

**TOWN OF
GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012
4097 HIGHWAY 42 FISH CREEK WI
8:00 A.M.**

Call to Order: Brian Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Present: Chairman Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present were Brian Hackbarth, Jayson Merkel and Renny Lea. Mike Ashley and Laurie Buske were absent.

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Hackbarth verified the agenda had been properly noticed. It was moved by Lea and seconded by Merkel to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes: It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Lea to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2012 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.

Chair Report:

Scotch pines haven't been removed from the Fish Creek Park; maintenance will be reminded to do so, as soon as they can.

Merkel's and Lea's terms on the Parks and Lands Committee expire at the end of April. The committee will be looking for volunteers to replace them.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Gardens: No Report

Invasive Species: Lea wants to get in touch with Marnie from the Ridges. Last year, they removed various invasive species. Dave Bultman was asked if he might be able to help with the project. Bultman was not sure about time commitment. Lea stated that last year they were only out on four dates. Lea said she may still be able to help coordinate these dates in the future.

Chambers Island Lighthouse: No Report, MaryAnn Blahnik present just a little concerned about the grass. Hackbarth would like to organize a time to get out to the Island.

Grapevine Wreaths: Carol Olson stated that the holiday wreaths are falling apart. She recommends a grapevine wreath and has people that will help volunteer to make them. She has already purchased bows, and will sort through the old wreaths to reuse the forms. She will get rid of bad wreaths. She will talk to John regarding the type of wire hanger.

Lea comments that she likes the use of the wild grapevine as it reduces the invasive species choking out other trees.

Merkle states he would like to get away from putting them on the signs because they scratch the signs; especially if they are getting repainted this year.

It was moved by Merkle, and seconded by Lea to accept the grapevine wreaths and have Olson arrange for the volunteers. Motion carried.

Spruce Trees Donation by Dave Bultman: Dave Bultman stated that the trees are ordered and will have some extra. He would like to put 3-5 trees by the wall of the Windmill Property. The trees are potted about 2-3 feet tall.

Bultman also brought info regarding NERN (Niagara Escarpment resource Network), has a pamphlet that references Door County and the top six locations. He will keep us informed on any future events regarding Door County and the Niagara Escarpment.

It was moved by Merkle and seconded by Lea to allow Bultman to plant the trees at the Windmill Property. Motion Carried.

Sprinkler Service: The sprinkler service proposal has discounts for booking multiple years, but that is not budgeted for more than one year, at this time. Merkle stated that the Fire Dept. usually goes with the one year plan. The Town Hall and Clark Park are the areas affected. The Fire Dept. handles their own, but may be a good idea to work together for a better pricing to bundle.

Merkle suggests going with the one year service. Hackbarth agrees to leave it be for this year, but budget for multiple years. Merkle points out that last year, we only got charged for \$257.39 for Clark Park. He is wondering if they will match last year's rates. Discussion ensues about skipping the mid season service and only use the startup and winterizing. Which would be a cost of \$284, total for 3 properties equals \$852. We are budgeted for \$900. Lea questions why it would be OK to skip the mid season service? Merkle explains it is used more for alignment of sprinkler heads. It is not necessary unless there is a problem, in which case, we could call for a service call. Brian will follow up with the Sprinkler Company and Kelly to determine the most affordable one year service. It is moved by Merkel and seconded by Lea, to allow Hackbarth to follow-up and determine the most cost effective service plan and move forward with that. Motion carries.

Trash Receptacles: It has been requested by GHA to have a trash receptacle located at the Noble Square Park. It is agreed that Noble Square has a lot more activities now and really needs one. We will check with the Gibraltar Historical Association to determine the best location. A new trash container may cost \$600; we have \$800 in budget. Merkel asks about the cost of the dual trash container at the Town Center. Hackbarth says \$1005. Merkel recommends being forward on a recycling receptacle and that going forward all new receptacles should be recycling. Hackbarth agrees and will work to get the extra \$200 for a dual from other areas of the budget, unless we have an extra somewhere. There will be trash on one side and a comingled on the other.

It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Lea to purchase a dual trash/recycling receptacle for Noble Square. Motion carried.

Lawn Care Service at 5 Core Parks: \$3300 has been approved by town board for weed control. In the past, maintenance has been too busy to get to all of the parks. Merkle is disappointed in the bids received. They don't really give a bottom-line. Lea points out that Spring Green has a page regarding organic services. She thinks it would be better talk about this more when Ashley and Buske are present. Buske might have more information and insight regarding this issue. Merkel favors the use of a company to provide the service instead of relying on the maintenance dept. Hackbarth has concerns about postponing this another month, since this would need the

Town Board's approval. However, more info is desired. Lea suggests more pro-action on this for next year.

The ProLawn estimate isn't clear, what's all included with the service. Hackbarth states that the Town Center has this as its own budget item. Merkel does some figuring and determines that ProLawn comes in at about \$1600; they've done a good job at the Fire Dept. Hackbarth notices that the standard program doesn't include the crab grass fertilizer applications.

It is decided that more clarification is needed. Merkle said this should be an every year maintenance expense.

Lea agrees that more time is needed to determine the best choice and addresses her concerns about public health.

A consensus was reached to allow Hackbarth to work with Hagen and B. Merkel to come up with a solution for this year and research more next year.

Sign Painting: Hackbarth states that some park signs need to be repainted. We have \$1000 in budget for park signs and \$3000 for the welcome sign. He has met with Tony Bryzak. He has agreed to paint these four signs and if there is money left in the budget to add a fifth, towards the end of the year. Bryzak is semi-retired and donates some of his time to the town.

It is moved by Merkel and seconded by Lea, to paint the signs listed (Clark Park, Fish Creek Beach, Spruce Park and Sunset Beach) and for the town to hire Tony Bryzak for the job. Motion carried.

Bench Replacement: John and Tim have noted benches that are in disrepair. Before replacing or repairing we would like to look at new bench options; something more durable and long lasting.

Bench Donation/Request Policy: Hackbarth explains that the Town has received several inquiries from people wanting to donate benches, often for a specific park and in memory of... The subject of a Bench request/donation policy has come up. Do we want all of our benches to be "in memory of..." or should we limit them? John has recommended the use of small plaques instead of the large routed letters. A small plaque would be easier to maintain. Some of our donations are for specific to location. If we continue to allow this, we'll have a dozen benches in Sunset Park and none in the others. It has been thought that a policy might allow the Town to choose where the bench is to be located/ needed. Another concern about the benches; once they are donated, the town incurs all of the maintenance expense. Should we look into a new style of bench with less maintenance? Blahnik and Olson suggest the use of cement benches. Merkle suggests the new recycled materials. Lea would like to look into other bench options and likes the use of a plaque. Hackbarth states that we currently don't have many benches left that are not donated. Donations are coming in from all over; do we create a policy that only allows certain people to be in memoriam? Or do we allow anyone that is not a resident? The "Giving Tree" is also meant for people to be recognized for their donations and in memorials. This needs to be more utilized somewhere for the public to see.

This discussion was tabled to obtain more information.

Bench Donation request Brianna Hubbard: Kelly will contact Brianna to get specifics on her request.

Review and Discuss Wisconsin DNR Forester's Report: This discussion was post-poned until next month, to await input from Ashley and Buske.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: *It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Lea to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

Kelly Murre, Administrative Assistant