

# ROCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

### 4-1-24

#### **Roll Call**

A quorum was present as made up by the following current REC members in attendance:

- Rosemary Jonientz, Chair
- Kate Powers, Vice Chair
- Bob Schellinger
- Mia Morgillo
- Carlos Perez
  
- Elizabeth Primus (arrived at 6:05pm)

Chair Jonientz led the meeting.

#### **Housekeeping**

There were no housekeeping matters.

#### **Agenda Approval**

The agenda was accepted without a vote.

#### **Review/Acceptance of Last Minutes**

The prior meeting was the regularly scheduled March meeting of the REC. The March meeting minutes were distributed to all REC members in advance of the April meeting. Chair Jonientz asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Powers so motioned, Commissioner Schellinger seconded, and on a vote of 5-0-0, the REC voted to approve the March minutes as distributed.

Commissioner Primus arrived just after the vote to approve the March minutes.

#### **Review of Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for review or to be issued.

#### **Reports**

There were no reports for review or to be issued.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to conduct.

#### **SEQR/Chapter 48 Referrals**

- a. Durand Eastman Beach Park infrastructure repair and greening development project.

DES staff Tyler Burke (project manager of this project) presented the rationale for and specifics of the project proposal:

The City of Rochester seeks to address stormwater and erosion issues at the portion of Durand Eastman Park north of Lakeshore Blvd. (see Attachment 1). A 15,900 +/- sf parking area at the high point of Lakeshore Blvd will be removed and replaced with lawn area. This reduction in impervious area should reduce the overall runoff volume and velocity that the downstream areas currently see. To channelize stormwater further, two catch basins will be installed at either end of the new grass area and tied into the existing storm sewer to the east. A small section of existing pavement at the low point of the central parking area will be replaced with new asphalt pavement, and striping and signage will be included to establish 2 handicap parking spaces with a striped loading bay. To further improve ADA access, an accessible ramp will be installed near the ADA parking spaces to allow beach access. Two additional staircases will be installed along the Parkway Trail to improve access to the beach, as all access to the beach is currently informal. The existing informal access locations are contributing to erosive undercutting of the trail. Multiple sections of the existing asphalt walkway will be replaced and the erosion damage under them shored up. These areas will be closed off by slope stabilization construction, and selective seeding will minimize foot traffic. Finally, there are 3 locations on the beach where small concrete pads will be installed to support grills and tables, and one 16'x16' prefabricated pavilion will be installed.

Commissioners asked about future plans for further improvements at the park; more are planned in concert with a future master plan-based project the parameters of which are not yet fully known. In response to REC inquiry, it was explained that the stairs being installed to prevent dangerous access down the bluffs are made of aluminum with a grate-style anti-slip material to facilitate sand and debris to fall through and prevent buildup on the steps. Project manager confirmed that the existing stormwater system is sufficiently sized to handle the additional flow from the two new catch basins. Consideration was given to including a request for a study for moving parking lot entirely to other side of Lakeshore Blvd but ultimate was held to be included with the future review of the expected larger project discussed above. REC asked about lighting being implemented, which will not be occurring as the city has long relied upon an RG&E grant program that has recently been ended to fund just this sort of project lighting. Commissioners asked for the turf grass seed mix being called for to consider its contents.

Chair Jonientz indicated that there being no further discussion, a motion to recommend was in order. Commissioner Perez moved that the REC recommend the project be issued a negative declaration by the Manager of Zoning. Vice Chair seconded the motion. The REC voted 6-0-0 in the affirmative. The REC attached the following recommendation:

- Recommend that one or more pollinator-friendly species (e.g. clover) be included in the turf lawn seed mix.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to be considered.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.