

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Kaplan

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Rutenberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, President Kaplan

**Absent:** None

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

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** - None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from January 14, 2020 Special Meeting; Minutes from January 14, 2020 Workshop Meeting; Minutes from January 28, 2020 Board Meeting; Minutes from January 28, 2020 Special Meeting; Approval of Ordinance 2020-03 – RCHP Property To Be Named The Preserve of Highland Park; Approval of 2019 Review and Amendment to GreenPrint 2024; Approval of Resolution 2020-03 Authorizing a Contract with the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider; Approval of Third Rider Agreement with Highland Park Bank & Trust, A Branch of Lake Forest Bank & Trust Company, N.A.; Approval of Davis Bancorp Armored Car Services Agreement; Approval of Seed Installation Monitoring and Management for FY 2020 Monitoring and Management; Approval of Agreement with Woodhouse Tinucci Architects for Recreation Center of Highland Park Locker Room Renovations; Approval of Golf Course and Learning Center Maintenance Equipment Purchase; Approval of Resolution 2020-04 – To Grant Non-Exclusive Utility Easement and Covenants; Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$1,609,922.95.

President Kaplan requested that Item E Approval of Ordinance 2020-03 – RCHP Property To Be Named The Preserve of Highland Park be removed from the Consent Agenda and be discussed at the March 10 Workshop Meeting. President Kaplan also requested that Item M Approval of

Resolution 2020-04 – To Grant Non-Exclusivity Utility Easement and Covenants be removed from the Consent Agenda and be voted on separately.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to approve items A-D, F-L and Item N from the Consent Agenda.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Motion Carried**

Commissioner Bernstein recused himself and left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to approve item M Approval of Resolution 2020-04 – To Grant Non-Exclusivity Utility Easement and Covenants.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Motion Carried**

Commissioner Bernstein returned to the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Director Smith reported that Staff continues to work with SmithGroup to address erosion at Rosewood Beach due to near-record high lake levels and increased storm activity in Lake Michigan and discussed options for each cove. After evaluating the underwater weir, reduced gap, the back of beach revetment, and sand nourishment options at each cove, the Park Board expressed the following:

**Interpretive Cove:** The Park Board favored the construction of a back of beach revetment to protect the Interpretive Center and a stone sheetpile wall along the backside to protect the parking lot. The Park Board requested that staff obtain a proposal from SmithGroup to prepare construction documents with the possibility of construction occurring in the Fall of 2020.

**Swimming Cove:** The Park Board decided against the underwater weir and reduced gap options and requested more information on the back of beach revetment. The Board requested that staff obtain a proposal from SmithGroup to prepare construction documents for the back of beach revetment.

**Recreation Cove:** The Park Board did not provide consensus on the underwater weir, reduced gap, or the back of beach revetment. Additional information was requested on sand nourishment with an understanding that the alternative would be closing this cove and removing the playground shade structure.

The Park District has \$550,000 budgeted for Rosewood Beach Protections in the 2020 Capital Budget and \$600,000 allocated in the 2021 Capital Plan.

Director Smith stated the proposed costs for the Interpretive Cove construction documents are \$25,500. The estimated construction would cost \$430,900 for a total of \$456,400. President Kaplan wanted to know the distance of the gap, from the back of beach revetment protecting the Interpretive Center to the sheetpile protecting the parking lot. Director Smith stated that the distance is about 10 feet. Commissioner Bernstein asked why the cost of the work had increased. Director Smith stated that the initial quote did not include mobilization, contingencies, and some other factors.

Director Smith stated the proposed costs for the Swimming Cove construction documents are \$13,200. The estimated construction is \$356,400 for a total of \$369,600. This cost has decreased as the original proposal called for 245 feet of revetment and the new quote calls for 173 feet of revetment. Commissioner Bernstein stated that the wave energy typically comes from the Northeast so the boardwalk in this cove should not be impacted. Director Smith stated that if the District were to move forward with the recommended construction documents for the Interpretive and Swimming Coves, allowing for construction to commence in the Fall, there would be a savings of \$60,000 versus working on stand-alone projects.

Director Smith stated that Smith Group provided two solutions for the Recreation Cove, the first option, which is recommended, is sand nourishment with additional stones placed along the South breakwater creating a cobble barrier. The alternative, which is only a temporary solution, is to replenish sand in the cove. The proposed costs for the Recreation Cove documents for the recommended solution are \$11,200. The estimated construction cost is \$293,000, for a total of \$305,000. The cost of the construction documents for the alternative solution would be \$7,000. Construction would cost \$243,000 and the total is estimated at \$250,000. If work is not completed in this cove, the cove will be fenced off and closed for the summer season. The cost to

erect the fence would be \$13,000. Commissioner Flores Weisskopf asked if the beach could still be accessed from the upper parking lot. Director Smith said yes it could.

Commissioner Bernstein asked about the status of grants to help cover the District's costs. Director Smith shared that the District applied for hazard mitigation funding with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A pre-application was submitted, and the District will be notified in March to see if a full application can be submitted with FEMA. Director Smith said that work could begin prior to funding, and possible reimbursement could be as much as 75% of the cost, but it is unclear which portions of the damages will be reimbursed if any.

Commissioner Grossberg shared his concerns about the sand passing through the breakwaters in the Recreation Cove. Director Smith said that SmithGroup feels that this leaking has been occurring for a few years.

Director Smith stated that Staff needs approval from the Board to move forward with the construction documents. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the cost of the documents would change if the Board decided to wait a year. Director Smith stated that the construction document costs would not change, but the costs of the actual construction would.

Commissioner Grossberg expressed his concerns about committing to any work begin completed this year in the Recreation Cove. Commissioner Bernstein reminded the Board that cities along the shoreline have been dealing with erosion issues, many of them more serious than the District's.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Vice President Ruttenberg to authorize Executive Director Romes to enter into an agreement with SmithGroup for the scope of work including: Task 1a: Interpretive Cove Documents for a fixed fee lump sum of \$25,500 plus reimbursable cash expenses; Task 2a: Swimming Cove Construction Documents for a fixed fee lump sum of \$13,200 plus reimbursable cash expenses; Task 3a: Recreation Cove Construction Documents for a fixed fee lump sum of \$11,200 plus reimbursable cash expenses.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Motion Carried**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Director Peters reported the total disbursement for February is 1.6 million. Director Peters presented the vouchers for checks written January 23, 2020 through February 19, 2020 for an amount totaling \$1,609,922.95. There were no questions from the Board. Vice President Rutenberg reviewed the vouchers and had no further questions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Parks Foundation Update**

Commissioner Grossberg reported the Parks Foundation is looking for three to four more new members. There is a need for someone to step in an Assistant Treasurer. Upcoming events include: The Champions Banquet which will be held April 30. Chris Chelios is slated as the guest speaker. Commissioner Grossberg stated that the Foundation is looking for attendees, sponsors and raffle donations. There was some discussion about the nomination of coaches for awards. Assistant Director Maliszewski explained that the nature of the event is not specific to one sport.

Commissioner Grossberg shared that the Shrimp Boil will be held at Bluegrass on Sunday, April 5 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Parks Foundation. Attendance will need to reach 70 people for a full house.

#### **B. Director's Report**

Executive Director Romes reported the District is 29% above the record high for camp enrollments at this time. Nature Playdate on Saturday, March 7 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at Old Elm Park is a free event for all ages. Children will play games, build a shelter and learn a thing or two about nature. Pie Day is Saturday, March 14 from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at the Heller Nature Center. Come try your hand at making a pudgy pie for Pie Day and see why pie over a fire is so much sweeter. This is an all-ages event. The fee is \$10 per person. Maple Syrup Harvest is Sunday, March 15 from 10 - 11:00 a.m. at the Heller Nature Center. Discover the sweet sugar from maple trees. Listen to a folklore of how maple sap was discovered. Take a short hike to learn about how we know when our trees are ready, how to tap a tree and the process of making the sweet syrup. Taste Heller's very own maple syrup on pancakes. Additional pancakes available for purchase, cash only. The fee is \$12 per person, ages 6 – adult.

Executive Director Romes shared that Sunset Valley's 1390 Restaurant and Bar is hosting the first of a series of "Wisconsin Style" Fish Fry's this Friday, February 28 from 4:30 - 8:30 pm. Fish Fry includes all-you-can-eat fish, vegetable, potato, dessert, soft drink, and coffee. Fee for adults is \$17.50, \$10.50 for children (4-12 years) and free for children age three and under.

Executive Director Romes reported that there are also a variety of Spring Break Programs being offered to the community that can be found on the Park District website and in the Spring Brochure.

**C. Board Comments – None**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS BOARD**

Peter Mordini, 1853 Sheahen Court, Highland Park

Mr. Mordini asked the Park Board the status of emergency funds for Park Avenue. Executive Director Romes stated that a request was submitted to IEMA/FEMA for work on the south pad parking lot. Director Smith explained that this type of relief is different from a typical grant program and would only cover damages related to the January 11, 2020, storm if awarded.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg, seconded by Commissioner Bernstein to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of 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. Possible action by the Board on items discussed in closed session.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:25 p.m.

**ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY**

President Kaplan reported that the Board met in Closed Session under of Section 2(c)21 – the discussion of minutes or for conducting the semi-annual review of 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.

**A. Consideration of Approval of release of certain Closed Session minutes**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Vice President Ruttenberg that all closed session minutes reviewed in Closed Session, continue to be left as confidential until further review.

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Bernstein, Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Flores Weisskopf, Vice President Ruttenberg, President Kaplan

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Vice President Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Bernstein and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Romes, Secretary