved among themselves. Mr. Berry stated this should not be brought before the Board again at another meeting. Ms. Vozzella stated that since all the landowners consent to the new proposed plan, absent any engineering issues, they would not need to come before the Board again.

**Motion was made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Bigby, to withdraw new business for the request of the Easters' boathouse as presented to the Board and present it to Mr. Easterly and let them get an agreement from both adjoining property owners.**

Public comment was requested. There being no other public comment cards submitted concerning this agenda item and no public comments received prior to the meeting, the public comment period was closed.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

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Mr. Fowler announced the consideration of restricting Cypress Park hours of operation or temporarily closing in response to the recent spike in COVID-19.

Ms. Vozzella presented information related to recent COVID-19 spikes and potential legal concerns.

There was significant discussion among the Board members and Ms. Vozzella regarding how best to protect the community and the park employees.

Ms. Vozzella recommended that due to all the uncertainty surrounding the virus and its effects, the Board should err on the side of caution and take the measures that would protect the most people.

**Motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Bigby, to shut down the RV area as soon as possible and shut down the day pass entry after this weekend for 30 days.**

Public comment was requested. There being no other public comment cards submitted concerning this agenda item and no public comments received prior to the meeting, the public comment period was closed.

**Votes were cast, and the motion carried unanimously.**

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### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Fowler at approximately 11:00 a.m.

JERRY FOWLER, President  
Cypress Black Bayou Recreation &  
Water Conservation District

GARY WYCHE, Secretary  
Cypress Black Bayou Recreation &  
Water Conservation District