



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 4, 2019

MEMO TO: John Wasik, Chair
Planning Committee

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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding the potential dedication of the south half of 10th Street at Greenbelt Forest Preserve (Greenbelt) to the City of North Chicago (North Chicago).

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: At this time there is no financial impact.

BACKGROUND: Beginning in 1971, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (District) began acquiring Greenbelt, and by the end of 1980 the majority of Greenbelt west of Green Bay Road had been acquired. However, a series of road rights-of-way (ROW), most of which had never been constructed and served no purpose, remained. North Chicago passed an ordinance on December 8, 1980, vacating the ROW's, and title to slightly more than 18 acres of land within the vacated ROWs transferred to the District by operation of law.

One of the vacated ROWs was the south half (33 feet) of 10th Street, between Green Bay Road and the Com Ed right-of-way (the "Subject Property"). Since 1980, even though the Subject Property was vacated, it has been improved, paved, maintained, and used for transportation access and parking by businesses on the north side of the street.

In August 2018, the Planning Committee gave Policy Direction to staff in favor of the rededication of the Subject Property to North Chicago. Since then, Staff has determined that the Subject Property was included within the Project Boundary for a \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund Development Grant in 1986. Under regulations governing such grants, to dedicate the Subject Property to North Chicago, the District must first get State and National Park Service (NPS) approval to change the Project Boundary of the grant property. Unless North Chicago is willing to accept the dedication, there is no point in discussing this issue with the State and NPS. The District will also require State and NPS approval of the conveyance of 1.56 acres of property transferred to Lake County in 2018 for the 14th Street/Dugdale Road project, and it is reasonable to combine both topics in one request.

Because (i) a portion of the Subject Property continues to be used as a road and for parking, (ii) there is an existing fence along the south line of the former ROW, and (iii) the Subject Property has minimal natural resource value, it would be reasonable to dedicate the Subject Property to North Chicago as a ROW, if requested by North Chicago. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee to (i) determine whether North Chicago will accept the dedication (ii) if so, contact the State and NPS for approval to change the grant area boundaries to allow the transfer, and (iii) to request the State and NPS approval of the parcels granted to LCDOT in 2018. If the other governmental agencies give the necessary approvals, staff will bring forward to Committee and Board the required documentation to complete the 10th Street dedication.

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