

**MINUTES OF A THE LAKEFRONT, PARKS, AND NATURAL AREAS
COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON JUNE 7, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Gogola, Director Peters, Director Murrin, Director Smith, Director Voss, Interim Director of Recreation Reyes, Manager Schwartz, Manager, Manager Kutscheid

Guest Speaker: None

Additions to the Agenda

Commissioner Ruttenberg would like to add Openlands Lakeshore Preserve to the end of the Agenda.

Lincoln Park Playground Renovation Update

Manager Schwartz shared an aerial image of Lincoln Park reminding the Committee that the school district will be selling the school located on the property, which impacts the tot playground. The Park District shared postcards within a quarter mile of Lincoln Park inviting community members to complete a survey and attend open houses so that the Park District could gather community feedback regarding the playground renovation.

Manager Kutscheid reported that the planning team developed four playground renovation concepts.

- **Concept 1:** new 2-5age playground in the same footprint, new 5-12age playground, a minor path adjustment, retain the athletic fields, and adding space for community to gather. This allows an opportunity for a phased approach.
- **Concept 2:** 2-5age and 5-12age playgrounds will have a combination of existing and new features. This concept also includes adding a full basketball court.
- **Concept 3:** complete park renovation, new 2-5age and 5-12age playgrounds, and adding a full basketball court. This concept pushes the playgrounds to the southeast corner of the site.
- **Concept 4:** complete park renovation, new 2-5age and 5-12age playgrounds, and adding a full basketball court. This concept pushes the playgrounds to the northwest corner of the site by Green Bay Rd and Lincoln Rd.

Director Smith reminded the Committee that funds have been budgeted to replace the 2-5age playground. The 5-12 age playground is unfunded.

Commissioner Bernstein reminded the Committee that this project was discussed at the May Finance Committee, and it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to put this project on hold until it is determined what NSSD112 is doing with the property.

Commissioner Ruttenberg recommends that staff reaches out to NSSD112 to see if the Park District can lease the playground so that the playground can be utilized after it is sold and until construction begins. Regarding the renovation concepts, he supports concept 1.

Executive Director Romes reported that staff needs consensus from the Committee to either close the park and renovate this year or put the renovation on hold, keep the current park open, and work on planning documents so that the project can be bid in 2024.

It was the consensus of the Committee to put the renovation on hold, keep the current park open, work on planning documents which includes retaining the athletic fields so a bid can be released in 2024 and contact community development to try and acquire funding for the playground renovations.

Moraine Beach Stair Renovation Update

Director Smith reported that the existing staircase at Moraine Beach was installed in 1977, the timbers are creosote and tar covered, and the wood touching the earth is very degraded. He reviewed replacement options:

- **Option 1: Partial Replacement** removes and replaces 40 of 110 ties. The project is estimated to last 5 years and cost \$25,000.
- **Option 2: Complete Replacement with Existing Detail** removes and replaces all 110 ties. The project is estimated to last 15 years and cost \$110,000.
- **Option 3: Replace Stair on Helical Piers** removes all existing stairs (replacements will match the newly constructed path) and includes the installation of 22 helical piers. The project is estimated to last 25 years and cost \$280,000.

It was the consensus of the Committee to complete Option 1 this year. Staff will need to examine the five-year capital plan to see if Option 3 can be allocated in future years.

Larry Fink Memorial Baseball Field Improvements Project Update

Director Smith reported that staff are exploring options to increase the number of parking spots to support Deer Creek Racquet Club and the Larry Fink Memorial Baseball Field Improvements project. He shared three initial concepts developed by Gewalt Hamilton.

- **Option 1:** adds 42 new parking spaces along the road new the baseball field.
- **Option 2:** adds 27 new parking spaces to the Deer Creek Racquet Club parking lot by expanding the footprint/hardscape.
- **Option 3:** adds 14 new parking spaces within the existing Deer Creek Racquet Club parking lot footprint by angling the parking spaces.

The committee supports option 3.

Other Business

Commissioner Ruttenberg reported that the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve property is being transferred to the Lake County Forest Preserves. He requested that staff reach out to the Executive Director of the Lake County Forest Preserves to see if the Park District could help without offering financial assistance.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary