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Cheboygan Daily Tribune

308 North Main St. Cheboygan, MI 49721



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Local News

Bridge design revealed

New span would be the centerpiece of downtown improvement development

By MIKE FORNES

Tribune Staff Writer

CHEBOYGAN - The plan for Cheboygan's new downtown pedestrian bridge over the Cheboygan River was unveiled at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The new span as sketched by United Design Associates will be 178 feet long and 10 feet wide, and will cross the river from Washington Park over to a green area just south of the newly established boat launch facility. Earlier consideration to having the bridge emanate from a location within the Mariner's Village Development has been dropped because of the overall footprint space required for the bridge's west end, as well as conflicts with an existing gas main located on the east side of the river.

Mayor James Muschell said the height of the bridge will permit the passage of vessels in the river with a clearance of approximately 22 feet. The Lincoln Avenue Bridge permits a clearance of 19 feet at center span.

The cost is presently estimated at \$889,000.

"The cost could go up depending on a number of things such as timing," Muschell stated. "The price of steel keeps going up, so the longer we wait the steel will cost more."

Elevators will be installed to provide barrier-free access to the crossing. Ron Tebo of United Design told the Council that the elevator shafts could be heated to guard against winter malfunction. Security cameras could also be installed to monitor vandalism or safety concerns.

Most passengers will use an open two-level stair platform to climb to the bridge. There will be lighting along the open deck of the span, which could be built of concrete or of wood, Muschell explained.

He said concerns about snow removal could dictate a concrete surface,



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although council members agreed that winter usage would likely be far less than the other seasons.

Approval is necessary from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The design is pretty well set, according to Muschell.

"There will be more detail added, but the concept will be the same, because this is the most economical and practical design for the problems we faced in this location and to keep it barrier-free," he explained.

Council accepted the preliminary design and location of the footbridge so that application may be made for the necessary permits. More details will be explored and approved before the final design, color and incidentals of the bridge are finalized.

The bridge will tie in aesthetically with vessels wishing to dock at Mariner's Village or the proposed small boat marina planned for the east side of the river.

A similar bridge has been built at Calvin College that spans a freeway, enabling pedestrians to cross in an enclosed covering. At this time, the Cheboygan River bridge would not be enclosed.

"I don't know what we're going to call the bridge, that's up to the community," Muschell declared after the City Council meeting. "Maybe there will be a contest, that wouldn't be a bad idea. That's how they named the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, through a contest."

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