

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR  
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022  
MINUTES**

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

**Members Present:** Buske stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Laurie Buske, Andrea Kinsey-Jacquet, John Lancaster, Kat Kerscher, Jayson Merkel, and Treasurer Theresa Cain-Bieri. Administrator Thyssen and Clerk Murre also present.

**Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda:** Cain-Bieri confirmed the agenda had been properly noticed.

*Motion: (Merkel, Kinsey-Jacquet) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.*

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)** *Motion: (Kerscher, Merkel) to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Carried.*

**Public Comment:** none

**Reports:**

**Invasive Species:** None

**Gardens:** Frozen

**Lighthouse:** None

**Chair:** Read and submitted by Buske- Buske welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She thanked Cain-Bieri for doing a great job recording. Fog schedule is attached (attachment 1) and will be on the May agenda. The library has received grant money for a raised garden, seed library and seating for internet services. Chairs and raised bed will have to be coordinated with the committee. Signs have been ordered. Buske asked to move agenda item 13 to 18 if time allows.

**2022 Invasive Species Flyer:** Lancaster received the ok from the county to use their photos. Kinsey-Jacquet says it looks nice. *Motion (Merkel/Kerscher) to move forward with the mailer. Carried.*

**Weed Warriors:** Buske said years ago there was a group that went around and pulled garlic mustard. This could be coordinated with the flyer to get a public group to go out and pull weeds or invasives. Karly said that coordinators might be interested in helping the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the invasive flyer could have the weed warrior attachment. It is possible to reach out to the high school and have additional flyers. Kinsey-Jacquet asked when the plants go to seed and planning. Lancaster said it's best to pull Dames Rocket in June. Buske said, even the end of May is good. Looks like an early spring event would be best. Lancaster suggested getting the info out there to see if there is interest and then figure out dates going forward. *Motion (Merkel, Kerscher) to include the weed warriors on the invasive species flyer. Carried.*

**Chambers Island Gutters:** Administrator and Buske met with the Drain-right gutter company. The company believes they can manufacture the gutters within our timeline and maintenance staff can install them in spring. The cost will be about \$1100.

**Donation Website Items:** *Motion (Kerscherl, Lancaster) to approve the updated donation page changes with invasives. Carried. Add Invasive Species Eradication \$100.*

**Fish Creek Park Signs and Trail Consideration:** Shane Solomon was present to discuss the disc golf course in Fish Creek Park. He provided literature of possible locations as well as what the disc golf holes look like. A new trail system would be established. They want to keep everything as natural as possible. The golf course can help with invasive species and out the trails in those areas to combat them. Baskets can be any color, etc. Turf is also encouraged because it is easy to maintain. The town would be responsible for maintaining. They like to put trash receptacles there, but they must be emptied. The only help the club needs would be with removing the brush and designating the trails, the club would do everything else. Once installed, the club donates the course to the town. The club would raise all the funds and would be community based for hole sponsorship, 7/9 holes are already sponsored. Buske and Kinsey-Jacquet couldn't walk last month to look at sign locations, will do it for next month. Originally wanted 18 holes, but with the wetlands and property lines, only a 9 is recommended. Insurance is under the town recreation policy, outside of events. The only concern would be the grant that the park was purchased under allowed for the course. Kinsey-Jacquet asked the size of the course? Solomon said about a mile of trail head. This would be multi-modal; anyone can walk the trail as well. Most disc golf courses are municipal courses. Ongoing maintenance cost is about \$44/hole/year. All these golfers spend money in the area in retail and restaurants while you were here. Merkel asked about the eastside. Shane said he was asked to stay away from there because it is very wet. The wetlands can still be used just can't install anything in them. Travis asked about a small tournament. Solomon said he didn't think so because of events and raising money with the grant used to obtain the park. More research is needed. The starting point would be in the parking lot near the retention pond. Merkel likes the idea and gets people in the parks. Linda Merline asked if the Fish Creek Plan has been considered if this fits into it? The proposal does stay away from the creek. Thyssen said maintenance can take on helping, with board approval. The trail would remain very natural looking while helping with invasives and thinning out problem areas. *Motion (Merkel/Lancaster) to move forward with Door Disc Golf and send to the board for approval. Carried*

**Sunset Beach Park Wall Repairs:** Thyssen said there is nothing new to report.

**Goals (5 Year Plan):** Skipped until next month.

**Clark Park Replacement Tree:** Laurie said a large tree was taken down in the park and needs to be replaced. We had issues with getting trees last year, so Bridenhagen put together 3 tree options. Bridenhagen said larger than a 3" tree has a higher mortality rate. Buske said mulch around the trees will help. The order must be made in April. The Hackberry is the fastest growing tree, but it does produce a small berry. *Motion (Kinsey-Jacquet, Kerscher) to add the Hackberry to the spring order, not to exceed \$1000. Carried.*

**Waste receptacles:** Buske said at Spruce Park we have a doggy bag container but no trash container. Anything can be tucked into the arborvitae there and be disguised. Murre said there is a smaller one at Clark Park near the dock. We could take that one and move it over. *Motion (Kerscher/Kinsey-Jacquet) to table until next month and talk to maintenance about inventory. Carried*

A group from UW-Oshkosh reached out to the town about receiving free trash bins in public access locations in the town. Buske recommended reading the email and checking out the proposed sites. Merkel is concerned about Airbnb's just using the proposed locations (Juddville and Gibraltar Roads) as garbage disposal locations.

**Parks and Lands in Downtown Campus Road Reconstruction-** Buske asked Thyssen to give an overview of the project, Buske asked for no discussion since the board has not discussed the proposed plan. Thyssen did an overview of the preliminary proposal. No significant changes to Noble square or Clark Park. Spruce Park, there is failed wastewater management and the outfall is through the park. There may need to be some maintenance to find the blockage or where repair is needed, depending on the

findings there may be some reconstruct of the park. Old Town Hall: just the curbing will be changed there, no other reconstruct. Ula Park: Curb on the southside is proposed to move the water into the catch basin, but nothing further for the park. Pocket Garden: In front of Sailor Sam's, a sidewalk is proposed through there with reconstruct. More discussion needed here because of street elevation changes and watershed. Thyssen said if there is a significant point of concern, the recommendation would need to be identified to the board. Sunset Park: Cottage Row to the water, no significant change. A larger turn radius is suggested and more clearly identified parking that does cut into the park. Kinsey-Jacquet doesn't agree with the added parking and should be eliminated. No park should be given up to park cars. Lancaster agrees, should avoid changing Sunset Park because it is a gem. The more manufactured it looks, the less desirable it is. Lindsay Harris on zoom agreed with comments and has concerned about overbuilding a natural environment. There must be a careful balance of priorities. What is driving the parking space need? Thyssen said that while that area was reviewed, it is congested during Sunset time but also for the restaurants and hotels. Thyssen also said the project will be done in various stages. Mag Claggett also spoke on Zoom. She agreed with Lindsay's comments and said Sunset Park is an oasis. It is what makes Fish Creek and Door County what they are, water, nature, and sky. She encouraged the park and town to create a holistic approach on review because there isn't anything wrong with making Fish Creek a walking town with the large parking lot. Thyssen suggested that the Park committee look at the trail portion access near sunset to access the park and make a recommendation to mitigate their concern about parking. Thyssen recommends absorbing this and maybe hold a special meeting to address concerns. Linda said when the town did the beach and the discussion was on parking, they decided there wasn't any amount of parking that could accommodate the beach and that is what lead to handicap and drop off. Cain-Bieri read a submitted email by Jim Freers, see Attachment 2. Thyssen said there isn't proposed concrete, only curbing for the catch basin.

**Champagne Rock:** Thyssen said residents on Cottage Row have identified that they would like to have the rock replaced at Champagne Rock. Buske said the last estimate was \$8,000. Thyssen suggested asking the residents that want to donate to create a plan for consideration and approval. Merkel is concerned how this can be accomplished with the low water. *Motion (Kinsey-Jacquet, Buske) for Thyssen to reach out to the interested party to move forward with a proposal and bring it back to the committee for consideration, needs DNR approval as well. Carried*

**Maintenance Requests/Questions:** Kinsey-Jacquet asked Dennis at Cedar about power washing the rail by the Noble House, asked Travis to work with Maintenance to do that.

**Schedule Next Meeting: April 19, 2022, at 8 am, now the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.**

**Adjourn:** *Motion: (Merkel, Kerscher) to adjourn at 9:36 A.M. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Cain-Bieri  
Treasurer, Deputy Clerk

Attachment 1

**Gibraltar School - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Fish Creek - 2022**

**8:30-9:00 AM** - Both classes meet in 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom - Presentation on Fish Creek and its Watershed. Students come up with a definition of a watershed, view a map of the Fish Creek

Watershed, and discuss the 3 big reasons that the wetlands and streams that make up the watershed are critically important to life on the earth: 1. Wetlands hold and store flood waters for later use that would otherwise damage houses, roads, and fields. 2. Wetlands filter/clean water before releasing it to the ground water. 3. Wetlands provide a home and food web for many kinds of wildlife: reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, insects, and macroinvertebrates. Briefly give a wetland example of each one. \*Linda will come & bring displays.

### **Class 1 – 9:15 AM Bus picks up students**

9:30 AM - Meet at Fish Creek Park Gazebo

9:30-10:15 AM

Group A – Reforestation-Laurie-Plant a tree-absorbs carbon, releases oxygen, absorbs/releases water

Group B – Macroinvertebrates-Linda – Find and identify

10:15-11:00 AM

Group A – Macroinvertebrates-Linda – Find and identify

Group B – Reforestation-Laurie-Plant a tree-absorbs carbon, releases oxygen, absorbs/releases water

11:00-11:25 AM

Group A – Hike-Laurie – Habitats: wetland, upland, escarpment. Plants: native vs. invasive, detention pond purpose: to hold water and filter pollution

Group B – Hike-Vinni – same as above

11:30-12:00 PM – Lunch & Treat

**12:00 PM – Bus back to school** (if it is rainy bus picks up at 11:30AM and lunch at school)

### **Class 2 – 12:15 PM Bus picks up students**

12:30 PM – Meet at Fish Creek Park Gazebo

12:30-1:15 PM

Group A – Reforestation-Laurie - Plant a tree-absorbs carbon, releases oxygen, absorbs/releases water

Group B - Macro Invertebrates-Linda – Find and identify

1:15- 2:00 PM

Group B – Reforestation-Laurie - Plant a tree-absorbs carbon/releases oxygen, absorbs/releases water

Group A – Macro Invertebrates-Linda – Find and identify

2:00 -2:25 PM

## Attachment 2

Email submitted by Jim Freers:

“I think we all agree that Sunset Park is a jewel of Fish Creek. So why do we have to consider changing the jewel. Of course, fixing the wall is a true maintenance item, however adding a lot of concrete with turn arounds and sidewalks should make you consider the look of Sister Bay with all their concrete additions, certainly that is not a look we want in Fish Creek.

As the southern neighbor of the park (4241 Main Street), we implore you to consider the natural beauty, the trees and the grass that make a park a park. The Town has removed enough of the trees around the park, our wall is almost totally exposed, where there was plenty of green before.

Please.....no more removing trees. The giant town parking lot is supposed to support the needs of town parking, it is certainly big enough. We do not need more parking or more concrete sidewalks. The path is fine, let's move to the side of maintaining what we have in all of its natural beauty, stop removing vegetation and enjoy the space as nature intended. Use your funds in fixing sewers, paying for streetlights and the expenses for the beach. We sure do not want another beach fiasco.

Please do not add any concrete near, around or in the park, do not remove any trees.... leave the path as it is. Visitors and residents have found a way to Sunset Park for many, many years, there is really no need to change it.

With that all communicated and apparent agreement with my concerns (other than the path), I now appeal to you to help save the natural, quaint, quirky area known as Sunset Park.... please do not allow an asphalt turn around to fill the green space. People have figured out how to navigate thru there for many, many, years let's not destroy a beautiful scene.

Thank you for all you can do to help save the Park.”

Jim Freer