



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Lakefront Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 1, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Mallinckrodt Community Center

Attendees Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair, Bryan Abbott, Gordon Anderson, Cecilia Clarke
Staff: Jerry Ulrich, Emily Guynn, Steve Wilson

Attendees Absent

Holly Specht

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- A.** Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 Lakefront Committee meeting. All voted yes; **motion carried.**
- B.** Commissioner Anderson moved and Commissioner Clarke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2019 Lakefront Committee meeting. All voted yes; **motion carried.**

III. Recognition of Visitors

The Attendance Sheet will become part of the permanent record.

Chris Lewis, 607 Washington Avenue – Mr. Lewis began by saying it has been a great summer at the sailing beach despite the weather. He then wanted to reassert his concern about the lack of a gate at the sailing beach. Superintendent Ulrich explained that vehicular barrier gates are in place, but that pedestrian traffic can go around the gate. He informed the Committee he has been looking for solutions. One option would be a 48 foot rolling gate that would cost in excess of \$9,000. The other option is a 26 foot swing gate plus a 4 foot pedestrian gate and we are waiting for the pricing for this solution. Mr. Lewis then commented on people walking in the roadway on Lake Avenue and asked for the District to try and put in better signage as well as cut back landscaping to make the stairs more visible. Staff commented that signage is planned for next week. Mr. Lewis also mentioned concerns about the position of a stop sign in the parking lot and staff agreed and said they are looking at another configuration.

Peter Baugher, 1310 Sheridan Road – Mr. Baugher started by saying he feels that the Gillson beach house project came out beautifully. He then went on to articulate

his concerns about the condition of Langdon beach due to the high water levels of Lake Michigan. He suggested the District should inform itself as best as possible as to what it can do to help preserve the park. He said the limestone boulders that were installed in the late 1980s are starting to break up from the lake activity. He feels that options should be considered to protect the bluff as well as address safety concerns of the broken rocks. He referred to the permit he sent via email for a neighbor of his who is putting in revetment, and mentioned that the permit process was smoother and quicker given the solution than one would likely think. He then showed the Committee a photo from the early 1990s that shows the prior work installed by the District and mentioned that in the picture the boulders were located further out to fortify the bluff, but as the lake levels declined, the boulders were moved more inward to the bluff to allow for the beach to be usable. Commissioner Abbott thanked Mr. Baugher for the input and mentioned that Langdon is on the agenda later in the meeting and the Committee will discuss it further at that point.

IV. Communications and Correspondence

Commissioner Abbott acknowledged an email from Peter Baugher regarding Langdon beach and an email from Rich Hill about the landscaping in Gillson Park.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Lakefront Project – Update

Superintendent Ulrich stated that the landscaping is coming around and the remaining punch list items are being accomplished including the installation of the playground on the beach. He mentioned that more signage is on its way as well. Commissioner Abbott said he wants signage directing people to the middle path as he feels it is a great way to experience entering the park so he wants more people directed there.

B. Conservancy Garden

Staff anticipated more requests from Mary Schmick in regards to the garden, but have not received any. Commissioner Clarke expressed her dislike for the lighter color rope that was installed and asked to have it changed back to a less obtrusive color. Commissioner Anderson agreed. Staff said they would work with Ms. Schmick.

VI. New Business

A. Langdon Beach

Superintendent Ulrich discussed how the beach was opened at the start of the season but has continued to erode along with the path down the bluff and therefore we unfortunately closed the swimming beach for now. He mentioned the path was not eroded just due to wave action, but also the heavy rains. Commissioner Abbott asked about the closing of Langdon during the fireworks and staff explained that since there is nowhere to view the fireworks as there is no beach, the police asked to close the park and staff have worked with the police to make it happen in a way that keeps the playground available for the majority of the day. Commissioner Abbott also thank Superintendent Ulrich for his

oversight of the recent Eagle Scout project in Langdon. Commissioner Abbott then opened the conversation about the erosion at Langdon and suggested that staff be empowered to enlist professional consultants. The Committee agreed with the approach. Staff outlined what the goals and objectives would be, including an evaluation of the current conditions, options for what can be done to maintain the bluff, and cost estimates. The Board directed staff to get proposals and keep them informed.

B. Gillson Landscape Design RFP

The Committee discussed the RFP in their packet and expressed some concerns about doing a landscape plan without having the roadways and any sidewalk and bike paths planned. Staff reminded the Committee that the landscape plan was an item included in the budget by the Board during the budget process, but also expressed their agreement that the best way forward is to look at roads, sidewalks and landscaping comprehensively. The Committee walked through the Executive Summary of the community-wide survey regarding Gillson Park that was completed in 2016 and determined what portions they wanted to include in the RFP. Staff was directed to create an RFP and share it with the Committee to review and provide independent feedback before distribution.

VII. Manager's Report

Superintendent Guynn reported:

- Langdon Beach is closed due to high water levels and erosion
- In June, the water at Gillson was closed 6.5 days, 2 of which were for bacteria and the remaining days for water conditions such as rip currents
- She thanked the parks department for their assistance in getting the beach house ready for the staff
- She reported that the Ouilmette Foundation's first Beach Bash went well with approximately 1,200 people in attendance on June 8th
- The Ouilmette Foundation's Open Water Swim took place successfully on June 22nd with 64 swimmers
- Camps and lessons are off and running
- Safety training of campers and staff is ongoing throughout the season

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the Lakefront Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes Approved on: July 29, 2019



Committee Chair



Department Head