

Approved: May 20, 2014

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR  
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014 MINUTES  
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER  
8:00 A.M.**

**Call to Order:** Brian Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present: Brian Hackbarth, Laurie Buske, Marne Kaeske, Carol Olson and Bob Spielman

**Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda:** Hackbarth verified the agenda had been properly noticed.  
*Motion: ( Spielman/Kaeske ) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.*

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

*Motion: (Olson/Kaeske) to approve the minutes of March 18, 2014 as written. Carried*

**Committee reports:**

**Gardens-** Buske reported that she has measured the area in front of the Town Center for the new planters. It is unlikely the gardens will be ready by Memorial Day. Spielman suggested a write-up in FCCA's "News you can Use"

**Invasive Species-** Kaeske is working on an article for the spring newsletter

**Lighthouse-** J. Blahnik reported on the Retreat House status. A youth program may be utilizing the facility later this summer. Lighthouse traffic is very dependent on activities at the Retreat House. A couple has volunteered their time to spend a week at the lighthouse, to work on any projects we may have.

**Chair:** Hackbarth requested that we be patient with the maintenance crew, as the long winter is making it difficult to prepare the Town for the summer. They have a short window to have everything completed by Memorial Day.

**Public Comment:** M. Blahnik also suggested we have Mary Anderson write in the FC column of the advocate, regarding the winter delay.

**Town Center Flower Planters:** Buske measured the area proposed for the new planters. No problem foreseen for ADA accessibility in regards to the proximity to the sidewalk.

*Motion: (Olson/Hackbarth) to purchase the planters for \$1972.23. Carried.*

**Take 2014 Lawn Care Maintenance from the Table:** *Motion: (Kaeske/Buske) to remove lawn care maintenance from the table. Carried.*

**Lawn Care Maintenance:** Kaeske reported on alternative options on Lawn Care Maintenance. A natural method recommends a Compost tea, alfalfa pellets and corn gluten, with low mow seed added. It is a process to bring the soil back to a healthy state, 3 years is estimated. We want to train the soil and the roots, to go deep for their nutrients. Right now, the soil is considered unhealthy because the it gets synthetic nutrients from the top. An option would be to

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experiment with one park this year. Buske suggested low maintenance this year and over seed depending on budget in the fall. Spielman also thinks more information is needed. A firmer, multi-year plan needs to be created for the next few years, along with budget. The consensus is to limit the treatments this year and to research and budget for a more natural approach next year. *Motion: (Spielamn/Olson) to hire EZ Green with their standard program, eliminating fertilizer from Application #2 and adding aeration in the fall. Noble Square Park needs special consideration in the freshly seeded area. They should contact Buske before applying. Carried.*

**Community Garden:** Hackbarth wanted to begin the discussion regarding a community garden. Water would be the biggest hurdle when determining a location. The committee will ask around within the community to see if there is an interest. Agriculture is an approved use on the airport property.

**FCCA Proposed Wood Stage-Noble Square Park:** Spielman introduced the discussion of a wood stage for the FCCA concert series. There is an unlandscaped area on the SW corner near Hide-Side Boutique. The FCCA would like to build an 8x16 foot deck. The FCCA has approved the purchase, they are hoping for the approval of Parks and Lands and the Town Board. There wouldn't be any additional maintenance of the Town Staff. Buske stated the stage would be helpful for that weedy corner. It was suggested for Spielman to form a proposal for discussion and action next month.

**2015 Budget:** The Committee reviewed the line items of the budget to focus on projects for this year and brainstorm projects for this year's budget cycle.

**Approve Bid for New Lighthouse Tower Railing:** Spielman met with Tom Bauer regarding a railing for the lighthouse tower. The old railing is too far from code to try and retro fit. Removing and replacing the railing is the most efficient way of completing the project. Hours quoted are estimates, on the high end. He is planning on inspecting the lighthouse railing, as soon as the ice goes out.

*Motion: (Olson/Buske) to approve the estimate from Tom Bauer for \$2931.52 for a new lighthouse railing, which is compliant with all codes. Carried.*

**Sign Post Protection:** Olson presented options for sign post protection. One option is the vinyl post wrap that was presented last year. Another is a heavier plastic post cover, which would eliminate concerns of the plastic cracking. The question arose as to whether the Wrapid-sure post wrap needed to be painted. Spielman also stated that another concern would be moisture getting underneath and rotting the wood faster. He suggested the cheaper wrap, with air holes drilled in to allow air flow. It was also suggested to ask other communities, to see if they found another solution.

**Adjourn:** *Motion: (Buske/Olson) to adjourn at 9:58 am. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre  
Deputy Clerk