



Lincolnwood Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Lincolnwood Village Hall – Council Chambers
October 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

PRESENT AT MEETING

Park Board Members: Demerise Gratch, Barry Bass, Sarah Hardin, Gail Ito, Jennifer Spino

Parks and Recreation Department Staff: Jan Hincapie, Katie Gamroth, Chris Stachewicz

Village Staff: Ashley Engelmann

Audience: Stanley Consultants, Herb Root; 4545 W. Touhy, Karen Berkley; 4545 W. Touhy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion, Hardin/Spino to approve the meeting minutes of the August 12, 2014. 5-0, motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Hincapie-We did receive a letter saying we would not be receiving the OSLAD for the third phase of Centennial Park. Staff will continue to look for grant opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Meeting soliciting input for Overpass at Touhy over proposed bike path on the ComEd right-of-way

Engelmann- This is the third public meeting to discuss the overpass at Touhy. This overpass is connected to the bike path on the old ComEd right-of-way, not under the high tension wires. Bid documents have been developed will be bid this fall with construction to start in the spring. The Village has received the CMAQ grant to build this path over Touhy Avenue. In past meetings we have discussed the type of bridge, lighting, openness, pedestrian and local access. Last meeting the Park Board voted on Alternative 3, but wanted Stanley Consultants to come back with options for Alternative 2 as well. The goal tonight is to solidify the bridge type and to give Stanley Consultants direction for moving forward.

Presentation by Stanley Consultants – Touhy Avenue Bridge Skokie Valley Trail

Bass- I believe we need to have pedestrian access on both the north and south side of the bridge, it makes sense to have the shorter access on both sides.

Engelmann- I do want to make mention that in speaking with the residents of 4601 Touhy that they do object to pedestrian access.

Bass- We should consider their objection, but also need to think about what's in the best interest of the Village and the users of the path. I also think we are underestimating the lighting aspect. Lincolnwood residents might be staying late at the new restaurants and I am not certain that the street lights are enough.

Stanley Consultants- We can address the lighting later, but you do raise a good point that we have been mainly focusing on the bike usage of the path and not the potential foot traffic later in the evening from the restaurants.

PUBLIC INPUT

Root- I do have some photographs that I will be referring to when I make my comments. This bridge will be immediately west of our building. While all of the bridges you have shown today look beautiful, none are in areas that have housing next door. This will directly affect the value of our apartments. On the north end the path will end at Jarvis, that is only about one block from the end of the bypass. The bridge is a bridge to nowhere. Would this bridge interfere with the new parking at the proposed shops? The bike path would be used 8 months a year, will the path be safe when it is wet or icy. This is not a path through a forest preserve, how does Lincolnwood benefit from it? Why not spend the money on the schools, what is the estimated cost, is this really the best way to spend the

taxpayers money? What about build a recreation center at the point location? Why not build a bike path around Proesel Park? Are there any health concerns of the runners and bikers being on the path under the electric lines? The bike path and bridge would not benefit the Village and would not be used 8 months out of the year and would lead to nowhere.

Engelmann- The developer at the Shoppes at Lincoln Point has been involved in the process and has provided input. The developer has not made any objections to the path and has talked about installing bike parking. The location again is not under the wires, the construction will be over the old railroad right-of-way and is further west than the high wire line.

Hincapie- We do not have a lease for the land under the high tensions wires. The path will go on the railroad right-of-way. The area under the high wires and the old railroad right-of-way are two separate pieces of property. The only place we will utilize the area under the high wire is near the ice rink at Lincoln and Jarvis, where we will cross the path and cut through the parking lot at Publishing International. The path is not a road to nowhere; there are plans for the path to be continued from Chicago's existing Sauganash Valley Trail, all the way to the Wisconsin border.

Engelmann- This project is funded 80% by a federal grant. The crossings at Pratt and Jarvis will not have overpasses, but there are plans to improve the crosswalks so they are much more identifiable and will be improved for bike and pedestrian travel.

Hincapie- There was study done with five bike trails in Illinois. This study shows the positive impact on the economy and property values. Motorless transportation improves quality of life. The trail will run from Chicago through Lincolnwood, Skokie, Glenview, Glenbrook, Northbrook all the way up to Lake County. The study shows that when people are looking to purchase a house they look at open space and what the community is doing to preserve open space. This path will not only be used for cyclists recreating, but the commuters will use it consistently to get from point A to point B. We have been receiving positive feedback from the businesses in Lincolnwood and beyond saying their staff will use that is a bike path to work. The staff at IDOT were very concerned with the Touhy crossing when this project came about. It is true that a minimal amount of people will walk the 200 feet to cross the street safely at crosswalk, they will cross right where it ends dodging traffic on Touhy. IDOT was very concerned about this happening so staff dug deeper and for a solutions. That is when the idea of an overpass was presented. Relative to the suggestion of incorporating bikes into the path at Proesel Park. The Proesel Park path here is heavily used by walkers and runners, it is not much of a bike path as it is very small.

Engelmann- If you would like to schedule a time to meet out at the site we are happy to come out and meet with the residents at Barclay as we did with the residents of 4601 Touhy.

Burkley – I have been living at 4545 W. Touhy for 2.5 years, and I am thrilled for this to happen. I think it is just wonderful that the community is looking to do something healthy for our families. I am very excited for this project.

Engelmann- The goal tonight again is to make a decision on the bridge type. The local access is something that we need to make a decision about sooner rather than later. The options for the local access, are not required, is also something a decision needs to be made on. The developer at the Lincoln pointe shops like pedestrian access on both sides of the bridge and 4601 Touhy objects to the local access.

Stanley Consultants- If we do provide local access we need to maintain ADA accessibility.

Bass- Are the decorative options included in the proposed fee?

Stanley Consultants- Yes, this is the cause for the range in price, if there items removed the price will be at the lower end and with more added we will be towards the higher end.

Engelmann- Again the goal is to make a definitive recommendation for the type of bridge. Alternate 3 was the direction the board was heading at the last meeting and we would like to nail that down. The secondary would be the local access and finally the rendering of the logo.

Ito- I think the recommendation that Stanley Consultants made with Alternate 3 with the width change was a good one.

Gratch- I like it as well, and making sure the sight lines were clear is great.

Bass- I am leaning towards three with the sight lines extended.

On motion, Ito/Hardin to approve the overpass design Alternate #3. (5-0) motion passed

Engelmann- On to the local access, we have had many preferences come into play for the local access.

Stanley Consultants- If we have local access we need to make sure that we are ADA compliant. If we keep the local access we can add pedestrian stairs.

Ito- I think we need to provide local access, I walk it and ride it and see people on those access paths constantly. It makes the neighborhood that much more accessible to people. Once it's there everyone is going to like it because they are going to have a place to walk. People love using the Sauganash path, I see families out all the time and they love it.

Hardin- I agree I think there will be a lot of people in the complex that will like it as well. I don't know if you need the stairwell if you have the local access, and by not having that it might remove some of the concerns of 4601 W. Touhy.

Bass- It is essential to have local access on both sides, it is advantageous to property owners and should be on both sides of the Touhy.

Ito- It also is a safety issue, if we do not have local access kids will find a way to cross Touhy.

On motion, Spino/Bass to approve local access on both sides for the Touhy overpass. (5-0) motion passed

Engelmann- Can we vote to eliminate any signage tonight? Does the board feel we should have something smaller or larger in size?

Gratch- Without the background you lose the letters. Option D looks dwarfed to the structure.

Ito- Do we want the sign visible and obvious?

Hardin- I like the options where you see it

Grath - Do you like Lincolnwood or Village of Lincolnwood?

Hardin- I like the logo

Hincapie- If you include the word Village you distinguish yourself from Chicago

On motion, Bass/Spino to approve option B with the option to include a logo for the Touhy overpass. (5-0) motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of a Resolution to close Lincoln Avenue between Kostner and Pratt for the Lincolnwood Turkey Trot.

Hincapie- This year is the same as in years past that the runner of the Turkey Trot will run on Lincoln Ave. This resolution is stating that the Village will take responsibility for that road closure.

On motion, Ito/Spino to approve the Resolution to close Lincoln Avenue for the 2014 Turkey Trot. 5-0, motion passed.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS - None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hincapie- Our next meeting is November 11, which is Veterans' Day. This will be a lengthy meeting with Aquatic and Camp reports being presented, as well as designs for O'Brien Park.

STAFF REPORTS

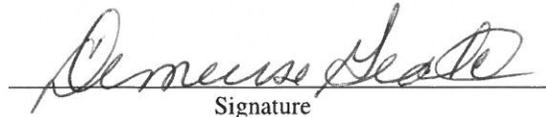
- A. **SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION – GAMROTH**
As noted in report
- B. **SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND FACILITIES - STACHEWICZ**
As noted in report
- C. **COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAM SUPERVISOR - RIMDZIUS**
As noted in report
- D. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MARKETING COORDINATOR – VERING**
As noted in report
- E. **YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR - FLETCHER**
As noted in report

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Park Board Minutes prepared by: Katie Smith Gamroth, Superintendent of Recreation

Park and Recreation Board President:


Signature


Date