



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

**DATE:** March 5, 2018

**MEMO TO:** Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Planning Committee

**FROM:** James E. Ballowe  
Director of Facilities

**REQUEST:** Provide policy direction regarding the potential use and/or disposal of the remaining four Lake Marie Boat Pier Rights.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED:** Organizational Sustainability

**FINANCIAL DATA:** If direction from Committee is to dispose of the pier rights through a public auction process, staff recommends that a minimum starting bid be set at \$2,000.00 per pier, which is the price the District set as the minimum and subsequently received for the 41 pier rights previously auctioned.

**BACKGROUND:** The District acquired the right to install 45 boat piers and a boat launch in Lake Marie (part of the Chain o' Lakes) when it purchased the Lake Marie Forest Preserve. The US Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) has jurisdiction over pier rights and the total number of piers allowed within the Chain o' Lakes, and confirmed that the District acquired such pier rights. The District consequently disposed of the rights to 41 of the 45 piers through a public auction process. For clarification, the District did not sell the physical piers (which were in poor condition) or the right to install any improvement on District property. Instead, the District sold what are essentially transferable rights to install piers, and the physical piers would be installed on other property within the Chain o' Lakes, but not on District property. The District applied for and received an exception for the remaining four pier rights, allowing the District to retain the pier rights without having to install the piers in the water. This exception expires with the 2018 boating season, during which the District must install physical piers or the rights to do so in the future will be relinquished.

At the Direction of the Committee, staff has been in contact with the Corps and is waiting to hear whether a further extension of rights will be considered. Depending on what the Corps decides, staff is suggesting mutually exclusive courses of action:

- a) If the Corps indicates that they would consider another extension, the District should apply for the maximum allowable extension.
- b) If the Corps will not consider another extension, staff will immediately start the public auction process so that potential bidders potentially have access to gaining the pier rights prior to the summer boating season.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel.