



Ridgewood's Graydon Pool about to make history

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Graydon Park moved closer to gaining historical status in the village Master Plan after officials agreed this week that the protective benefits of the designation outweigh the limited operational restrictions that would accompany it.

On Tuesday, the [Ridgewood](#) Planning Board voted unanimously to prepare an amendment that would add Graydon Pool to the village's local historic plan. The hearing was continued from a December meeting, where board members sought to better understand the operational implications of historical designation on the public site.

Parks and Recreation Director Tim Cronin was on hand at the board's request to address members' concerns about how operations at the pool, such as maintenance and capital projects, would be affected by a historical designation.

Cronin said the primary impact from the designation would likely be economic, as proposed changes or renovations would demand more staff time and higher quality materials, thus raising the cost of those projects.

While the final decision to allow capital projects or construction to occur on property designated as historic would remain with the Village Council, the status would require input from the Historic Preservation Committee as well as a courtesy review at the planning board level.

"That's where this would add a step to the process," Village Planner Blais Brancheau said.

Courtesy reviews would only be required for major projects, officials said. Regular maintenance would be performed as it currently is.

Village Historian Joe Suplicki said that historical status does not require consistency between original materials used on a historic site and materials proposed to be used in changes.

"It's the look that we're trying to keep," he said. "You don't have to use historically accurate materials. There are other materials which look the same which would be appropriate."

Officials noted that Graydon Pool's entry to a state or federal historical register would carry tighter restrictions than just a local designation, but Mayor Keith Killion reminded the board that the higher designations were not on the table for discussion. Board members concurred that they were not aware of any interest by organizations or individuals to submit the park for state or federal consideration.

"We're only looking at local designation," Killion said.

Once concerns were addressed, board members expressed their support of the move toward historical status for the pool, which has recently been discussed as a site for ADA improvements.

Vice Chairman Albert Pucciarelli said that in addition to commemorating the contribution of Samuel



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The Ridgewood Planning Board was unanimous in its approval to list Graydon Pool, above in 1957, on the local historic rolls.

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Graydon to the village, the designation would ensure a respectful treatment of the park in cases of future capital projects.

"It will heighten the sensitivity to Graydon Pool as a site worthy of being redeveloped in a very careful and sensitive way," he said.

Killion concurred, saying the additional safeguard the designation grants outweighed the extra time and effort required for projects at the planning level.

"I look at it as adding another set of eyes to the planning process," Killion said.

The motion to move forward with the designation passed unanimously. Planning board officials will prepare an amendment for public hearing, which, if passed, would then be sent to the council for final approval.

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