

Approved: June 18, 2019

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019
MINUTES
8:00 A.M.**

Call to Order: Buske called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Members Present: Buske stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present: Laurie Buske, Bonnie Ansley, and Tom Thurman
Absent: Brian Hackbarth

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Buske verified the agenda had been properly noticed.

Motion: (Ansley, Thurman) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: *Motion: (Thurman, Ansley) to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2019 as written. Carried.*

Public Comment: Jauquet stated she has a watering system that she would like to donate for Sunset Park. A water pump would need to be installed. Merkel asked if a long term plan has been created for Sunset Park including walking trail improvement, lighting etc.?

Buske wanted to let everyone know GHA has completed the work in Juddville Cemetery, with hopes to go back in June. Jauquet stated some stumps will need to be removed in order to mow that area properly. Buske reported the 40 new trees were planted and fertilized in Sunset Park.

Committee Reports

Chair: No report

Gardens: Buske reported she has been cleaning gardens. The Sailor Sam tulips are in bloom and the daffodils are blooming by the welcome sign.

Lighthouse: Blahnik stated she's been out to the lighthouse to open up for the season. Maintenance staff will be going out next week to turn on the water. There was still ice by the boathouse and ice shovels made a mess of the entrance. May need to consider another side door or access point. The Lighthouse Walk will be the weekend of June 8th and 9th.

Invasive Species: Ansley reported the Park is still very wet. Paul Renier will treat the barberry when everything is dry. A permit is not required.

Tree Removal in Fish Creek Park: Thurman was in Fish Creek Park on May 6th with Bob Bultman. His perspective is that the tree removal isn't as dire as presented by Acorn Tree Services. Bultman suggests focusing on the dead ash along the trails. Thurman and Bultman will mark the trees to be removed, in order to obtain estimates.

Fish Creek Reforestation Plan: Thurman presented an action plan for the Park, that includes: identifying trees to be preserved, obtaining bids for removal of the dead ash, and a publicity and fundraising campaign. He suggests creating criteria for the Giving Tree (Ex. \$100 purchases x number of saplings). A public awareness postcard. Jauquet suggested creating a form for the Giving Tree. Thurman also suggested planting and getting funding for 400 2-year old saplings, per year for the next 5 years. Buske stated we would need to coordinate replenishment with tree removal. Would like to get started this year, if possible. Would also recommend that we encourage/pursue a Green Tier and/or Tree City USA designation.

Approved: June 18, 2019

Motion: (Thurman, Ansley) to adopt the action plan with the modification to add tree removal with replenishment to the plan. Carried

Lighthouse Caretaker Job Description: Ansley compiled a list of caretaker responsibilities.

Motion: (Ansley, Thurman) to recommend to the Town Board the lighthouse caretaker job description. Carried

Fish Creek Beach Playground Equipment: The intent of this agenda item is to keep the conversation moving and to bring forward ideas. Buske suggests a more campground type look. A lot of room would be needed for a swing.

Could a swing be put in Fish Creek Park? Is a playground even necessary for the beach? A modest size with a more rustic look seems to be the more preferred style.

Jauquet suggests focusing on the age groups that most utilize our beach.

Merkel stated the Town needs to provide Parks and Lands with the square footage available.

Community input is important and would like the opinions of local families. Would like to schedule a community input session.

Hagen suggested observing what playgrounds systems are in some of the other parks around the County.

Picnic Tables: Buske suggests a hexagon style picnic table for Noble Square that will match the aesthetic of the park. She presented 3 options. Need to determine who would maintain/clean. Strantz would prefer a concrete pad or wood chips for underneath the table. Merkel stated the wood chips tend to scatter and recommends a paver that matches the sidewalk.

Motion: (Ansley, Thurman) to purchase one Hex Table SCU # PT-54, in green with a black base for Noble Square Park, not to exceed \$1200. Carried

Lawn Aeration: Buske stated it is too late this season.

Landscaping Between Sidewalks in Front of Noble House: GHA is working on ideas and would like to be on next month's agenda

Buckthorn Blaster Promotion: Ansley and Merline have been working on ideas and suggests a fall promotion since the woody invasives are best to be treated in the fall. In the meantime, would like to give out to those that ask.

Motion: (Ansley, Buske) to approve giving away the Buckthorn Blasters, as people ask. Carried.

Fish Creek Park Boardwalk Repairs: The boardwalks in Fish Creek Park are in need of repair and need to be raised to allow fish passage. Will need to obtain a proposal for budgeting. There may be grants available through the snowmobile club. Ansley would like to obtain additional information from the snowmobile club. Strantz will bring back a recommendation to address safety concerns and rotten boards.

Adjourn: *Motion: (Thurman, Ansley) to adjourn at 9:06 AM. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre
Deputy Clerk