

Approved: September 15, 2020

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order: Hackbarth called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Members Present: Hackbarth stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Members present: Brian Hackbarth, Andrea Jauquet, John Lancaster, and Laurie Buske via Zoom Conference. Jayson Merkel in person.
Absent: None

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

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: *Motion: (Buske, Jauquet) to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2020 meeting, as amended. Carried.*

Public Comment: None

Committee Reports

Chair: No report

Gardens: Buske provided a written summary to the committee.

Lighthouse: No report

Invasive Species: Lancaster reported there is Burdock and Valerian in the turnaround area at Sunset Park. Would like the maintenance staff to address.

Remove from the Table: Fish Creek Park Playground Equipment: *Motion: (Hackbarth, Merkel) to remove Fish Creek Playground Equipment from the Table. Carried, Buske opposed.*

Fish Creek Park Playground Equipment: Hackbarth stated he put this item back on the agenda to continue the conversation. Need to continue pursuing a different location. Jauquet suggested the committee consider collaborating with the school, YMCA, and Not Licked Yet. Merkel stated they reached out to the school in previous years. They have liability and security concerns. It is unlikely they would open their campus to visitors.

Merkel stated the parks are getting heavily used this year and may want consider more nature stations or possibly a vita course.

Linda Merline stated a climbing piece in Fish Creek Park would be beneficial and is really all that is needed.

Motion: (Merkel, Buske) to table. Carried

Trail at Sunset Park Planning: Hackbarth asked if the Town Board has discussed the trail. The trail will either need a temporary fix or a more comprehensive plan. The maintenance staff has been mulching but the heavy rain has created washouts. Jauquet would like to see more improvement with the signage and path and maximize what is there.

Merkel reported the Town Board has decided to add more handicap parking throughout Town and is in favor of making the trail more handicap accessible.

Buske would like to see this on next month's agenda.

Merkel suggests approaching the Town Board to see if this is a plan they want the committee to work on.

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Benches and Plantings along Sidewalk across from Beach: The Town Chair asked the committee to look into whether we would like to see benches and plantings across the street from the beach? The sidewalks are getting used. The current width is nice for flow of traffic. Merkel has observed the traffic on the sidewalks and people utilizing the benches at the beach. More could be used at the beach. The benches in the shade are used more.

Motion: (Lancaster, Buske) to table. Carried

Lawn Care Maintenance Weed Control: Buske reviewed the lawns and spoke with TruGreen. She suggests returning to the cutting height recommendations and suggests over seeding in September at the Town Center and Noble House and to plan for aeration and over seeding areas that have been taken over by crab grass. The majority of the weeds are along the edges of sidewalks and an abundance of dandelions.

Broadleaf weed control can be done in August into the first part of October. Buske suggests mid-September and to treat the east side of Fish Creek Park, the Old Town Hall and Town Center. Clark Park is very wet and doesn't recommend.

Motion: (Merkel, Hackbarth) to go with the mid-September application and look into over seeding the lawns. Carried.

Town Center Sprinkler Repairs: Section 4 of the sprinkler system at the Town Center is not working. Buske said it has been working up until this season, but something must have happened during construction. Merkel will meet with Kurt and Laurie to inspect and suggests getting it repaired.

Motion: (Buske, Merkel) to repair the sprinkler system, not to exceed \$2000. Carried.

Trash Container Labels and Lid Purchase: Buske reported the trash can lids are looking dirty with mold. Kurt did an inventory and they have 4 back-up round lids and 0 square. They get pressure washed in the fall. Merkel suggests buying some that can be exchanged for cleaning more frequently. The cost of a lid is approximately \$90. *Motion: (Merkel, Hackbarth) to purchase 6 square tan lids. Carried.*

Benches: Jauquet presented several style options of benches. Would like to keep benches and picnic tables for budgeting purposes.

Remove and Replace Dead Tree in Clark Park: Dave's Tree Service inspected the tree and did not detect any issues with the tree but it did not leaf out. It could be a high water issue. The high water table could be drowning the tree. Will not plant another until the water goes down.

Motion: (Buske, Merkel) to remove the dead tree at Clark Park. Carried.

Holiday Lighting: Bob Spielman and Cathy Hoke were present and have interest in collaborating on holiday lighting. A group mixed with FCCA and Parks and Lands members met to develop a theme. Hoke stated they decided on a theme that is not holiday specific and can be used throughout the winter season. They have suggested white snowflake lights that hang on the new light posts. Hoke explained this will be a multi-year plan. Focusing on every other pole this year, then a beach display, then the Dock.

The FCCA is willing to contribute \$2500-\$4000 this year. But will need to determine other funding, who will take care of storage, installation, and repairs. Is this something the Town is willing to do?

Need to determine a budget to bring to the Town Board and for fundraising.

The company they have found is Reinders and each snowflake ranges from \$285-\$350.

A fundraising letter will be better received if it come from an ad hoc group.

Buske is working on getting an estimate for the brackets and installation instructions.

The group currently working on this includes: Cathy Hoke, Joni Witalison, Laurie Buske, Andrea Jauquet, and Bob Spielman. Would like to get this committee organized as soon as possible in order to have something yet this year.

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Motion: (Hackbarth, Merkel) to form a Holiday Decorations Ad hoc Committee with the current group. Carried.

Fish Creek Park Fence: Buske stated more people seem to be using the Park and not having as much of the fence seems to be more inviting. She suggests leaving the corners, the stone area and the area protecting the creek. It will also be easier for mowing and trimming.

Motion: (Merkel, Lancaster) to go with Buske's recommendations on fence locations. Carried

2021 Budget Prep: The committee reviewed the 2021 budget. *Motion: (Merkel, Hackbarth) to submit the budget as discussed. Carried.*

Adjourn: *Motion: (Merkel, Buske) to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre
Deputy Clerk