



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Committee-of-the-Whole
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 29, 2020
Mallinckrodt Community Center

Present

Commissioners: President Amy Wolfe, Vice President Gordon Anderson, Bryan Abbott, Julia Goebel, Mike Murdock, Todd Shissler

Secretary/Executive Director Steve Wilson

Staff: Emily Guynn, Marlon Rodas, Lindsay Thomas, Holly Specht, Katy Bradford

Absent

Commissioner Cecilia Clarke

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

A. Roll call taken.

II. Communications and Correspondence

None

III. Recognition of Visitors

The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

IV. New Business

A. Gillson Park Comprehensive Plan, Scope and Process

Director Wilson reported that the Lakefront Committee met in December to receive presentations regarding a comprehensive plan for Gillson Park. The firms that presented were JSD, Hitchcock Design, and The Lakota Group. The committee met subsequently and agreed not to pursue JSD. The committee also felt it needed more input on the public process and scope of project. Director Wilson contacted President Wolfe and determined a Committee of the Whole meeting would be the best format to discuss these topics.

Commissioner Abbott and Director Wilson provided some history and context on previous discussions about the lakefront, including the referendum, community survey and lakefront plan.

Commissioner Abbott also mentioned the traffic study from 2013 that proved to board that there was not a lot of room for improvement. Director Wilson added that the origin of the traffic study was from the Lakefront Commission. Members of the commission were volunteers, many who lived near Gillson and Langdon parks and didn't want people parking near their houses. The study was a tool to learn and understand the traffic as much as possible within the park and

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outside of the park. Director Wilson added that since that time, with the enforcement and management of South Beach, parking in the neighborhoods has not been as much of an issue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wolfe, Commissioner Abbott confirmed that the purpose of the discussion is determine what the board wants from the potential design firms.

Commissioner Murdock inquired about the value of reviewing the projects in the previous plan. Commissioner Anderson commented that the board had discussed not just scaling back the previous plan, but limiting the scope and identifying what needs to be done by using the previous plan as a checklist. The board discussed the results of the previous survey and the projects identified from those results.

Commissioner Murdock shared his opinion that he would like to do all the planning now versus planning in phases. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of possible projects and the limits of this comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Shissler expressed concern about the lakefront erosion and potential additional changes to the land at Gillson. He prefers to hold off on hiring a master planner until there is a plan in place for erosion control.

After additional conversation a consensus was reached to move forward with hiring a master planner understanding the following: the shoreline plan affects the comprehensive plan; there will be financial limits to the shoreline plan; work will not be done until the erosion plan has been implemented; and ongoing communication between the shoreline engineers and the master planner is essential.

Next the board discussed the merits of the two proposals and the consultants that submitted them. Director Wilson began by sharing some comments he received from Commissioner Clarke. Discussion included; contents of proposals, number of meetings, fees, and ability to do the work.

Following discussion, a consensus was reached that Director Wilson would let both firms know that the scope of the project has been narrowed to roads, sewers, sidewalks and landscape plans. Ten meetings will be suggested and ask for a per meeting cost. Both firms will be given historical documents to look at and determine how they informs their proposals. A request for communication with the shoreline consultants will also be added.

Commissioner Wolfe suggested that the Lakefront Committee continue overseeing this project, but when a bigger dialogue is needed the board can meet as the Committee of the Whole.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Secretary

President

Minutes Approved on: _____