

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 13, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Vice President Grossberg.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith; Director Voss; Director Peters; Director Gogola; Director Carr; Assistant Director Maliszewski; Assistant Director Murrin; General Manager/Superintendent of Golf Operations Ochs; Manager Johnson; Manager Schwartz

Guest Speakers: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

Vice President Grossberg requested moving public comment for items on the agenda to the end of the meeting so that the public can hear tonight's presentation before providing comments. This section of public comments is for items not on tonight's agenda. There will be a second opportunity at the end of the meeting for items on the agenda. This will allow the public to hear tonight's presentations before providing comments on such items.

There are no members of the public who would like to comment on items not listed on tonight's agenda.

2022 PARK AVENUE BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park District of Highland Park received six sealed bids on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, for materials and labor to complete the 2022 Park Avenue Boat Launch Improvements Project. The scope of this project includes removal of the existing barge breakwater and boat ramp, stockpiling and salvaging existing breakwater fill and armor stone, construction of a new steel sheet pile breakwater with a concrete crown wall, construction of a new concrete boat launch, furnishing and installing all site furniture including bollards, chains, floating docks and lighting, and associated items.

Staff are anticipating raising \$400,000 from donations as of April 27, 2022, so the total funds available for the project is \$2.4 million. Based on new costs provided by SmithGroup and Lakes and Rivers the total expense for the project is \$2,399,890. If the base bid for this project is approved, this project would provide long-term protection of the beach and south pad, a long-term commitment to boating, and benefits for non-boaters such as walking, boating, relaxation, etc. If the Park Board does not approve this project the Park District would have to refund \$400,000 in donations and Loyalty Club fees, construction costs are estimated to increase, the long-term boating and benefits to non-boaters are unclear, and the \$2 million debt would need to be repurposed, at this time there is no identified revenue source.

If the Park District is awarded grant funds for this project, alternates would be included so the full scope would be completed and there will be two lanes for powerboating. If the Park District is not awarded grant funds some of the alternates would not be included, however, they could be addressed in future years when funds become available.

Overall, there is a \$155,000 funding gap without the Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant funds. As a result, staff are trying to acquire funds from the State Capital, American Rescue Act Plan, etc. Staff will continue to work with Parks Foundation on community donations and have also had early conversations on corporate sponsorships. ADA Funds are in the capital fund to be used for ADA accessibility and there are ADA accessibility components for this project.

Commissioner Freeman supports the base bid and is pleased that staff found creative ways to value engineer the project to reduce costs. So long as there is a line in sight to fund the gap, she supports the project.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the 5% contingency is consistent with other cost models.

Executive Director Romes reported that the contingency has been reduced based on recommendations from SmithGroup and the Lakes and Rivers.

Commissioner Bernstein would like to know if the base bid supports powerboating.

Executive Director Romes reported that power boating cannot occur without the alternates.

Vice President Grossberg commended staff on tonight's presentation specifically the timeline, funding, and cost. He would like to know how non-boaters can benefit from this project.

Executive Director Romes reported that the current barge is protecting the beach, however, it has surpassed its lifespan and is deteriorating. If the base bid is approved, the beach and south pad are protected. Additionally, the site can be utilized by non-boaters for fishing, walking, relaxation, etc.

Vice President Grossberg feels this is a benefit to the entire community. He supports the base bid and would like staff to continue working to close the gap to fully fund the project. He would like to know if non-motorized vessels can be launched this summer. Also, can the length of the floating dock be increased post-construction?

Executive Director Romes reported that non-motorized boating will be available this summer due to the temporary ramp. The length of the floating dock and all the alternates can be added post-construction.

President Ruttenberg is opposed to any of the paths presented this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Jean and David Sogin

1092 Wade Street, Highland Park

It was a privilege to collaborate with staff on fundraising. She thanked staff and the Park Board.

Peter Mordini

1853 Sheahan Court, Highland Park

He thanked the support staff and the Parks Foundation indicating that they have been a wonderful team to work with. This Park District went above and beyond. Everyone will benefit from this project.

Michael Stroz

580 Hillside Drive, Highland Park

This is my 10th year in Highland Park. Eight years ago, sat at Board Meeting and watched at least three Board Members discuss how we might not have boating based on the water plant construction. He feels the community has done its part and surpassed its donation goal. However, if more funds are needed, he is confident the community can do so.

David Mecklenburger

1180 Hilary Lane, Highland Park

A lifelong resident of Highland Park and lifelong sailor and powerboater. Thanked the Board for all their hard work. Comment regarding the project and bluff protection. President Ruttenberg does not think the barge protects the bluff. Park Avenue is the only bluff that has not faced degradation due to barge.

Brett Tolpin

283 Leslee Lane, Highland Park

Thanked the Park Board for driving this. He is coming as president of the Ravinia Neighbors Association, which represents 194 households. They support the project. Many members contributed individually in addition to the donation from the Association. There is no other place in HP for boating. Even if you do not boat, they like having the access. Many of the members love walking onto the breakwater and having access to Lake Michigan. This project is highly valued and supported by the Association.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Peters reported that in the Board packet there is a voucher packet that came to approximately \$600,000 for the month so far. There are two notable items: Anderson Bridges for approximately \$164,000 for bridges at Sunset Valley; and \$125,000 for monthly PDRMA, health and liability invoice. Expenses were unremarkable.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bernstein and seconded by Commissioner Kaplan and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary