

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
AUGUST 13, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Vice-President Ruttenberg.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Vice President Ruttenberg, Weisskopf

**Absent:** Commissioner Bernstein, President Kaplan arrived at 6:13 p.m.

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Romes, Deputy Director Donahue, Interim Director Becker, Director Carr, Director Voss, Director Smith, Director Gogola, Director Dunn, Assistant Director Henriques, Assistant Director Maliszewski, Manager Grill, Senior Planner Schwartz

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None

**ROSEWOOD BEACH UPDATE**

Director Smith introduced Margaret Boushek of SmithGroup. Ms. Boushek reviewed the conditions at Rosewood Beach resulting from high lake levels. She explained that there has been scarping and recession observed in all three coves and that the sand at Rosewood Beach is a medium grain sand called torpedo sand.

Ms. Boushek discussed an immediate and emergency repair of increasing the sand grain size at Rosewood Beach from the torpedo sand to a coarser sand, called birds eye, which can hold a steeper profile. Ms. Boushek stated that Lake Forest Beach has employed this type of sand and has experienced no beach erosion. The birds eye sand is three to four millimeters in size. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf asked if the coarser sand would change the experience at Rosewood Beach for its patrons. Ms. Boushek stated that the patrons at Lake Forest Beach enjoy all the same activities as Rosewood Beach and the patrons are used to its texture.

Ms. Boushek then presented four alternatives for a more permanent solution, noting that each cove may each require its own solution. They are: Underwater Weir, Reduced Gap Width, Sheetpile Perched Beach and Internal Breakwater. Ms. Boushek explained that the Underwater Weir would be the most effective long-term solution for the issues at the Interpretive Center cove. Ms. Boushek added that the Underwater Weir requires the least amount of material and is the most cost efficient.

Vice President Ruttenberg asked about the permitting process. Ms. Boushek explained that the process is lengthy as several agencies must sign off on the permits and can take up to 18 months. However, there is an option to apply for an emergency permit. Ms. Boushek stated that once permits are approved, construction could be completed in about one month.

Executive Director Romes asked the Board for their comments on moving forward with the emergency option of sand nourishment. President Kaplan stated that the Board would require a cost estimate before moving forward with sand nourishment. Ms. Boushek stated the best time to nourish the beach would be in the fall.

### **MORaine PATHWAY REPAIRS UPDATE**

Director Smith explained that due to record setting, heavy rainfall this past spring, portions of the path leading to Moraine Dog Beach have significantly eroded. For the safety of our dog park members, and the community at large, Moraine Dog Beach is currently closed.

Director Smith reviewed that the Park District of Highland Park is partnering with the City of Highland Park and the Army Corp of Engineers to conduct a Feasibility Study of Ravine 10 for a potential Habitat Restoration Project, and replacement of the path is included in the scope. Director Smith shared that this winter the District will receive information indicating if the study will be approved. The final approval of the Feasibility Study will occur in March 2020. At that time the Project Partner Agreement would be signed. Construction would begin after November 2020, and last about a year. The path would likely be closed until project completion in fall 2021.

Director Smith stated that the District has been working with an engineering firm to explore the possibility of repairing the failed sections of the path prior to the Army Corps project so that it can reopen sooner than projected. He explained that the analysis to repair the path would cost as much as \$40-\$50,000, and costs for construction documents could be an additional \$50,000. He shared that construction could possibly be completed in summer 2020 and pointed out that if the Army Corp project moves forward, the path would likely reclose as soon as fall 2020.

President Kaplan asked what the cost would be for the path repair. Director Smith explained there would be a cost savings if the path repair was conducted as part of a larger Army Corps project. Director Smith recommended that the District not proceed with repairing the path prior to the results of the Army Corps Feasibility Study. He added that staff will stay in close contact with the Army Corps and report back to the Board.

### **SUNSET WOODS BASKETBALL COURT REPLACEMENT / FILLER FOUNDATION**

Executive Director Romes reported that he met with a representative from the Jordan Michael Filler Foundation. The Filler Family lost their son Jordan to substance abuse six years ago and created a Foundation to raise awareness, education and participate in ways to further those pursuits. Their hope is that this basketball court will be a place where young people can meet, gather and enjoy being together during the day well as in the evenings.

Executive Director Romes explained that the Filler Foundation would like to build an outdoor basketball court with lights at Sunset Woods Park. The construction may include possible seating or building a multi-use court. The location was chosen as it is centrally located in Highland Park. Executive Director Romes explained that there are plans to resurface the existing basketball court at Sunset Woods Park, as soon as 2020.

The cost estimate for this project would be anywhere from \$80-\$250,000. The Filler Foundation would like to their fundraising efforts. President Kaplan asked what the downside was to begin fundraising. Executive Director Romes stated that the District needs to be certain about the site. Vice President Ruttenberg suggested that staff take a good look at the site to make sure they would like to move ahead with this plan. There was no opposition to the Filler Foundation starting to fundraise, but to note this project has not yet been approved.

## **COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE**

### **A. SKOKIE RIVER WOODS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)**

Director Smith explained that in 2002, the Park District of Highland Park (the District), City of Highland Park (the City) and Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) entered into the Skokie River Woods Intergovernmental Agreement. The Agreement was intended to protect open space for the Skokie River Woods property, as well as the adjacent property formerly known as the Highland Park Country Club.

In 2018, the District purchased portions of the Highland Park Country Club property from the City. This property is now referred to as Community Park at the Recreation Center of Highland Park. Before beginning construction on this site, an amendment to the Skokie River Woods Intergovernmental Agreement is required. District staff drafted an amendment that was sent to the City and LCFPD. LCFPD responded with additional requests that are outside of the property and that the District does not agree to. The District continues to negotiate amendments with LCFPD and the City with the goal of presenting agreed upon amendments to the LCFPD Planning Committee on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **B. PARK NAMING**

Director Gogola shared that in 2018 the Park District of Highland Park acquired the Highland Park Country Club property from the City of Highland Park. Staff has since been working with land planning specialists, *Hey and Associates*, as well as a community advisory board, to create a site master plan that includes converting the previous site from a golf course, to green spaces, interwoven with natural areas, gardens, woods, walking and biking trails. This new development, and associated renovation, was identified in the Park District's board approved Master Plan, ***GreenPrint 2024***. As a result of these site changes the Park District currently refers to the site as *Community Park at the Recreation Center of Highland Park*. Staff will be seeking approval from the Park Board of Commissioners to create a new name for the park.

According to Park District Policy 4.02 regarding the naming of Parks "It is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to select names for new parks, buildings,

or facilities ("Park Property"), or when appropriate, to change the existing name(s) of Park Property of the District. It is the objective of the Park District of Highland Park: A. To ensure that parks, buildings and facilities are easily identified and located B. To ensure that names will engender a strong public image and have public support C. To encourage gifts of lands and facilities or donations by individuals, groups and corporations without undue commercialization of the park or facility.” Additionally, “The Park Board may solicit public input on proposed park, building or facility names through public meetings or other means”, and “Park Property should be named only after discussion and then a wait of at least sixty days before voting. A four-fifths affirmative vote is needed to name a Park Property or to change the name of Park Property of the District.”

Director Gogola stated that there will be a Naming Committee and Advisory Committee. Vice President Ruttenberg asked if other Park Districts have different names for their buildings and parks. Director Gogola said yes. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf shared that she liked the current name and Commissioner Grossberg brought up the possibility that a family might want to donate to the park which would change the proposed process. Vice President Ruttenberg shared that the community is already familiar with the name and keeping it might make sense.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ORDINANCE**

Executive Director Romes stated that according to Park District Policy regarding rules for public comment at Park Board Meetings, “The Board of Park Commissioners shall adopt by ordinance, publish and make available for public inspection rules governing the manner in which attendees at public meetings may participate and make public comment during such meetings.” The Park Board reviewed recommendations for the adoption of such ordinance. Executive Director Romes shared that he has reviewed the City of Highland Park’s Ordinance as well as those for Districts 112 and 113. He shared that the Park District of Highland Park’s Public Comment Ordinance will be similar.

#### **REVIEW OF VOUCHERS**

Interim Director Becker presented the vouchers for checks written July 19, 2019 through August 8, 2019 for an amount totaling \$950,471.53. There were no questions from the Board. Vice President Ruttenberg reviewed the vouchers and had no further questions.

#### **OPEN TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD**

Mr. David Sogin of Highland Park, shared that the Park Avenue Yacht Club will celebrate the City of Highland Park’s 150<sup>th</sup> celebration with a Venetian Night Parade which starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 17. He said he was happy that work will be done at Rosewood Beach and spoke of his concerns regarding the barge at Park Avenue Beach.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)(1) – the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline of the District including legal counsel for the District; Section 2(c)5 –

the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6 – the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District; Section 2(c)8 – security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; Section 2(c)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent; Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes lawfully closed under the Act, whether for the purposes of approval of said minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of the minutes as set forth in Section 2.06 of the Act; Section 2(c)29 – for discussions between internal or external auditors and the Board.  
Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores  
Weisskopf, Commissioner Bernstein, President Kaplan  
Nay: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned into closed session at 7:54 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened into open session at 9:23 p.m.

**ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY**

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under Section 2(c)5 – the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)11 – litigation against or on behalf of the District or where the District finds that an action is probable or imminent.

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg and approved by unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary