

**Sunset Lake Commission  
March 5, 2019  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Notice of Requirements:** The notice requirements of C. 231, P.L. 1975, have been met by transmitting the notice of Regular Meeting to the Commissioner's official, posting the notice where required and filing a copy of the notice with the Commission Clerk.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Patrick Reihing, Chair
- Sue Henderson, Co-Chair
- Eileen Chapman, City Council Liaison
- Jaimee Nadell, Secretary
- William McClave, Superintendent of Public Works

**Absent:**

- Marc Ax, Treasurer
- Chris Avallone, Alternate

**Motion to move immediately to New Business in deference to T & M's presentation was approved unanimously.**

**T & M Engineers' Presentation of a Draft Master Plan**

- Christine Ballard of T & M began the presentation by saying that nothing is set in stone. She introduced the other representatives present:
  - o Nina Ali - Landscape Architect
  - o Jason Harzold
  - Greg Rishel - Landscape Architect
- Greg Rishel began the substantive presentation (which included a PowerPoint) and provided a general overview of the Plan as follows: The Park will be broken up into sections, beginning with "The Square", followed by "The Grove" (tree grove), followed by St. John's Island, East Lake and then the Veteran's Memorial.

## **Power Point Presentation:**

- **Water Quality Improvements** is the number one issue
  - o Dredging is required
  - o Also recommended is a feasibility analysis study of storms water drains
- **Park Entry/Gateway**
  - o At the corner of the park entrance as well as all corners of “The Square”
  - o Fifth Avenue and Emory Street
  - o These entrances/gateways could possibly be extended to Atlantic Square and Bradley Park
- **Tree Thinning Area**
  - o Cutting back of tree canopy in the Square and the Grove
- **Plaza** (also known as “The Square”)
  - o At the southern end of the existing footbridge
  - o Could also be created at the existing Veterans Memorial Park
- **New Sidewalk/Paths** at the following locations:
  - o The Square
  - o Sunset Avenue between Bond and existing footbridge
  - o Southwest of Sunset Lake
  - o Around Memorial Plaza
- **New Pedestrian Crossing**
  - o New raised/demarcated pedestrian crosswalk across Bond Street
- **Seating/Public Art Space**
  - o Southwest of Sunset Lake in the Grove
- **New Footbridge**
  - o ADA Accessible footbridge connecting to the Southwest corner of Sunset Lake to St. John’s Island
- **Trellis** (structure made from an open framework or lattice or interwoven or intersections pieces of wood, bamboo or metal) at the following locations:
  - o St. John’s Island, The Square, Veteran’s Memorial Entrance
  - o Possibly Atlantic Square and Bradley Park
- **Alternative ADA Access to St. John’s Island**
  - o Additional connection linking St. John’s Island to the corner of Fifth Avenue and Grand Avenue
  - o Suggestion if cost of the other footbridge becomes prohibitive
- **New Boardwalk/Pier**
  - o Along Sunset Avenue between Grand Avenue and the existing pedestrian bridge
  - o Land strip is likely too narrow for a sidewalk

- Will allow people, perhaps fisherman, to get closer to the water
- ADA accessible
- Would create a complete loop of the park
- **Existing Footbridge** (Emory Street Pedestrian crossing)
  - Enhance landscaping/planters linking the footbridge to the proposed Plaza
- **Spray Fountains**
  - Option for synchronized dancing/illuminated fountains
  - Enhances water quality through aeration
  - Visually interesting, could be synchronized to put on shows
  - Existing boardwalk/lantern lights have wi-fi and sound capability
- **Living Shoreline**
  - Removal of existing bulkhead and installation of vegetated shoreline along perimeter, where feasible
  - May reduce the goose population
  - Provide wildlife benefits (except for the geese!)
  - The boardwalk/pier installation will also be helpful so that fisherman won't trample on the grasses of the living shoreline
- **Enhanced Memorial Plaza**
  - Preserve original design and intent but enhance the plaza, pedestrian connections and landscaping
  - Refresh park identification sign
- **Biofiltration Area**
  - Rain garden storm water management
  - Sunset Lake along Webb Street
  - Will provide a water quality benefit
- **"The Square"**(Between Bond and Main Street)
  - Gateways on the corners and along the side, with corresponding pathways and a plaza in the middle
  - Wendi Glassman of the Conservancy suggested use of excavated pavers from other City projects
- **"The Grove" & St. John's Island**
  - Sunset Lake Between Bon Street and Grand Avenue
  - Reduction of tree canopy, seeding, seating area/public art component, trellis on the island, boardwalk/pier along Sunset Avenue
- **East Lake & Veteran's Memorial Plaza**
  - Sunset Lake Between Grand Avenue and Webb Street
  - Enhancement of Memorial Plaza and rain gardens on the east end of the Lake

## **Discussion with Commission & the Public after T & M's Presentation**

- Removing the existing bridge on St. John's Island and replacing it with an ADA compliant ramp was discussed but it was warned that it could be very costly due to the steepness and distance
- Concern was raised about the east side of "The Square" being fenced or gated because it could create a "dead zone" on the other side of the fence
  - Suggested that instead of physical gateways, focus could be paid to the maintenance/improvement of the existing vegetation at the corners of the Park.
- Gail Rosewater, Chair of the Wesley Lake Commission remarked that she loved T & M's presentation and said she hoped it could be carried through to Wesley Lake as well. She would like to get all three lakes working together.
  - She also said that she envisions a large fountain in "The Square" like in Forsyth Park in Savannah and suggested fundraising for such a project (i.e. Go Fund Me, Donors buying bricks with their name on it, etc...)
- Appropriate pedestrian lighting is needed along the walkways
- It was mentioned that the sectional approach to the Park is appreciated but you want to make sure there is a flow that allows people to walk through the entire Park.
- Also discussed that a Living Shoreline keeps swimmers out as well as dogs and kids. The Living Shoreline is a physical and visual deterrent for the geese as well!
- It was mentioned that flooding is very bad in "The Square" and "The Grove" due to a high water table which has been evident with the snow and rain.
- It was asked what the cost would be to maintain a Living Shoreline in light of the debris that will come into the Lake (i.e. road salting).
  - Rain Gardens act as a first flush treatment, like the water quality device and diversion chamber already installed at Fifth and Bergh as part of the Waterfront Redevelopment
  - Annual clearing of dead debris is also important
  - Co-Chair Sue Henderson mentioned that the Living Shoreline also helps with erosion
  
- It was mentioned that the Lake is fed by an underground aquifer and it was asked whether the water been tested. Christine Ballard mentioned that it is beyond the scope of the Master Plan and also very costly. A hydrologic evaluation of the aquifer was suggested.
- Christine Ballard explained that prior to the dredging being done, the sediment must be tested for contaminants throughout all sections of the Lake. That, however, is separate and apart from their Master Plan.

- The permit process for dredging is cumbersome but the testing is what is costly. If you use contaminated dredgings to fill in an area, it would create a contamination site that is registered with the site
    - IF NOT contaminated, it can be re-used for or sold
    - The City Council is already having these discussions about dredgings
- Lighting options were discussed
  - There are approximately 5 or 6 different light fixtures throughout the Park and a decision should be made about which direction to go in. Christine Ballard suggested the lanterns on the existing footbridge has modern technology (i.e. wi-fi).
  - Half of the Lake is in the Waterfront Redevelopment Master Plan and that plan mentions 3 different types of lights so they made a conscious decision not to choose lighting because it would contradict with that Plan.
- Several items were addressed that were not contained in the presentation, including: additional bike racks, picnic tables, garbage and recycling and a playground
  - Greg Rishel responded that a full playground was not contemplated but perhaps an area of interest of children (i.e. toadstool seats)
  - With regards to picnic tables, Christine Ballard responded that if you encourage picnics, you encourage trash. The trash fills up multiple times a day and can take on a life of its own. Chessboard type tables were suggested as an option.
  - Bike Racks - Mike Manzella of the Bike Share Program can provide more information. Bike racks will be incorporated but was cut from the presentation for time
  - Public Restrooms is a City decision. Engineers will be installing two new restroom buildings on the boardwalk which is not too far away and are open year round
  - Restrooms and picnic tables change the character of the area. Seasonal port-a-johns could be used.
  - Garbage and Recycling Cans - Greg Rishel feels it is a maintenance issue. There are also “carry in, carry out” programs at Parks that work. But if not maintained, the cans can get overfilled and windy blows it all over
- Chair Patrick Reihing explained to T & M that the Commission is getting five (5) tree boxes through a Grant and asked for direction on where they should go.
  - Jason Harzold asked for the specs on the tree boxes
  - It was mentioned that a walk-through of the Lakes will take place on March 12th with Peter Avakian.
- Jason Harzold confirmed that the square footage of the park = 28 acres.

- Grand Avenue Bridge (which is maintained by the County) was discussed as a possible surface for art. Options included simply power washing or painting the Bridge anew. This will have to be addressed with the County.
- Wendi Glassman of the Conservancy addressed the perimeter of the Park and suggest something separate from the sidewalk because people can't run or bike on the sidewalk. (i.e. a ribbon along the Lake)
  - o It was mentioned that the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan calls for several lanes in addition to vehicular traffic which doesn't leave a lot of room for running/biking around the Park
- A sign-in sheet for future meetings is suggested
- **T & M will prepare a final, detailed report**
  - o The report will indicate whether certain projects are contingent on other projects, such as dredging
  - o Some adjustments will be made based on the input received today
  - o Councilwoman Eileen Chapman mentioned that review of the storm drains should be one of the first steps
  - o The PowerPoint will soon be available on the City website
  - o The Master Plan could be adopted by the Planning Board as an amendment to the Asbury Park Master Plan. The next public discussion would take place before the Planning Board

**End of T & M Presentation & Beginning of the Commission's Formal Business**

- **The Minutes of February 5, 2019 meeting are approved unanimously.**
- Clarification of Membership was addressed by the City Council
  - o Chester Boles is now a full member and Christopher Avallone is an alternate
- Lake Walk-Through
  - o Wesley Lake voted that Bill McClave and Robert Bianchini of the Department of Public Works would approve the positioning of the tree boxes.
  - o Bill advised that he will be taking part in the walk throughon March 12th and is confident we can change the proposed spots for the tree boxes.
- Estimates of Lake Treatment were presented to the Commission by Bill:
  - o Princeton Hydro's estimate is \$9,600.0 and Black Lagoon is \$9,200.00
  - o **The Commission voted unanimously to accept the estimate from Black Lagoon.** However, co-Chair Sue Henderson asked to discuss the proposed treatment of the Lake with Black Lagoon prior to it occurring. Bill said he would ask the owner, Chris Borek, to come to our April meeting.
- Election of Officers
  - o The Commission voted unanimously to approve the following list of officers
    - Chair - Jaimee Nadell

- Co-Chair - Sue Henderson
  - Chester Boles - Secretary
  - The election of Treasurer will be held until the April meeting as the current Treasurer, Mark Ax, was absent due to a personal matter.
- Water Quality
  - Dave Sorinson of Monmouth County was supposed to be monitoring the Lake and doing water samples but Chet was advised, after inquiry, that the water has not been tested
  - Eileen and Chet will attempt to address this at the upcoming Coastal Lakes Summit on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Motion to Adjourn all business**