

20 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN TASK FORCE

Background:

In 2011 the LB Park District Board of Commissioners formed a 20 Year Capital Plan Task Force (TF). The Task Force has spent more than one year completing a review of current and projected future Park District capital needs. We have considered how these needs dovetail with existing operations, the existing PD debt service schedule, the utilization of assets and services by members of the community and those outside the community, as well as a host of other factors.

Who served on the Task Force?

Peer Arnstein, Rob Douglass, David Forlow, Chris Hambleton, Piet Kruenan, David McElvain, Jim Moss, France Pitera, Bob Wallace and Ron Salski as Staff Liaison.

What were some of the things included in the Task Force review process?

- Five meetings of the full Task Force, several individual sessions with PD staff and community members.
- Reviewed and analyzed extensive user and participation statistics.
- Recommended and analyzed 20 Year Capital Report provided by ACG Consulting, Inc.
- Reviewed and integrated the findings of pertinent 3rd party research, including a Park District Americans with Disabilities Act report and two reports from aquatic engineering firms.
- Presented a midyear update to the Board at a public meeting.
- Developed and utilized a decision making model.

How will the information gathered by the Task Force be used?

We believe the information we have gathered will allow the Board of Commissioners to take a fully informed approach toward the capital spending elements of a comprehensive long term plan. The detail we have provided should guide capital spending decisions with as much fiscal discipline as the Board desires to employ to balance prudent investment against the desire to serve the needs of as many residents as reasonably as possible.

What approach did the Task Force take in reviewing the information gathered?

TF Members spent many hours as a group and individually working to form an understanding of the needs and costs associated with our Park District's assets. The TF understands the Park District is faced with complex capital investment decisions against a backdrop of limited capital monies. This is primarily due to the debt, which must be serviced, combined with the projected costs of simply supporting existing operations. Recognizing this difficult financial reality, the Task Force took a highly cautious approach in evaluating assets scheduled for replacement. In many cases, we sought a repair and maintain solution to put forth a lower cost approach than outright replacement.

Are there any particular reasons which caused the lack of resources?

The lack of financial resources to address all capital investment needs has resulted from many factors. A key factor that should receive immediate attention is establishing a more rigorous process for approving new projects or outright replacement of current such assets. Any new purchase decisions should be accompanied by a detailed assessment that addresses immediate availability of funds and detailed financial projections that demonstrate the source and sufficiency of funds to address maintenance, repair and ultimate replacement.

What are the next steps?

We anticipate the TF will make a formal presentation to the Board of Commissioners during Their March 18th regular board meeting, after which, a full copy of our report will be placed on the Park District website. It was a pleasure serving the Board of Commissioners and our community. We feel confident that the information we have compiled and solutions we have presented will be carefully considered by current and future Board of Commissioners.

We welcome any and all input. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact, Task Force Chair, David Forlow at 847.400.6780 or Ron Salski at the Lake Bluff Park District.