



To: MCWD Board of Managers
From: Janna Jonely
Date: December 19, 2019
Re: Discussion 12.2 – Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk Updates

Purpose:

At the December 19, 2019 Board of Managers meeting staff will provide the Board an update on the status of the Minnehaha Preserve boardwalk and the ongoing materials investigation related to recurrent maintenance of degrading materials.

Background:

Throughout 2019, staff inspections of the Minnehaha Preserve boardwalk documented that various boardwalk surfaces are displaying unexpected materials durability issues. Multiple areas of boardwalk decking and handrail appear to be rotting well in advance of the anticipated life expectancy of the lumber. As boards begin to deteriorate, dark coloring is observed and the wood becomes soft as pressure is applied. Boards eventually begin to splinter and develop holes. The formation of holes typically only occurs on a specific portion of individual decks boards, no greater than the width of one board (approximately 2-4 inches).

At the October 10, 2019 Operations and Programs Committee (OPC) meeting, staff provided an update to the Board of Managers on the current condition of the boardwalk surfaces and the investigation being conducted with the contractor and supplier to resolve the material issue. Staff specifically reported on the increased frequency of inspections and boardwalk maintenance due to the enhanced safety risk, and noted that the implementation of an interim inspection protocol may be necessary to balance District maintenance and user safety.

On November 7, 2019 the Board of Managers adopted and Interim Maintenance Protocol for the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk via resolution 19-094. The interim maintenance protocol establishes a record of the District's efforts to determine and implement a long term resolution of the Minnehaha Preserve Boardwalk materials failure, while balancing the nature and extent of the materials failure, public use of the boardwalk, and public safety risk along with the options to manage the issue until resolved.

For the December 19, 2019 Board of Managers meeting, staff have prepared a presentation further detailing the process being followed by the MCWD as it seeks resolution for the failing materials. The discussion will include contractual obligations of the designer and contractor, information received from the contractor and supplier to date, recent testing results from the wood treatment chemical manufacture, and additional maintenance and safety considerations.

Additional questions, comments, or ideas related to the Minnehaha Preserve boardwalk repair process can be directed to Janna Jonely at jjonely@minnehahacreek.org or 952.641.4523.

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