

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2020**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by President Kaplan.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Bernstein, Vice President Ruttenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith, Director Peters; Assistant Director Maliszewski, Assistant Director Henriques; Director Carr; Director Gogola; Manager Grill; Executive Coordinator Hejnowski

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – None

PARK AVENUE UPDATE

Executive Director Romes reported that at the December 12 Regular Park Board Meeting, the Park Board directed staff to work with community stakeholders on addressing potential site improvements at Park Avenue Boating Facility. Park Board Commissioner, Cal Bernstein, and Park Board Vice President, Barnett Ruttenberg, were assigned as board liaisons to this Park Avenue Working Group.

The working group met for the first time on Monday, December 16, and established the Group's purpose and stated objectives. Meeting participants included Park District, City staff, Park Board liaison's, and City Council liaison's Tony Blumberg and Adam Stolberg, North Shore Yacht Club Commodore Laura Knapp, as well as numerous members of the public.

Romes reported that The Park Avenue Working Group's stated purpose is to seek feasible options that provide long term access to boating activities at Park Avenue Boating Facility and stated objectives were as follows: Objective #1 *is to provide education on lakefront conditions and associated risks at Park Avenue.* Romes noted that this objective was completed this evening, January 14 at the Working Groups second meeting where coastal engineering firm, SmithGroup, presented up-to-date information on Lake Michigan water levels, explained the different proposed concepts for the barge/breakwater repair or replacement and reviewed a site analysis that helped explain the risks associated with activities and shoreline protection at Park Avenue. Objective #2 is to evaluate site improvement options and determine priorities based on

feasibility. Romes reported that this objective will be tackled at our next Working Group Meeting on Wednesday, January 29, at 8am. The group hopes to gain consensus on a recommendation that will be brought to the Park District Finance Committee. Objective #3 is to explore fiscally responsible funding options to support site improvements which will be discussed at the Park District's March Finance Committee Meetings. Objective #4 is to provide a recommendation to the Park Board on proposed site improvements and funding options in either April or May 2020.

Romes reported that the Park Avenue Working Group is hoping to gain consensus from the Park Board that Consistent with the Park District's Mission and Board-approved policies, The District will continue working with the Park Avenue Working Group on seeking fiscally responsible site improvements that provide long term access to boating activities at Park Avenue Boating Facility. All Park Board members provided their consensus. Commissioner Bernstein added that 11 concepts were discussed earlier this evening and he hopes that at the January 29 meeting, the group will be able to narrow it down to two to three preferred concepts.

The following were comments from the public.

Michael Stroz, 580 Hillside, Highland Park

Mr. Stroz stated that he has heard a lot of positive things happening recently.

Michael West, 1342 Ferndale, Highland Park

Mr. West expressed his appreciation for the task force.

Laura Knapp, 700 College Place, Highland Park

Ms. Knapp stated that the working group is making good progress, but she would like to see money in the Capital Plan for Park Avenue Beach.

Annette Johnston, 836 Burton Avenue, Highland Park

Ms. Johnston is happy that the Capital Plan is being discussed, but states that there is significant damage from the latest storm. She would like to see money added to the 2020 Capital Plan to repair or maintain Park Avenue before further erosion occurs.

Frances Jane Peszek, 146 Towers Keep, Highland Park

Dr. Wallace Nicholas finds that being on, in, or near the water provides cognitive health benefits. She shared some of the article.

Fritz Litgers, 45 Burtis, Highwood

Mr. Litgers shared that this past summer was his first summer of boating and he enjoyed it. He wanted to thank the boating community and North Shore Yacht Club for keeping his memories alive.

Lynn West, 1900 Green Bay Road, Highland Park

Ms. West would like to see the yacht club be more involved with the Park District and stated that it is her opinion that the District fails to offer educational programming geared toward boating.

Peter Mordini, 1853 Sheahen Court, Highland Park

Mr. Mordini thanked the Park District and the City for the major cleanup after this last big storm. He shared that there have been major successes in Michigan from the implementation of trapbag repairs. He asked if such repairs could be covered by insurance. He also asked if there would be boating next year. Executive Director Romes stated that it would be dependent on safety. Mr. Mordini said he would like to see a deck or platform built on the sheet pile and doesn't understand why it would be that difficult. He feels the south side of the parking lot would have been saved if there had been an operational breakwater.

Joe Harrison, 1700 Edgewood Road, Highland Park

Mr. Harrison stated that he has been a member of the yacht club for 30 years and appreciates that Highland Park is one of the few cities with lake front access. He appreciates the efforts being made and stated that numbers cannot be used for comparison due to all the changes.

David Mecklenberger, 1180 Hilary Lane, Highland Park

Mr. Mecklenberger is a lifelong resident of Highland Park and 50-year boat user. He shared that he walked from Park Avenue to Ravine Drive before the storm. He asked if a boat launch could be placed at Ravine Drive beach since there is still a concrete foundation and this beach doesn't seem to be hit as hard as Park Avenue Beach.

Peter Sherman, 1409 Ridge Road, Highland Park

Mr. Sherman has used the launch ramp for many years. He is glad to hear that the Board of Commissioners is considering repairs since it is a great resource that many cities don't have. He thanked the Board and is hopeful that a solution can be reached.

ROSEWOOD BEACH UPDATE

Director Smith reported that the Rosewood Beach Emergency Nourishment Project was completed this past Fall to address immediate concerns from sand erosion due to near-record high lake levels and increased storm activity in Lake Michigan. The District continues working with SmithGroup in exploring long-term solutions for the protection of Park District lakefront property. Margaret Boshek of SmithGroup presented a variety of options for addressing the erosion at Rosewood Beach.

She shared that NOAA and the Army Corps records lake levels and provides predicted forecasts for future levels. This past year Rosewood Beach was a little under half a foot from the historic high. 2019 was the highest precipitation year out of 125 years of recording. In January, the lake level average was 581.51, which is 17 inches higher than last year's average. The National Weather Service, predicted in November 2019, an average winter, but it has turned out to be much warmer, which translates into high water levels. The Summer 2020 forecast is for lake levels to be above the record high.

Ms. Boshek stated that NOAA predicted 12-foot waves from the storm this past weekend. At this time of year, it is expected that the beach would be covered with ice, which works as a protective shield. Because there is no ice, due to warmer temperatures, this storm caused significant damage. An average water level for Lake Michigan is 578.84, since our lake levels are currently

at 583 the waves were topping over the breakwaters at Rosewood and brushed up onto the beaches, but the nourishment project protected the shoreline and the infrastructures.

Ms. Boshek outlined the following long-term concepts.

1. Underwater Weir (keeps the current breakwater)
 - a. During high waters the weir will not be visible.
 - b. Sand will no longer escape the cove, as a result there will be a significant drop once you enter the water beyond the rubble piles

2. Reduced Gap Width
 - a. The current gap allowing water to enter the cove will be reduced. This will require tons of stones which are very expensive since everyone along the lakefront is seeking a similar solution.
 - b. This is more effective than the first option, but the cost is significantly higher.

3. Back of Beach Revetment
 - a. The revetment would not be visible so long as the sand does not disappear. It would be placed underground in front of the building and around the parking lot.
 - b. This does not help maintain the beach or prevent further erosion. This is a final defense to protect infrastructures.

Ms. Boshek stated that not every cove requires the same long-term repair. The project timeline for any of these options is:

- Permitting takes two three weeks.
- Drawing available one week later.
- Bid: one month later.
- Construction should take six to eight weeks (weather dependent).
- Total: about four to six months, if there are no delays.

President Kaplan wanted to confirm that option 3, the Revetment, does not protect against sand erosion. Ms. Boshek answered that he was correct. She further explained that each cove acts independently.

Commissioner Bernstein asked if the beach would need another replenishment. Ms. Boshek stated that is could be a possibility. Commissioner Bernstein asked Ms. Boshek if a replenishment would be less likely by adding these long-term concepts? Ms. Boshek stated that until a beach feels full or static it will want to absorb sand.

Commissioner Bernstein asked if the revetments are installed, even with the high lake levels, would there be no sand left or would it just be protecting the building. Ms. Boshek stated that until water levels recede, the recreational spaces will be very small, but still exist. Commissioner Bernstein asked how the sand will get replenished as the lake levels go down. Ms. Boshek explained that the beaches are very flat, so the sand gets pushed up onto the shoreline and creates dunes.

Vice President Ruttenberg asked if the revetments are installed, does it need to be covered with sand. He further stated if this will mean bringing in more sand or moving what is currently there. Ms. Boshek answered that the current sand would be used, but the southern cove (recreation cove) might need additional sand since it was not included in the emergency nourishment.

Commissioner Bernstein shared that if this is the new normal, and lake levels will be at this height or higher, and we're currently experiencing topping, is the revetment the only way to protect the boardwalk and infrastructures. Ms. Boshek answered yes. She further reported that Rosewood Beach has flattened to the point where it's now stable and the grains are not being lifted back into the water. She feels the sand nourishment is protecting the District's investment.

Commissioner Grossberg asked if science suggests this is a global epidemic or will this pass. Ms. Boshek shared the rising temps are causing more precipitation and higher lake levels. The long-term forecast is wetter/warmer. Commissioner Grossberg further stated it takes a long time for water to slowly release into the seaway from lake Michigan.

Vice President Ruttenberg asked when a decision would have to be made which would allow the beaches to open by Memorial Day. Ms. Boshek stated that the work could be done in phases. He further asked if Ms. Boshek had been hired by any other lakefront communities. Ms. Boshek answered SmithGroup has been hired by Chicago and Wilmette to address their lakefront concerns. Vice President Ruttenberg asked if those areas are doing anything differently. Ms. Boshek stated Highland Park is ahead of the curve, since Chicago and Wilmette have yet to identify areas to repair.

The following were comments from the public.

Joe Harrison, 1700 Edgewood Road, Highland Park

Mr. Harrison asked about options 1 and 2 and wanted to know what happens to the water depth. Ms. Boshek replied that option 1 holds sand in it and reduces the water dept for swimming.

Ben Johnston, 94 Oakmont Rd, Highland Park

Mr. Johnston stated that it doesn't seem like only the high water has effect on the sands, suggesting this past year has been devastating. He feels the original design failed to protect the sand. He thinks the breakwater does a nice job, but the gap is too wide allowing high and forceful waves to hit the shoreline. He asked if the reduced gap should have been done originally. He stated that gap diffraction and the amount of energy is related to a wave environment. Ms. Boshek reported it is not a failure of the design, which was implemented for and during average water levels in 2015. Mr. Johnston asked if the sand was being monitored. Ms. Boshek answered yes, a five-year study was being conducted. She further stated that it is visible that the sand is flattening and getting placed outside of the breakwaters, and it won't return. Mr. Johnston asked which plan Ms. Boshek felt was the most effective at breaking wave energy. Ms. Boshek answered that reducing the gap will reduce the waves but cause more sand to build in the cove.

President Kaplan stated that it was time to move on.

BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT (IDNR COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM)

Director Smith reported that through ongoing lakefront planning, staff has identified the need for a Beach Management Plan because of the increasing complexity of managing lakefront parks, and the need to protect the beaches for recreational use and natural habitat. The District applied for grant funding through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program to support this effort. I am pleased to announce that the District's proposal was selected, and the District will receive funding, pending approval of the grant agreement attached to the board packet.

To develop this plan, the Park District will work with engineers at SmithGroup. Engineers will evaluate existing conditions to develop management recommendations and strategies for Moraine Beach, Millard Beach, Park Avenue Beach, and Rosewood Beach. Each location is unique and will be addressed separately to develop specific actions that are customized to local conditions. The focus of the proposed plan is to develop practical, implementable, and quantifiable strategies to address sources of water quality degradation, habitat creation and protection, universal public access, and long-term resilience honoring the District's mission and vision of environmental stewardship and appreciation of the natural world.

The total project cost is \$35,000, half of which is reimbursable by the grant. The District's match is budgeted in the 2020 Capital Plan. The District has until January 2021 to complete the development of this plan.

Ms. Boshek reported that four parks along the beachfront have been examined. The goal is to create a planning document to help the District make decisions such as water quality, habitat retention and growth, public safety and access to these beaches.

Vice President Ruttenberg asked if SmithGroup's plan will provide suggestions for recreational opportunities at Millard Park. Ms. Boshek said yes, and a site analysis will be conducted. Vice President Ruttenberg wanted to know if the study will take into consideration parks adjacent to the beaches. Ms. Boshek stated that zoning is included with this plan so some recommendations will be offered. She further stated that the District developed a land management plan and part of that plan was to include a beach management plan.

COMMUNITY PARK UPDATE

Manager Grill reported that recent accomplishments include restoration in the Highland Park Woods corridor, repair of culverts on the site, and award of the IEPA 319 Grant funds for Shoreline Restoration on the North Pond.

Manager Grill stated that staff continues to work with the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) and City of Highland Park on terms associated with the required Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Following a mid-November meeting, LCFPD staff committed to send revised IGA documents, which are expected to be received this week. Park District staff submitted an updated Master Plan to LCFPD which includes the IEPA grant work.

Construction documents are largely finalized. Staff expects to submit these to Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) and the City of Highland Park for Watershed Development Ordinance permitting this month.

Manager Grill shared that the Park District's application for IDNR's Recreational Trails Program has been forwarded to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration for consideration. This is a key step toward approval of funding for trail amenities including a restroom, additional signage, trail markers, and a traffic circle to enhance pedestrian/bike flow around the nature maze. The total amount of that portion of the project is \$72,300 with requested grant funds of \$57,500. The grant announcement for OSLAD funding is expected soon, but final agreements are not expected to be completed until Spring 2020. Our application is for \$400,000 for trail work, park amenities, and landscaping.

Staff is preparing bid documents for construction. However, if awarded either of the grants from IDNR, the project could not be bid until the grant agreement(s) are signed. Manager Grill stated that construction will begin in June or early Fall.

PLATFORM TENNIS UPDATE

Director Smith stated that following the Park Board's direction to continue to explore the most cost-effective location for platform tennis, staff have solicited a proposal for further cost estimating from engineering firm Gewalt Hamilton and Associates. Staff will review the cost proposal to identify the ideal location for platform tennis and to develop preliminary concept plans and cost estimates.

Director Smith shared that the four sites under consideration are: Sunset Woods Park, Danny Cunniff Park, Deer Creek Racquet Club, and the Golf Learning Center. Sunset Woods Park is not in a flood plain, but a warming hut would have to be constructed which would be expensive. Danny Cunniff Park has a building which could be repurposed but is in a flood plain. Deer Creek Racquet Club could use the existing building as a warming hut. The Golf Learning Center has an existing building which could become a multi-purpose facility.

Director Smith reported that the opinion of staff is that Danny Cunniff is the best location for platform tennis courts. President Kaplan asked if the warming hut would need to be staffed. Executive Director Romes said no, not all the park districts have staffed huts. He stated that those that are staffed serve food and beverages. Commissioner Grossberg stated that he had a concern with the Danny Cunniff location, and asked if the courts could be relocated. Director Smith said that yes, Gewalt Hamilton would assist with the placement of things at the site. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf shared that it is unnecessary to have all the locations examined as it is more cost efficient to decide on one and take it from there. She stated that she does not like the Golf Learning Center as a possible location as it has no synergy with platform tennis. Commissioner Grossberg agreed but said that location draws people. President Kaplan stated that parking would be an issue at the Golf Learning Center.

Vice President Ruttenberg stated that if it was his choice, he feels Danny Cunniff Park is the most favorable and has synergy with the tennis courts there. President Kaplan stated that staff

should only investigate Danny Cunniff and provide a preliminary estimate. Commissioner Grossberg asked the price to examine one site. Director Smith said he was not positive but thought it was around \$10,000. Commissioner Grossberg asked if there were any other concerns regarding Sunset Woods Park. Director Smith shared that one of the goals of staff was to examine cost effective locations. He stated that the contractor said this would be the costliest option as a hut would have to be constructed.

Commissioner Bernstein asked how many courts the District is considering. Director Smith said four. Commissioner Bernstein stated that he does not like any of these alternatives. He further asserted that it goes against what the District has done in the past. He continued by stating that whenever the District has elected to do a major project, the Board and Staff has done a thorough investigation of the demand. Commissioner Bernstein shared that he is not in favor of proceeding at this point. He stated that there might be opportunities to incorporate this in future capital planning.

SOLAR PANEL PROJECT UPDATE

Commissioner Bernstein recused himself from the meeting at 8:15 p.m. due to a conflict of interest with Windfree.

Director Smith reported that staff continues to investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels at Park District facilities. It is an unfunded effort right now, but staff agrees there are various opportunities to consider. Several months back a leased option was discussed. The installation would be of no cost to the district. Staff also investigated the possibility of purchasing the panels out right.

As part of this process, meetings have been held with Alternative Utility Service and Eco-Solar regarding lease options. Staff has also worked with Windfree Solar to explore purchase options. In addition, grant funding opportunities have been explored and staff has reached out to the Park District of Oak Park to discuss their successful solar projects. Director Smith stated that staff is considering the installation of solar panels at Deer Creek Racquet Club shortly after the roof replacement which is scheduled for early Fall 2020. Installation on the Parks Operations and Golf Operations Building are also being considered.

Director Smith shared that placing solar panels at Deer Creek Racquet Club could present a few issues as the roof is asphalt and is not the best surface for solar panels. Director Smith stated that the Parks Operations Golf Operations building which has a flat roof could be a better option for solar panels. Director Smith said that staff would like to present next steps, including funding options at the upcoming Finance Committee Meeting.

Executive Director Romes shared that Tony Matzke is the new Facility Maintenance Manager, overseeing maintenance and custodial staff for operations and facilities.

Commissioner Bernstein returned to the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

President Kaplan called for a five-minute break at 8:26 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

HIDDEN CREEK AQUAPARK FILTRATION PROJECT UPDATE

Director Carr reported that the water filtration system at Hidden Creek AquaPark (HCAP) has been servicing the pool for 22 seasons. The recent performance of the filters, along with an inspection of the internal filtration system indicates that the system is nearing the end of its useful life. As a result, staff has been planning for a replacement of the current sand filtration system, circulation pumps, and valves as well as reworking and upgrading the system controller.

Director Carr stated that a goal in the replacement of the current system is to install a system that provides the most up to date technologies, delivering the cleanest and safest water possible. Additionally, staff is seeking a system that provides sustainability improvements through energy efficiency, reduction of chemical usage and water loss through filtration. Staff recently contracted an engineering and design firm, WT Group, to develop our desired specifications for this commercial pool filtration system.

Director Carr explained the benefits of a regenerative filtration system versus a sand filtration system. Currently, there are two major manufacturers of the equipment supporting a regenerative filtration system, Neptune Benson and Paddock Industries. The Paddock Filtrex regenerative filtration system utilizes a stainless-steel construction, which is recommended by WT Group versus the Neptune carbon lined steel construction. In addition, the Paddock Filtrex system is compatible with our current controller system, which means the controller will only require an upgrade versus a full replacement.

Director Carr reported that the local supplier of the Paddock Filtrex system, Halogen Supply Company, provided a proposal of \$235,000. Since the equipment is only available through Halogen Supply Company, approval will be requested through a Sole Source purchase. The budgeted project expense in the 2020 Capital Budget is \$425,000. In addition to the replacement of the water filtration system, the replacement of circulation pumps was anticipated and budgeted in the 5 Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2022. However, after the engineering and design work by WT Engineering, it was determined that the pump replacement in conjunction with the filter replacement is required. Below is a breakdown of projected project expenses.

Project Budget	\$425,000
Engineering	(\$18,500)
Equipment (including circulation pumps)	(\$235,000)
Estimated Installation	(\$220,000)
Total Estimated Project Expenses	(\$473,500)
Project Over/Under	(48,500)

Project Timeline

January 28, 2020	Approval by Board of Commissioners for equipment purchase
February 2020	Construction documents, bid development, IDPH permitting
March 31, 2020	Approval by Board of Commissioners for equipment installation
April 2020	Demolition and installation
May 2020	System testing and Hidden Creek opening preparations
May 23rd, 2020	Hidden Creek AquaPark Opening day

President Kaplan asked if the filtration needed to be replaced. Director Carr said that it does. Vice President Ruttenberg wanted to know that if the switch is made, will the District have energy and water savings and if this is the case, should these numbers be reviewed when considering the project cost.

Staff will recommend at the January 28 Regular Park Board Meeting approval to purchase the Paddock Filtrex system by Sole Source.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OPERATING BUDGET

During preparation for the Park District’s bond issuance, it was determined that the budgeted bond proceeds of \$7,100,000 were allocated to the Debt Service Fund and should have been budgeted for in the Capital Fund. As a result, staff recommends an amendment to the 2020 operating budget, to move the \$7,100,000 budgeted bond proceeds from the Debt Service Fund to the Capital Fund. Furthermore, staff will recommend from the Park Board of Commissioners at the January 28, Regular Meeting, approval of a resolution amending the fiscal year 2020 operating budget. After this Resolution is executed, the Resolution shall be filed in the permanent records of the District.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Peters presented the vouchers for checks written December 5, 2019 through January 9, 2020 for an amount totaling \$3,555,597.58. There were no questions from the Board. Vice President Ruttenberg reviewed the vouchers and had no further questions.

Workshop Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary