



Cypress Black Bayou Monthly Digest

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Oh, Sweet Autumn!

Here are the CBB updates for month of September 2018.



by **Jennyne Pinter** on September 24, 2018
Photo Courtesy of GETTY - www.express.co.uk

Pretty soon, the leaves will start to change in color, the first breath of morning air will carry a crisp bite and glowing jack o'lanterns will sit happily upon our steps and porches. Even though the days are slowly growing shorter, the hustle and bustle of our two pretty lakes carries on! Please enjoy this 3rd publication of the CBB Monthly Digest.

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Labor Day Brought Fun in the Sun (...and in a little rain)!

by [Jennyne Pinter](#) on September 10, 2018
Cartoon Courtesy of www.gocomics.com

The long weekend was a great success in the recreation park, regardless of the rain toward the end. Hundreds of day visitors came in to enjoy the beach and zoo, and all of the RV sites were rented as well as the cabins and cottages!

The weekend went off without a hitch: There were no injuries or incidents and the crowds really seemed to enjoy themselves. Many guests complimented the staff on how beautiful the park was and we hope to see them back in the future!

The weekend following slowed significantly, as was to be expected. But this gave the park employees a chance to catch up on chores, attend the annual safety meeting and get adjusted to the change in park hours (the gates are now open only until 5 pm Sunday-Thursday).



What is an Executive Session, Anyway??

by [Jennyne Pinter](#) on September 18, 2018

I had the chance to speak briefly with one of the board meeting's attendees when we were exiting the Nature Center on the 11th. She queried as to what might go on in an executive session, and more interestingly, why the public would want to stay and re-enter the meeting hall after the executive session had completed. What a great question! Why *does* President Wyche offer for us to come back in when they are done with their meeting? The explanation is very simple and kind of silly, really: You may re-enter the building to witness the fact that the executive session had been completed. Strange, yes, but there is our answer!

Now, in regards as to what takes place in an executive session, I cannot speak from experience. From what I have read and what I have been told, it is formatted to be private in order for board members to speak about issues that may involve legal counsel, personnel and management issues, employee contracts, compensation or reviews, etc... So, suffice it to say they handle the matters which the public really needn't bother themselves with. These meetings are also held privately in an effort to protect the name of any person involved with some particular situation. This way (as an example) a landowner's identity might be protected in a private matter or one that involves legal counsel so that his private life as a lake resident and neighbor will not be disrupted in any way. And while it is not abnormal to feel suspicious that closed doors might mean that board members are *hiding something* or *scheming*, rest assured that this is truly not the case. Furthermore, it is critical to understand that absolutely nothing may be voted on in an executive session, so no action will ever take place. Action will only occur at a meeting which is open to the public. These are not just CBB standards, but are written in the Open Meetings Law as provided by Louisiana's Constitution.



Board of Commissioners Meeting Recap

by **Jennyne Pinter** on September 14, 2018

This is just a little expansion on some of the topics found in the minutes. I'll recap important highlights, but will only elaborate on issues of my choosing based on relevance to the community at large. If anyone should ever so desire, all meetings are recorded and preserved and may be accessed with permission through the administration at the Front Gate, M-F from 8-4.

In the Director's Report, Mr. Berry commented on the success Labor Day Weekend. He also mentioned that salvinia was less this year than in years prior. The annual dam inspection was scheduled to take place the morning of the 11th, but Mr. Berry stated that it had to be postponed due to the bad weather.

The meeting was small in attendance again. There was only one issue on the agenda under "Old Business," and it was that of a dilapidated boat house. This presents an interesting topic, though, and I think that the subject warrants some extra attention.

Question: What are the Board of Commissioners to do about an unresponsive landowner when it comes to the care and maintenance of structures or landscape on District-leased property? This 'boat house situation' provides us with a perfect example of how difficult it can be to make decisions in certain instances.

We have a landowner who is derelict in his duty to repair a shabby boat house. Although he regularly issues assurances that construction is soon to be "in-the-works," nothing has been done to date and the problem has been under discussion for months. A neighbor to this boathouse is trying to sell his property, but the eyesore is too much for potential buyers and thus his land remains on the market.

Mr. Berry made a motion to have a final legal letter sent to the owner of the boat house stating that the District would demolish it within a certain amount of time if he had not gotten the matter resolved. The motion was accepted unanimously and no public comment was made.

While this does physically remove the ugly problem, it gives birth to a new dilemma in that now the District will have to seek reimbursement from this landowner for the demolition

and disposal of the materials and perhaps even the cost of legal counsel. Given this landowner's recent history in making empty promises, it's safe to assume that he will not be whipping out his checkbook in any sort of hurry.

If the demolition *does* occur, and the subsequent reimbursement *does not* occur, that only means that even more legal bills will be accrued in order to file claims in court. Phew! I could go on, but I think you get the point. This is a really sticky situation that has neither a happy nor simple resolution.

[READ THE FULL MINUTES](#)

President - Gary Wyche **Secretary** - Walter Bigby **Vice President** - Alan Warren
Board Member - Jerry Fowler **Executive Director** - Robert Berry

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UPDATE 9-30-2018

We are so pleased to add that the landowner referred to above did finally follow through and make the necessary repairs to his boathouse before any further action had to be taken.

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In Other News
At and Around the Lakes



Lake levels are still way down. The rain at the end of this month helped a little, but please continue to use caution when out on the water.

The swimming beach will be closing October 1.

Did you know that you can check the water levels of Cypress online? Go to the [Links](#) tab on our website and click on 'Water Depth of Cypress Lake'.

The grill at the marina is now closed for the season. CBB wants to wish our grill cook, Zac Ekendahl, all the best as he heads off to boot camp!

Wildlife and Fisheries were out on Black Bayou during the week of the 17th to spray for salvinia.

Have you missed out on some of the other newsletters? You can find them on our website under the Landowners tab or [click here](#).

The Lily Pads are prevalent in some places, but Wildlife and Fisheries recommends against any further spraying due to the low water levels. The poison concentration will cause too much damage to the fish population, and a more dilute solution will not kill the vegetation. Let's hope that some chilly temperatures arrive soon and do them in!



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