

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Special Town Council Meeting on: March 8, 2022

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager

Re: Update on Proposed Addition of Stairs on the South Side of Memorial Fountain

Date: February 24, 2022

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Town Council review the information below and attached, and provide direction, relative to the proposed addition of stairs and the inclusion of ADA access on the south side of the Mizner Memorial Fountain in Memorial Park.

GENERAL INFORMATION

At the May 11, 2021, Town Council meeting, staff provided a report on the history of previous approvals by LPC and Town Council for the proposed addition of stairs to the south side of Memorial Fountain. At this meeting, staff also presented a letter dated April 16, 2021, from Dr. Timothy Parson, Director of Historical Resources and Preservation for the State of Florida, which confirmed that the State did not object to the addition of the proposed stairs.

After a lengthy discussion at the May 11 meeting, Council decided to table its decision to move forward with the project until a later date. Council also requested staff research ADA accommodation that may be required if the stairs are added and return to Council when ready to present its findings.

At the July 13, 2021, staff presented its findings on the ADA question. Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building, reported at the time that he is of the opinion that the Town would need to provide ADA accommodations to the Fountain if new stairs are added to its south side. He suggests in his memo that a platform lift is the least impactful solution for the site. Council agreed with Mr. Bergman's opinion and staff conveyed this information to the Centennial Commission, which requested time to work with their architect to address the ADA issue.

As indicated in the attached communication from the Centennial Commission Chairman, Bill Bone, the design of the proposed stairs has been updated to further minimize its impact on the original fountain, while including a lift to meet the ADA requirement. Since the design for the new stairs and lift are conceptual, specifications on the exact lift to be used are not available but staff has been advised that it will comply guidelines for adapting historic structures and will fully

comply with the regulations for making the addition accessible to the handicapped. The final decision on the specific lift is not definite primarily because there are just too many lifts to choose from. The architect has confirmed that although the proposed design is in the conceptual phase, safety for users of the lift is paramount in the final selection of the equipment. The concept allows for any number of standard lifts that are ready, available, and fully compliant with government mandated safety requirements. See the attached letter and renderings of the conceptual designs. The Centennial Commission will present the updated design at the February 8, 2022, Council meeting and seek approval to proceed.

If Council approves moving forward with the proposed project, the following will need to occur in the months ahead.

1. Landmarks Preservation Commission approval. (LPC must grant a new COA approval, as COA #045-2018 expired on November 13, 2019.)
2. State review and approval of the updated design, inclusive of the ADA accommodation they requested, will be sought after LPC approval.
3. Town Council must grant an extension of Z-18-00144, Site Plan with Special Exception, which expired on November 13, 2021.
4. If Council agrees with moving forward with a new COA approval and extension of Z-18-00144, a biddable set of plans will need to be prepared by the architect so the Town could secure proposals for the work.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

The Centennial Commission previously committed to funding the design and construction of the new stairs, including the addition of the proposed ADA lift.

Attachments

cc: Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works
Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
Centennial Commission