



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
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Preservation, Restoration, Education and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2017

MEMO TO: Carol Calabresa, Chair
Planning Committee

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

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a potential Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Lindenhurst (“the Village”) for a trail connection at Hastings Lake Forest Preserve, and to (i) authorize permission to sign a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding and (ii) authorize negotiations of an Intergovernmental Agreement.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS SUPPORTED: Public Access and Connections; Leadership

FINANCIAL DATA: There is no financial impact at this time. The District will be committing time and resources to complete the project and provide future maintenance if an agreement is reached.

BACKGROUND: The District and the Village have received numerous requests over the last several years to construct a small section of trail (370 lineal feet) connecting a portion of the Village to the District’s existing trails at Hastings Lake Forest Preserve. The local residents are using an unimproved, informal path to access the District trails through a portion of the Village property and a vacant lot. The worn path becomes muddy and un-accessible certain times of the year.

The proposed asphalt trail connection, when complete, would provide over 1,000 homes and over 2,900 people with improved, direct access to the trails at Hastings Lake.

District and Village staff have prepared a draft non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlines the terms of a potential intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the construction and long term maintenance of the proposed trail connection. General terms of the MOU, which would be incorporated in the IGA, include:

- 1) The Village will acquire the vacant lot as fee simple.
- 2) The District will construct the trail, providing all labor and equipment to construct the trail using in-house crews.
- 3) The Village will reimburse the District for all materials required to construct the trail.
- 4) District staff will prepare construction plans, secure all permits and administer the project.
- 5) Maintenance responsibilities for the trail will be assigned by jurisdiction (District maintains only the portion of trail that is on District property).
- 6) The Village will grant the District a perpetual easement across the Village property and the vacant lot for the public use of the trail.

Staff is seeking approval to, (i) sign the MOU, and (ii) negotiate a mutually acceptable IGA that would be effective only if and when it is approved by the corporate authorities of both the District and the Village.

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