



## Planning & Development Committee

Monday, December 13, 2021 @ 5:15 PM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, James C. Lytle City Council Chambers, Room 2800

**COMMITTEE MEMBER  
PRESENT:**

Eleanor Revelle, Councilmember, Devon Reid, Councilmember, Melissa Wynne, Councilmember, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Councilmember, and Bobby Burns, Councilmember

**COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ABSENT:**

Clare Kelly, Councilmember and Cicely Fleming, Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Johanna Nyden, Director of Community Development and Jessica Hyink, Transportation & Mobility Coordinator

**(I) CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM - COUNCILMEMBER REVELLE**

A quorum being present Councilmember Revelle called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.

**(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

PM1. **Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Planning & Development Committee meeting of**

Staff recommends approval of the Minutes of the Regular Planning & Development Committee meeting of October 25, 2021 and November 22, 2021.

Moved by Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma  
Seconded by Councilmember Melissa Wynne

**Ayes:** Councilmember Eleanor Revelle, Councilmember Devon Reid, Councilmember Melissa Wynne, Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma, and Councilmember Bobby Burns

**Carried 5-0 on a recorded vote**

**(III) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joan Cherry spoke against item PI stating that what is described as a fee is really an additional property tax. It is concerning because municipalities don't have the authority to raise assessments in this way and it appears to be a tax on a tax that is already in place.

**(IV) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**(V) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

P1. Discussion of research for proposed lakefront public access cut-off

Staff seeks direction on the next steps for Councilmember Devon Reid's proposal to study and potentially implement a public access cut-off fee.

Councilmember Revelle recused herself from this item and asked Councilmember Wynne to chair this discussion.

Councilmember Reid shared a video from Minneapolis, MN about a public access cut-off fee and stated that the study demonstrates that cutting off access to a public lakefront has a negative impact on how the wealth is spread throughout the community.

Councilmember Nieuwsma appreciated the sentiment of spreading the wealth in the community but stated that access to the lakefront is not an issue in Evanston. The lakefront homes do not have 30 yards of beach that isn't being accessed and most homes don't even have a beach so the argument doesn't hold here. He is not in favor of a study.

Councilmember Burns is open to exploring different options to reclaim the revenue that our city needs.

Councilmember Reid said that we should at least do an RFP to see what the cost of this research could be.

Councilmember Nieuwsma indicated that lakefront owners are already paying more in taxes and we shouldn't add to that.

Councilmember Reid responded that the lakefront owners are actually paying less per square feet than residents in his ward based on his research.

Councilmember Wynne shared that the argument in the article that was provided does not compare apples to apples and instead is like apples to basketballs. She pointed out that a majority of our lakefront is accessible and listed many of the ways. She doesn't support paying \$100,000 looking at 42 properties and is certain that there would be legal ramifications. It does not make financial sense to consider this. She argued staff does not have the time to put an RFP together for something that is speculative.

Johanna Nyden, Community Development Director, reiterated that staff does not have the expertise or the time to create and manage the RFP. Staff will be focused on the comprehensive plan and this type of idea should be included in a plan.

Councilmember Reid motioned to table this conversation and to bring it back on June 13 for further discussion. Councilmember Burns seconded the motion.

Moved by Councilmember Devon Reid

Seconded by Councilmember Bobby Burns

**Ayes:** Councilmember Devon Reid and Councilmember Bobby Burns

**Nays:** Councilmember Melissa Wynne and Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma

**Abstained:** Councilmember Eleanor Revelle

**DEFEATED. 2-2 on a recorded vote**

P2. Discussion on Bus Shelter Program

Staff seeks direction on options set forth below on modification and funding of the City of Evanston's bus shelter program to incorporate improvements to liveability, equity and the Climate Action Resilience Plan ("CARP") in Evanston.

This item was moved in order to be discussed first.

Jessica Hyink, Transportation and Mobility Coordinator, gave a presentation of the existing bus shelter program and provided recommendations for moving forward.

Councilmember Wynne stated that moving forward with the recommendation from the staff makes sense.

Councilmember Nieuwsma also agreed with the recommendation from the staff and asked Ms. Hyink if she would expect the cost to be any cheaper and if we would negotiate our own rate with Pace's contractor.

Ms. Hyink indicated that she would not expect it to be any cheaper and that the City would negotiate our own rate with the maintenance provider. It would make sense to have one provider.

Councilmember Nieuwsma inquired about how many shelters we have, what makes a shelter ADA compliant and what the cost of a shelter is.

Ms. Hyink responded that there are 19 shelters and that we want to make all of them uniform and compliant. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that would require that someone who uses a wheelchair can pull into the shelter and be covered. Not all of our bus shelters are currently compliant. The cost of a shelter is typically around \$5,000 but can depend on the current conditions.

Councilmember Burns asked if there is a list of current ridership numbers.

Ms. Hyink indicated that we can get those numbers from Pace and the CTA.

Councilmember Revelle summarized that the committee supports that the City enter an intergovernmental agreement with Pace to provide our bus shelters and maintenance.

Moved by Councilmember Devon Reid

Seconded by Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma

**Ayes:** Councilmember Devon Reid, Councilmember Jonathan Nieuwsma,  
Councilmember Eleanor Revelle, Councilmember Melissa Wynne, and  
Councilmember Bobby Burns

**Carried 5-0 on a recorded vote**

**(VI) ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

**(VII) ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Revelle moved adjournment of the meeting, seconded by Alderman Revelle. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.