

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2018**

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Park District of Highland Park was held in the Multi-Purpose Room at the West Ridge Center, 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park, Illinois.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Kaplan.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Bernstein, President Kaplan

**Absent:** Commissioner Flores Weisskopf arrived at 7:05.

**Staff Present:** Executive Director McElroy; Deputy Director of Operations Donahue; Director Romes; Assistant Director Smith; Director Curtis; Director Voss; Assistant Director Carr; Director Gogola; Manager Laue

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None

**5-YEAR REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PLAN**

Assistant Director Smith highlighted the 5-Year Replacement Capital Plan by section. On September 27, 2018, the Finance Committee reviewed the repair and replacement needs related to the District's parks and facilities. In addition to 2019's budget, future needs 2020-2024 were discussed. Capital planning is a district-wide effort. Planning, Parks and Facility Managers come together to discuss the future needs of parks and facilities. Replacement schedules and general maintenance records are reviewed and included in the Replacement Capital Plan to ensure the Districts' assets are maintained at a high-quality level. New initiatives are included to provide additional amenities for the community. Assistant Director Smith explained that there is money budgeted to specific areas which are future placeholders for potential projects.

Commissioner Bernstein asked about the ball field lights in relation to Athletic fields improvements. Commissioner Grossberg asked about tennis courts and Pickleball. There was also a question about racquetball usage.

Director Curtis discussed the Capital Fund. Commissioner Bernstein expressed the need for a Funds Balance Policy to have funds available to the District in the event of an emergency. Director Curtis stated that \$4 million dollars is spent per year on replacement capital.

## **PARK AVENUE BARGE**

Assistant Director Smith introduced Margaret Boshek of SmithGroup who made a presentation for options to repair/replace the barge at Park Avenue Beach.

In June 2018, the Park District retained SmithGroup to conduct a thorough study for the repair or replacement of the barge at Park Avenue. As part of their work, SmithGroup was asked to explore a variety of solutions, including repair of the existing barge breakwater, removal and replacement of the barge breakwater, and removal of the barge breakwater and replacement with an alternant breakwater structure. SmithGroup presented four design concepts. Each concept was examined for ease of design and construction, permitting requirements, service life, and cost. The four concepts up for review are: 1) Repair Strategy, 2) Barge Replacement, 3) Cellular Sheetpile and 4) Rubble Fill with H-Piles.

The New Construction Concept – By completely removing the dilapidated barge, a newer structure with a smaller footprint would be installed in its space. This would allow for more options related to the boat launch such as expansion or the installation of an additional floating dock to allow for more easy access onto the boat on the east side of the ramp.

The sheetpile cell would be held in shape with tie rods spaced at regular intervals. Smaller widths require less tie rods while wider walkways would require more. This alternative includes a new 6' wide floating dock alongside the sheetpile cell to allow for easier access into vessels. As vertical sided structures increase wave heights around them due to wave reflection, it is suggested the sheetpile cell structure be fronted with armor stone. This would aid in a reduction of wave agitation within the basin which would result in reduced ramp downtime and reduced forces along the shoreline. Furthermore, if stone is place up to a height within 30 inches of the walkway, a railing would not be required. A minimum walkway width of 8 feet is recommended. Widening the walkway would be possible and will have the added benefit of becoming more stable. However, the trade off would be additional costs associated with sheetpile, granular fill, and concrete.

Vice President Ruttenberg shared some of his observations. He reiterated that the District will be able to operate the barge successfully through next season and a commitment to repair/replace will need to be addressed for the following season. He explained that while costlier up front, Concept #3 will provide the type of premier project the Park District of Highland Park is known for as well as incur less anticipated maintenance. He also shared that hopefully by 2020 the existing tariffs will be gone.

President Kaplan asked Margaret what the anticipated yearly maintenance and repair costs will be for each of the concepts and will there be a certainty of repair and maintenance cost for each of the concepts. Margaret stated that concepts #1 through #3 due to their steel structure will require maintenance. The barge concept will have the most maintenance and the sheetpile option will require the least maintenance.

The construction of this alternative, as described, was estimated to take between 12-14 weeks, weather dependent.

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The following residents spoke in support of Cellular Sheetpile and most were in support of expanding the structure:

Bill Perley, 2502 Farnsworth, Northbrook

Maureen Hammond, 930 Warrington, Deerfield

David Sogin, 1092 Wade, Highland Park

Peter Mordini, 1853 Sheahen Court, Highland Park

David Multack, 1111 Crofton Avenue, N., Highland Park

Frances Jane Peszek, 146 Towers Keep, Highland Park

Brett Tolpin, 283 Leslee Lane, Highland Park

Megan Gulford, 2477 Sheridan Road, Highland Park

Dan Hirsch, 276 Walker, Highland Park

Neesa Sweet, 400 Park Avenue, Highland Park

Commissioner Bernstein stated that the barge issue should be a part of the 5-Year Capital Plan. He recommended that the Board determine which option the District should proceed with at the October 23 Board Meeting. The Finance Committee would then meet to discuss financing.

### **REVIEW OF VOUCHERS**

Director Curtis presented the vouchers for checks written September 21, 2018 through October 4, 2018 for an amount totaling \$919,530.67. There were no questions from the Board.

### **OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD - None**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liza McElroy, Secretary