



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 4, 2019

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

John Wasik, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Randall L. Seebach
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding request from the Lake County Bike Share Consortium to participate in a two-year bike share pilot program in the Village of Grayslake area including Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: Participation in the two-year bike share pilot program as a sponsor will require a financial commitment from the District in the amount of \$9,500.00 annually for a total cost of \$19,000.00. This amount was not included in the 2020 budget.

BACKGROUND: Since June 2018, District staff, along with staff from the Lake County Division of Transportation, have been participating in discussions with the College of Lake County (CLC) and the Village of Grayslake (Village) regarding a potential bike share program in the Grayslake area with the goal of eventually expanding the bike share program throughout Lake County. By providing rentable bike opportunities, residents will have an additional opportunity for convenient access to and from the CLC campus, Metra stations, Pace bus stations, Village destinations, local businesses, Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve and regional trails such as the Millennium Trail, Casey Trail and Greenway and the Prairie Crossing Trail. It is anticipated that a successful bike share program will improve the quality of life for residents by reducing traffic congestion, reducing carbon emissions, allowing access to parks and regional trails, making daily commutes easier and providing an additional form of exercise.

Made up of representatives from the Village, Grayslake Park District, Grayslake Library District and CLC, the Lake County Bike Share Consortium (Consortium) is requesting the District participate in a two-year pilot project within the Village area. Specifically, the Consortium is requesting the District sponsor a docking station (accommodating five bikes) at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. As a sponsor, the District would be obligated to pay the annual fee of \$9,500 to host the station at Rollins Savanna. The Consortium has researched several bike share companies and has determined that Zagster, Inc. is the most feasible. Zagster requires a minimum of five docking stations (25 bikes) for a local program to be workable. The Consortium has received sponsorship commitments for placement of four docking stations and has reached out to Northwestern Medicine Grayslake Campus along with the District in hopes of receiving the fifth sponsor.

The Village has agreed to hold and administer the master contract for the pilot program. For the term of the two-year contract, Zagster will provide a 50/50 ridership revenue share. As the master contract holder, the Village will use the rider revenue share to offset the staff time required to administer the program.

Staff has reviewed the request and supports the concept of promoting a county-wide bike share program but does not recommend participation in the Grayslake area pilot program for the following reasons: (i) lack of available funds within the District's budget, (ii) operating a transportation program appears to be outside the District's core mission and (iii) the District is already supporting the pilot program by providing the trails/infrastructure for biking within Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve and elsewhere throughout the County.

Staff is seeking policy direction from the Operations and Planning committees on whether to participate in the bike share pilot program as a sponsor of a docking station at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel.

Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium

Request of Lake County Forest Preserve District Participation

Target Rollout Summer 2020

Background

The Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium includes community members, higher education, government agencies, community organizations, non-profits, and business members who have an interest in furthering the use of bicycles through a countywide Bikeshare Program. Our aim is to make bikes available for rent throughout Lake County. Our intention is for fair and equitable collaboration as we seek to address health/wellness, transportation, recreation, culture and community, environmental and economic issues through bike share across the county.

Goals and Objectives:

The overall goal of the Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium is to make bikes available for rent to residents for purposes of increasing transportation accessibility to recreation, education, work, and commerce. Residents will be able to explore our extensive municipal, County and Forest Preserve District trail systems, while enjoying health/wellness benefits and greater nature and community connectivity.

The Lake County Bike Share Consortium seeks to make bicycles available for rent, initially first in Grayslake starting in the summer of 2020, and then throughout Lake County in 2022. While there is interest among various partners throughout Lake County, it seems that those in Grayslake seem most ready to proceed with a two-year pilot period. The Pilot Program includes a committed partnership between the Village of Grayslake, Grayslake Park District, Grayslake Area Library District, College of Lake County, and Zagster, Inc. Northwestern Medicine and the Lake County Forest Preserve District are being asked to join this program. If this Pilot Program in the Grayslake area proves to be successful, then other entities across Lake County may wish to join and grow the program.

Proposed Pilot Program docking station locations in Grayslake:

- Central Park/Library/Pace Bus Stop
- Downtown Grayslake
- Metra Station
- College of Lake County
- Rollins Savannah
- Northwestern Medicine Grayslake Campus

Hybrid Bike Share Program:

Zagster requires 5 bicycles per sponsored station. Riders are able to check out bikes from docking stations using their cell phone app or by calling a posted phone number. The rider is typically charged \$1.00 for each 15 minutes until the bike is returned to a station. For example, riders will be able to pick up a bike at Rollins Savanna and ride the trail system to other locations within the program area and check that bike back in at other identified stations in the Village of Grayslake.

The Consortium has been discussing a hybrid bike share program with Zagster, inc. that combines the security of a docked system and the flexibility of dockless programs. Hybrid programs allow program sponsors to identify specific locations, in addition to the initial check-out locations, where bikes may be locked and returned. Additional return stations are limited and tend to be located out of pedestrian or automotive traffic, but allow for greater flexibility for riders to lock and return their bikes. Each station may hold up to 10-12 bikes..

Program Contract and Estimated Costs:

The Village of Grayslake has agreed to hold a master contract for the Pilot Program in the Grayslake area, including the Village, Grayslake Park District, Grayslake Area Library, the College of Lake County, and potentially the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Northwestern Medical Center.

All agreements assume a minimum of 5 docking stations with 5 bikes per station.

1. 1- year agreement \$2,000 per bike with no ridership revenue share
2. 2-year agreement \$1,900 per bike with 50/50 ridership revenue share
3. 3-year agreement \$1,800 per bike with 100% revenue share

Fee includes:

- All maintenance of bikes and docking stations
- Daily balancing of bikes
- All liability
- Dashboard access for data by rack and bike
- An indepth quarterly report of data
- Station moves per year \$325
- Mid Trip Locking
- Limited marketing Materials

As the master contract holder, the Village of Grayslake would use the rider revenue share as a source of compensation for staff time. The participating Pilot Program sponsors have agreed to forego this rider revenue to the Village for its efforts in managing the master contract.

Request of the Lake County Forest Preserve District:

The Consortium is asking the Lake County Forest Preserve District to partner with Grayslake area partners in this 2020-2022 Pilot Program by:

1. Permitting a docking station at Washington St. entrance of Rollins Savannah, Grayslake.
2. Financially sponsoring a docking station with five bikes at Rollins Savannah, with a 2-year contract.
3. Consider greater involvement as the Pilot Program progresses, understanding that greater accessibility to bicycles will allow Lake County residents and other visitors to enjoy our beautiful Lake County trails systems more extensively.

Participation in the Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium Pilot Program will enable the District to meet the Recreation guiding element of its mission. Visitors to Rollins Savanna will be able to explore more preserves along the Millennium Trail than they would on foot alone.