

**MINUTES OF A THE LAKEFRONT, PARKS, AND NATURAL AREAS
COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON AUGUST 2, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Gogola, Director Peters, Director Baird, Director Smith, Director Voss, Assistant Director of Recreation Reyes, Assistant Director of Recreation Acevedo, Manager Schwartz, Manager, Manager Kutscheid, Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

None

Fontana-Pasquesi Park Naming Update

Director Gogola reminded the Committee that Larry Fontana-Pasquesi would like to donate \$250,000 to rename Cloverdale Park in honor of his family and other Italian families that settled in Highland Park beginning in the early 1900s. Staff, the Park District's legal counsel, and Mr. Fontana-Pasquesi have finalized the agreement terms. At the August 23, 2023 Regular Meeting, staff will be requesting that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the donation and naming rights agreement. If approved, the proposed name, "Fontana-Pasquesi Park", will lay for sixty (60) days before a resolution is approved renaming Cloverdale Park.

Park Avenue North Project Update

Manager Schwartz reminded the Committee that the Park District was awarded \$400,000 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant program for the Park Avenue Beach Access Improvement Project in 2022. The OSLAD-approved project scope, or phase 1, focused on the north beach area and includes improvements to pedestrian access, an ADA-compliant boardwalk along the beach, reconfiguring and rehabilitation of the vehicular parking lot, landscaping, and a fishing area. Phase 2 of the Park Avenue Site Plan includes the following proposed improvements to the north side: a pergola, an extension of the boardwalk to the north boundary of the property, and resurfacing of the motorized boat storage.

The Park Board authorized staff to enter into a contract with Hitchcock Design Group for the design and engineering of the north beach. She is here today to get feedback from the Committee regarding design. She shared the design development layout plan of the site, furniture options, pergola and fencing options, and boardwalk materials.

The Committee recommends that the aesthetics be consistent between the north and south areas of the site.

OSLAD Grant Application Update

Manager Kutscheid reported that applications for the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant are due August 31, 2023. \$56 Million is available from the Grant. If awarded, the Grant is a 50/50 split, up to \$600,000 State Portion with \$600,000 Park District match.

Staff looked at two projects for the OSLAD Grant application, the redevelopment of Lincoln Park and West Ridge Park. He shared the pros and cons of each park. Staff recommends submitting a grant application for the redevelopment of Lincoln Park, suggesting that it creates a good grant story with the removal of Lincoln School. He shared two design concept options and cost estimates for the redevelopment of Lincoln Park.

The Committee supports staff's recommendation to use the redevelopment of Lincoln Park for the grant application. As for the design concepts, they preferred the second concept.

Pickleball Project Update

Executive Director Romes reported that staff are developing a request for proposal for additional recreational purposes at the Highland Park Golf Learning Center.

Moroney Park Playground Improvements Project Update

Manager Kutscheid reported that play equipment inspections are happening this week, the perimeter fence is being installed the week of August 8, and safety surface testing is scheduled for the week of August 14. The project is on schedule and should be completed and open the week of August 21.

Other Business

None

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary