



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: March 2, 2020

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 a second request from the Lake County Regional 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 opportunities (i) and (ii) below do not require financial participation from the District and opportunity (iii) requires a financial commitment 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 college 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 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 Regional Bike Share Consortium (Consortium) is asking the District to participate in a two-year pilot project within the Village area. On November 4, 2019, the Operations and Planning Committees reviewed a request for policy direction regarding the Consortium's initial request that the District sponsor a docking station at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve at a cost of \$9,500.00 per year for the two-year project. Both committees were supportive of the program, but did not support participating as a financial partner and requested the Consortium reframe their request without a financial commitment from the District. On January 27, 2020, Committee Chairs Vealitzek and Wasik received correspondence from the Consortium

(see attached) with a revised request to consider three opportunities for the District to participate in the 2021-2023 Bike Share Pilot Program including: (i) writing a letter in support of the bike share program, (ii) permitting a docking station at the Washington Street entrance to Rollins Savanna and (iii) financially sponsoring a docking station with five bikes at Rollins Savanna with a two-year contract for a total cost of \$19,000.00. 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 two-year master contract for the pilot program. For the two-year master contract, Zagster will provide a 50/50 ridership revenue share with the village. 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 this second request, continues to support the concept of promoting a county-wide bike share program, and recommends participation in the Grayslake area pilot program by providing a written letter of support. Staff does not support the Consortium's request to permit a docking station at the entrance to Rollins Savanna or its request that the District financially sponsor a docking station.

Staff is seeking policy direction from the Operations and Planning committees on whether to participate in the bike share pilot program and in what capacity.

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

Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium

January 27, 2020

Jessica Vealitzek, Operations Committee, Chair
John Wasik, Planning Committee, Chair
Lake County Forest Preserve District
1899 West Winchester Road
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Dear Commissioners Vealitzek and Wasik:

On November 4, 2019, David Husemoller and Mary Klees of the Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium attended meetings of the Operations and Planning Committees to discuss potential a potential partnership between the Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium and the Lake County Forest Preserves District.

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 bike share program. Our aim is to make bikes available for rent throughout Lake County.

Bike share availability meets many different public service goals:

- Recreation
- Transportation and accessibility
- Cultural enrichment
- Reduced air, water, and soil pollution
- Health and wellness
- Reduced traffic on roads

The Lake County Forest Preserve District Mission Statement identifies many of these same goals:

To preserve a dynamic and unique system of natural and cultural resources and to develop innovative education, recreation and cultural opportunities of regional value, while exercising environmental and fiscal responsibility.

The underlined text helps to emphasize this connection. Bike share programming would undoubtedly help the District to “develop innovative education, recreation and cultural opportunities of a regional value.” Bicycles are certainly environmentally responsible.

The question of fiscal responsibility was raised by the Forest Preserve District staff, as it was also by the Village of Grayslake, the Grayslake Park District and the Grayslake Public Library District. While each of these entities have budgets smaller than that of the Forest Preserve District, they each chose to sponsor bike rack in order to provide its constituents with increased accessibility to resources across the region.

The District’s 100-Year Vision for Lake County identifies five sets of goals. The “Public Access and Connect Goals” highlight the District’s intent to “facilitate a regional network of multi-use recreational

trail connections to optimize access” and to “expand our reach so that a District core activity or function touches the home, heart, body, or mind of every resident in a meaningful way.”

Lake County residents without a bicycle or safe bicycle access to the Forest Preserve and other regional trails are significantly limited from exploring the miles trails that reach across restored natural areas and reach significant cultural resources.

The Lake County Bike Share Consortium seeks to make bicycles available for rent, initially first in Grayslake for a two year pilot program and expand throughout Lake County with new partnerships. The Grayslake pilot program partners include: the Village of Grayslake, Grayslake Park District, Grayslake Area Library District, College of Lake County, and Zagster, Inc.

Request of the Lake County Forest Preserve District:

The Consortium is asking the Lake County Forest Preserve District to consider each of the following opportunities to collaborate with Grayslake area partners in support of this 2021-2023 Bike Share Pilot Program, by:

1. Writing a letter, on behalf of the District in support of a bike share program, starting in the Grayslake area and expanding to other areas across Lake County.
2. Permitting a docking station at Washington St. entrance of Rollins Savannah, Grayslake.
3. Financially sponsoring a docking station with five bikes at Rollins Savannah, with a 2-year contract.

We realize that each these requests may not be feasible for the District to commit to at this time, but feel that it is important that the chairs and members of the Planning and Operations Committees are able to appreciate them. At the least, we hope that the District is able to write a letter as indicated above.

Support of the Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium Pilot Program will enable the District to meet the “innovative education, recreation and cultural opportunities” of its mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Husemoller, LEED AP O+M
Sustainability Manager
College of Lake County

Cc: Randall Seebach, Lake County Forest Preserve staff
Mary Klees, Lake County Regional Bike Share Consortium