

MINUTES OF A LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021, 4:00 PM. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED REMOTELY DUE TO THE GOVERNOR'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE ABLE TO VIEW A LIVE STREAM OF THE LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING AND SUBMIT ITEMS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT VIA EMAIL TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE READ ALOUD DURING THE MEETING.

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

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Voss, Director Smith, Director Carr; Manager Johnson; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: Mark Wagstaff, SmithGroup Engineer & Rob Wright, SmithGroup Engineer

Vice President Grossberg requested that Public Comment take place after SmithGroup's presentation. This request was approved by the Board Liaisons.

Park Avenue Updates

A. *The Lakota Group Master Plan*

Director Smith reported that staff met with the Lakota Group to discuss early concepts regarding the Park Avenue Site Master Plan, which includes reconfiguring the north parking lot to improve the circulation of traffic, providing ADA access to the north beach along with improvements for pedestrian connectivity through the site, minor repairs to the yacht clubhouse along with the adjacent patio and deck area, and lastly, drainage improvements for the bluff and beautifying the landscape. Staff will present the opinions of probable cost for these concepts at the next Park Avenue Working Group Meeting.

B. *Boat Ramp Closure*

Director Smith reported that it was recently discovered that a portion of the concrete panels of the boat ramp has caved in, and a large void has developed underneath the failed area. As a result, the boat launch was closed, and staff contacted SmithGroup to discuss potential repair options. Director Smith introduced Mr. Wright and Mr. Wagstaff, who has worked closely with Ms. Boshek to discuss what they have discovered and possible repair options for the site.

Mr. Wright reported that he was part of the original inspection who surveyed the barge and helped Ms. Boshek prepare several replacement or repair options for the breakwater. At that time, the boat ramp was operational so repairs to the boat launch would be in addition to the costs for the breakwater repair or replacement.

After a recent site visit, Mr. Wright and Mr. Wagstaff feel the concrete panels have failed due to repeated loading, loss of materials through the perforated areas of the breakwater, and significant wave impacts due to the high lake levels. When considering temporary solutions, Mr. Wright and Mr. Wagstaff considered filling the void or placing a large steel plate over the concrete panels, however, it was determined that filling the void could cause further cracking and possible failure into the parking

area and placing a large steel plate over the concrete panels eliminates grading creating traction, so the surface would no longer be safe for vehicles to drive upon to retrieve their vessels. Even if grading were placed along the steel plate, Mr. Wright and Mr. Wagstaff would not feel comfortable recommending this as a temporary solution without conducting destructive testing to determine the actual depths of the void.

Since temporary solutions were eliminated, staff revisited the breakwater replacement or repair options to see how the concrete ramp could be incorporated.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that he is frustrated and disappointed with what transpired at Park Avenue since Ms. Boshek indicated that the Park District would have 3 – 5 years before a complete failure giving staff time to discuss possible repair or replacement options. case. Furthermore, he would like to know how long it would take to conduct destructive testing and analyze the failure to see if a temporary solution is feasible.

Mr. Wright reported that it would take a week to three weeks to conduct the testing and develop an analysis.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know a ballpark cost for testing.

Mr. Wagstaff reported the testing could cost thousands of dollars; however, he does not feel a temporary solution would last so it is highly unlikely the boat ramp could operate this season.

Commissioner Kaplan would like to know how long it would take to remove the failed materials and rebuild the ramp after testing was done to confirm the cause of the failure.

Mr. Wright estimated that the permitting process would take a minimum of three months.

President Ruttenberg would like to know an estimated cost to rebuild the boat ramp and construct a retaining wall along the east side.

Mr. Wright recommends creating a cofferdam and placing a sheetpile wall against the current barge to create a 3-sided box to de-water the situation and install cast-in-place concrete to rebuild the boat ramp. After the ramp is rebuilt the cofferdam would be removed but the sheetpile wall along the barge would remain. The estimated cost is \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Vice President Grossberg would like to know if the boat launch would be operational by June of 2022.

Mr. Wright estimates it would take 6 – 7 weeks to install the sheetpile, dewater the area, and install the boat ramp. Permitting and final design would need to begin as soon as possible, so the bid could be available in late summer or early fall with construction occurring in the spring of 2022.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the sand ramp is still available for use this summer.

Executive Director Romes reported that the sand ramp is available for use.

C. Barge Replacement

Director Smith would like to know if the recommendation of adding a sheetpile wall along the current breakwater does anything to address issues aside from the perforated areas.

Wagstaff reported that Mr. Wrights recommendation allows the Park District to rebuild the concrete ramp, however, the breakwater still needs to be dealt with as the sheetpile wall does not address the collapsed lakeside wall and concrete deck, nor does it address the loss of material providing the weight needed to absorb wave energy, so without further repair, the breakwater will continue to deteriorate.

Director Smith reported that Park Avenue Working Group met with SmithGroup in early 2020 to discuss several replacement or repair options for the breakwater, and the group selected Concept 7, the Rubble Breakwater with Pre-Cast Walkway, to be the most economical and effective approach and asked Mr. Wright to provide a brief summary of this concept.

Mr. Wright reported that the Rubble Breakwater with Pre-Cast Walkway would require the current breakwater to be removed and the construction of a new breakwater around a pre-cast walkway and a floating dock could be installed for an additional cost.

Commissioner Bernstein reported that while the Working Group agreed upon this approach, construction would only occur if a funding model was approved by the Park Board of Commissioners.

Executive Director Romes reported that the Funding Model was never presented to the Park Board of Commissioners due to the pandemic, however, since that time the Park Board of Commissioners approved the Waterfront Master Plan, and staff are working with the Lakota Group to develop a site Master Plan for Park Avenue. As for the funding model, staff are re-examining the model to see how it can be incorporated into the District's 10-Year Capital Plan, which will be presented at a future Finance Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if there are funds set aside for the barge repair or replacement in the 5-Year Capital Plan or GreenPrint.

Executive Director Romes reported that expenses have been identified in the Lakefront Master Plan, but funding has not been allocated in the 5-Year Capital Plan or GreenPrint, however, due to the current closure, staff would like to discuss the Park Avenue Funding Model at a future Finance Committee Meeting.

Director Smith reported that staff would like SmithGroup to adjust concept 7 so that it includes repairs to the boat ramp and provide a detailed proposal for the updated concept so that the Park District would have biddable construction documents on hand. Once the funding model is approved and funds are available construction could commence.

President Ruttenberg would like to know if there is a cost to get a detailed proposal from SmithGroup.

Director Smith reported that there is no cost to gather a detailed proposal from SmithGroup.

Staff received consensus from the Lakefront Committee to direct staff to proceed with attaining a proposal from SmithGroup for Construction and Engineering Documents that will be considered for

approval by the Park Board on Tuesday, June 8 so long as the ramp can be completed as a stand-alone or secondary aspect of the project.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda

The following members of the public provided public comment, Chadd Berkun, Lisa Hirsch, David Sogin, Micahel Wurster, Steve Knapp, Jodi Mordini, and Daniel Hirsch.

Lisa Hirsch

276 Walker Ave, Highland Park

Would like to know if current launch pass owners will be refunded and if there are alternative launch plans for the 2021 season.

David Sogin

1092 Wade St, Highland Park

Requested that the Park District meet with the commadore and members of the North Shore Yacht Club to discuss protective measures and ongoing maintenance for the sand ramp since this area will still be operational this season.

Michael Wurster

1307 Lincoln Avenue S, Highland Park

Would like to know if the Winnetka Park District will allow current launch pass holders to utilize their launch free of charge and what, if any, partnership is in place for the 2021 season.

Steve Knapp

700 College, Highland Park

Insisted that the Park District find a temporary solution so that the concrete ramp maybe used this season and encouraged would like the Park District to repair the concrete ramp with a long-term solution before the 2022 season and replace the barge with a long-term solution before the 2023 season.

Jodi Mordini

1853 Sheahen Court, Highland Park

Would like to know if the Fire Department will be able to launch emergency vessels without the use of the concrete boat ramp.

In response to the recent questions, Executive Director Romes reported that any of our boaters who purchased a parking decal can utilize the Winnetka Park District boat launch at no charge and City Manager Neukirch is aware of the closure, to which the City has stated in the past they can get emergency boats onto the lake without the use of the concrete boat ramp.

Moraine Beach Pathway Project Update

Director Smith reported that since the District has entered Phase 5 of Restore Illinois and \$35,000 has been budgeted for the first phase of this project, staff are looking for consensus from the Lakefront Committee to recommend approval by the Park Board on Tuesday, June 8, for the proposal from Daniel Creaney Co. for construction documents for the Moraine Park and Beach Boardwalk repair in the amount not to exceed \$28,000. The documents recommend constructing a boardwalk over the failed sections of the pathway along with drainage improvements and stabilizing the toe of the bluff. The estimated remaining costs for the project are \$375,000, which covers construction costs which are scheduled to begin in 2022 with Board approval.

Staff received consensus from the Lakefront Committee.

Millard Bluff Update

Director Voss reported that the subcontractor should have the soil boring analysis submitted to contractor, V3, by the end of the week. V3 will review the analysis and provide a recommendation to address the slope and stabilize the bluff by the end of the month. Staff anticipates having a presentation for the Park Board of Commissioners in July.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.