

MINUTES OF A THE LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 2021, 4:01 PM. PURSUANT TO SECTION 7(e) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS HAS MADE A FINDING THAT IT IS NOT PRACTICAL OR PRUDENT TO HOLD IN PERSON MEETINGS BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY. NEITHER THE ELECTED OFFICIALS NOR THE PUBLIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND REGULAR OR COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN PERSON BUT WILL PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY. LINKS TO THE VIRTUAL MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARK DISTRICT WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.PDHP.ORG/PARK-BOARD/MEETINGS/](https://www.pdhp.org/park-board/meetings/)

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

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith; Director Carr; Director Peters; Assistant Director Murrin; Manager Schwartz; Manager Johnson; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of the Lakefront Committee Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2021

November 4, 2021, Lakefront Committee Meeting minutes were approved.

Park Avenue Wave Protection and Breakwater Replacement Projection Update

Director Smith reminded the Lakefront Committee that the Park District is in Phase 3: Final Engineering and Permitting for the wave protection and breakwater replacement protection project, and three of the five tasks within that phase are completed.

Task 3.1: Optimize Breakwater and Boat Ramp Layout

Staff received an opinion of probable costs.

Task 3.2: Design Development

Staff received drawings.

Task 3.3: Permit Applications

Staff will use those drawing to submit permit applications.

Task 3.4: Final Construction Documents

Staff will receive finalized documents which can be used for bidding.

Task 3.5: Bid Assistance

Allows the Park District to issue an addendum.

Director Smith shared a rendering of the design of the Cellular Sheet Pile Alternative, which is a long-term solution for the breakwater that has a 40ft wide ramp, two 80ft floating docks, and a walkway that is accessible to the public. Based on feedback from the last presentation, SmithGroup provided Director Smith with an aerial image of the breakwater in its existing condition and an overlay of the new structure to compare measurements, specifically modifications made to the width and length of the current structure vs. the new structure. Those modifications include, widening the boat ramp an extra 5ft (45ft total), extending the two floating docks an extra 20ft (100ft per dock), aligning the new breakwater structure to the edge of the parking lot, adding 6 removeable benches along the eastside of the structure, installing two navigational lights, installing a removable bollard and chain system along the west and south side of the structure, and installing a permanent bollard and chain along the north end of the structure to prevent vehicles from driving along the structure. As a safety precaution, staff are recommending that the removable bollard and chain system be installed along the eastside of the structure as well, which will hopefully prevent the public from jumping off the structure into the lake.

As for the boat ramp, Director Smith shared an image of the proposed design, which has a permanent concrete abutment connecting to the floating dock. Additionally, the floating dock is divided into 20ft sections so that the dock can adjust and rise when lake levels are high.

Director Smith is pleased to report that the modifications did not impact the opinion of probable costs for construction.

As for next steps, Director Smith reported that SmithGroup will begin final construction documents so that they can provide an update to the Board of Park Commissioners at the December 7 Workshop Meeting. Staff should have the final construction documents as of January 14, 2022 and hope to release the bid in late January. The bid will be awarded in March of 2022 so that construction can begin in September of 2022.

President Ruttenberg supports increasing the width of the boat ramp and the length of the floating docks. He is impressed with the renderings of the benches. He would like the bollards and chains installed along the east side of the structure. Additionally, he would like to know if the bollards and chains on the north end of the structure can be removed for Park District maintenance vehicles. Lastly, he would like to know if the yacht club can install their windsock.

Director Smith will follow-up with SmithGroup regarding the windsock.

President Ruttenberg does not want to commit to a contract unless the District has grant funds and the financial commitments from the public.

Director Smith reported that the grant funds will be awarded in March.

President Ruttenberg is not opposed to going out for bid, so long as there is no assurance that a contract will be awarded, unless the financial requirements agreed upon by the Board of Park Commissioners are met. Additionally, President Ruttenberg would like to have a separate conversation regarding staffing levels at Park Avenue.

Commissioner Freeman commended staff for their efforts and appreciates the update.

Other Business

President Ruttenberg would like to know if repairs for the north end of the site will occur in 2022.

Director Smith reported there are funds bugeted in 2022 for the north end of the site, which is a part of the Site Master Plan, however, that project will not commence in 2022 if the Park District does not receive grant funds.

President Ruttenberg would like staff to incorporate some of those enhacements even if the grant funds are not awarded since those changes are for the general public not just the baoting community.

Open to Public to Address the Board

Peter Mordini

1853 Sheahen Court, Highland Park

He is concerned since the new breakwater structure appears to be shorter than the exisiting structure. He would also like to know if portions of the barge can be encapsulated to save money.

Director Smith reported that the entire structure needs to be removed, nothing will be encapsulated.

Adjornment

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.