



Parks & Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives

Jennifer Matheny, Chair

Daniel R. Sandford, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Parks & Recreation Committee meet as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Matheny and Committee Member Reps. Bewkes, de la Cruz, and Gilbride. Also present were Reps. Sherwood and Summerville; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Erin McKenna, Associate Planner; Damian Ortelli, Harbor Master; Kevin Murray, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Mark Jackson, Coastline

Chair Matheny called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PR31.012	REVIEW; Dredging at Cove Marina. 12/12/22 – Submitted by Rep. Sherwood	Report Made

Rep. Sherwood stated that she put this on the agenda because in 2018 people were unable to get in or out of the channel at Cove Marina other than in high tide.

Mr. Casolo explained that the project is the culmination of a team effort of the Planning Department, the Parks Department and Engineering. There are signs at Cove to explain what is going on. Mark Jackson from Coastline is the project manager of record. The project has been broken into 2 phases. Phase 1 was awarded based on the available funding and should be completed by the end of January.

The first phase, is a little over 10,000 cubic yards of sand deposit that is choking the channel. The firm doing the project is Luciano Construction. The sand is not contaminated and the contractor has a permit to place on the sand on Quigley Beach. The project is winding down. The contractor is to have a post-dredge survey done by tomorrow to confirm that the grade and elevation requirements have been met.

Phase 2 is about 18,000 cubic yards of material. Mark Jackson is working with DEEP on the permit process for this phase. Erin McKenna was able to secure a state SHIPP grant for \$3 million for this phase. The project will still need to be bid through the Purchasing Department. This is different from Phase 1 because there is impacted material which needs to be handled in an approved manner.

Mr. Ortelli noted that Phase 2 will dovetail with future projects, including the rebuilding of the West Beach Boat Ramp.

Ms. McKenna shared [the attached schematics](#) with the Committee of the dredging in each phase. The permitting process for Phase 2 could take up to 2 years.

In response to questions from the Committee:

Ms. McKenna noted that Phase 1 has made the boat ramp accessible and the channel functional, but it will not be 100% until Phase 2 is completed. The channel will now be 5-6 feet deep at low tide.

Mr. Murray stated that there has been public outreach to make the public aware of what is going on.

2. [PR31.013](#) REVIEW; Future Plans for Cummings Park and Cummings Marina. **Report Made**
12/12/22 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Watkins, and Bewkes

Rep. Sherwood stated that there was a master plan in 2015 for a full upgrade of the Marina after Hurricane Sandy and she would like an update on the progress and the future plans for the marina.

Ms. McKenna shared [the attached document](#) with the Committee showing the plan for the marina. The City received a SHIPP grant last summer for a final design for the marina, which will be done once the money is in place. The estimate for the cost of a new marina in 2015 was \$5 million.

Mr. Ortelli stated that there has not been a needs analysis performed, but Cummings was a very popular marina. It could accommodate larger boats than Cove and .

Ms. McKenna stated that to date for Cummings Park, They have been trying to implement the master plan with the capital funds they have been able to get. Phase 1 was the Cummings beachfront. To date, they have renovated the outside of the pavilion and demolished the west side of the concession building. There was a final design but because funding has not been available, they have tried to phase it. They are about to go for a summary bid for the boardwalk on the east and west side – the lights, the benches, the plaza and an area for food truck parking, and will hopefully have enough money to do these. Mr. Ortelli stated that the renovations will add value.

There are currently for the 14 acre peninsula.

The Mayor's office has been trying to get additional funding from the State for Cummings Park.

The City applied for a grant for Cummings Pond and should hear about the application in March.

There have been no thoughts of creating another yacht club in Cummings. Halloween fills that social role, but this might be worth looking into.

3. PR31.014

REVIEW; Overview of Department of Parks and
Recreation Services Department
01/04/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell

Report Made

Mr. Murray stated that the Parks and Recreation Services Department has been restructured and he is now the Director of Parks and Recreation. Jim Montgomery will be responsible for the facilities and sustainability functions. The operation funding will be separate as of July, 2023. Recreation, parks maintenance, the marina, forestry and athletic field functions will all report to him. They will be moving to the 6th floor. They are not anticipating staffing increases at this point, but may need assistance with marketing and getting funding.

Chair Matheny adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Matheny, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)