

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
MINUTES**

Call to Order: Buske called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Members Present: Buske stated that a quorum of the committee was present. Laurie Buske, Jayson Merkel, Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet, John Lancaster, Kat Kerscher 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: (Kinsey-Jauquet, Kerscher) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) *Motion: (Merkel, Kinsey-Jauquet,) to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Carried.*

Public Comment: Merkel said we need to look at our weed control process, the Post Office area is terrible and starting to happen at the beach as well. Blahnik said don't use harmful products that go into the water.

Reports:

Invasive Species: Working with the Fish Creek Civic group and weed warriors to do a walk-through Fish Creek Park to tackle the honeysuckle, called "Leave No Trace." The outreach event is planned for August 16th. Lancaster recommends eradicating by cutting and roundup on the stumps. The group will need loopers and roundup. The group will use the weed blaster too. Blahnik said they did a garlic mustard pull on the island and the CIA group pulled 20 bags worth of weeds. Chambers Island Lighthouse property has no invasive plants.

Gardens: Buske said overall the gardens and planters are doing well. Watering, weeding and deadheading.

Lighthouse: The Zellner's provided a report and summary of all the projects for the Lighthouse. Buske said we appreciate all the work the Zellner's do. Blahnik said the windows in the basement look so nice, they look brand new. Leon said if we can look into Venmo for donations or get a QR code for the town website donations. Merkel suggested having one at each of the properties. Thyssen said Zellner's got the remaining parts for the gutters and did a fabulous job getting everything up and running.

Chair: Buske said there are a few trees looking unhealthy she called Dave's Tree Service to look at one tree at Clark Park, and two at Noble Square. We have two maples at Old Town Hall and one at Clark Park, we need to plan for replacements. She checked in with Shane about disc golf and he is working on Ellison Bay course and will bring more info when he has it. Travis and Buske walked Fish Creek Park and there are items on the agenda for discussion. The Fish Creek Beach sign will look very nice above the display case, that will get painted and taken care of.

Fish Creek Detention Pond: Thyssen said there was an individual that made a complaint to the town board in reference to the pond not being completed as it was supposed to be. Buske and Thyssen reviewed the area and feel the plantings were adequate, some of the trees and vegetation haven't grown as planned. Buske presented the minutes from August 21, 2018 and the pond was to have a native and

natural look and not obstruct the view of the pond because the condos wanted to see the wildlife so a mix of shrubs and plants were put in. The main goal was to not see the parking lot. The Condo side of the pond that hasn't taken because of runoff from the adjacent property. Adding mulch there would help with the plantings. Buske said 10 baby trees were planted there and they all failed. The pond liner is clay and was approved by the DNR. Ponds aren't designed to collect phosphates. Buske said the area is in full bloom right now. Thyssen just wanted the committee to confirm that everything was reviewed and done properly. *Motion: (Merkel, Kerscher) address the detention pond in fall with the recommendations from the staff. Carried.*

Benches/Picnic Tables: Buske said after reviewing all the benches we purchased we could still use one 4ft and one 6ft for the beach and could use two-three at the Kinsey waterfront property. One had to be moved off the viewing dock to Ula, so the viewing dock is down a bench. The benches near the buildings are being used the most. There is money in the beautification fund to purchase the benches. The same style bench will be used. *Motion:(Merkel,Buske) to approve the number of benches that the budget allows, and they can go where suggested. Carried.*

Playground: Buske said it has been brought to her attention by at least three summer residents if we are going to replace the playground set at Fish Creek Park. They voiced the concern of not having a place for small children to play and miss the old set. Staff has received inquiries as well, so bringing it back to the committee to review. July 14, 2021, motion at committee was to begin the process of fundraising for the playground project up to \$40,000. Buske asked if we wanted to update the prices and see what else is out there? Thyssen reminded the committee that we must stay within the original footprint area per county zoning. Lancaster said it would be nice to have one down there again. The committee will get quotes for the next meeting-

Ash Trees in Fish Creek Park: Buske and Thyssen walked through Fish Creek Park and there are a lot of dead Ash trees and thought it would be great for maintenance to go in and clean it up in the off season, at least the view from Hwy 42. A few years ago, we had Acorn to take down the large ones. Consider budgeting for dropping of a few very large trees. Now the town has more equipment so the trees would only need to be dropped. Buske said this is something the committee could consider budgeting for. Merkel said address any near trails that are hazards. Thyssen said the new equipment that was purchased will save a lot of time with tree cutting but it needs to be frozen. The trees would be cut, the stumps would remain and clean out trees in the creek. Maintenance will move forward in fall.

Fish Creek Park Concrete Pad: Buske and Thyssen would like the committee to consider ~~said it would~~ a concrete pad under the trash cans in its current location. It would prevent people from driving onto the lawn. Thyssen said the town crew could easily pour a pad. The committee would like to look at the location and come back next month with suggestions.

2023 Budget Prep: Rough discussion on numbers, further numbers will be brought back next month. Buske stated to keep in mind this is to get us started and think about any projects we hope to accomplish in 2023. Also see amounts from previous approved budgets

Maintenance Requests/Questions: Treat poison ivy at Champagne Park and stay away from the water.

Schedule Next Meeting: August 16, 2022, at 8 am, now the 3rd Tuesday.

Adjourn: *Motion: (Merkel, Lancaster) to adjourn at 9:18 A.M. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Cain-Bieri
Treasurer, Deputy Clerk

DRAFT