

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024
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, Jayson Merkel, John Lancaster, Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet, Kat Kerscher absent.
Also Present: Administrator Travis Thyssen and Treasurer Theresa Cain-Bieri.

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

Motion: (Merkel, Lancaster) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) *Motion: (Merkel, Lancaster) to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2024. Carried.*

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Invasive Species: Lancaster sent an article in for the town newsletter, watch your mailbox. Thyssen said the DNR walked through Fish Creek Park and are identifying and writing a grant for invasives.

Gardens: Inactive

Chair: Linda Merline and Buske presented the waterfront conclusions from the joint meeting with the Plan Commission to the town board in hopes to keep the Kinsey property moving forward. Hopefully the committee reviewed the comprehensive plan pages and we are going to use those for the upcoming goals.

Public Art Display Project: Information Only: Bob Spielman and JR Jarosh presented the project idea to the committee, a sheet was presented with the vision, objective, and committee responsibility and work plan. The request is to establish an ad hoc committee. Placement would be public properties, public/private options. The Village of Egg Harbor already has something similar and can identify what has worked for them. There are many options, including a walking tour where historical sites could be incorporated. The adhoc committee would select appropriate rotating pieces, and it would be a controlled process. Merline said there is a lot to consider and is wondering how the Plan Commission Outdoor Display Ordinance that the committee is working on will fit into this concept. Speilman said establishing locations first and then pieces would be the best approach. There are park restrictions because of gifting and grants, which could limit locations on park property. Parks and Lands asked questions and asked the art committee to refine the idea and bring back some finer details to the Parks and Lands Committee. Ryan Dayton said pieces can rotate and that is true for locations as well. The outdoor display ordinance could include this project. The topic will be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Geese Control: We have a significant problem at the beach and have received numerous complaints. Kinsey-Jaquet suggested planting 10–12-inch grass as the current grass encourages geese. Buske said the grass that was planted along the stone wall never got very tall. Kinsey-Jaquet suggested a uniform sign directing how to take care of our parks, including not feeding the geese. Merkel said we need to encourage the landowners to allow hunters as well. The committee suggested to reach out to the DNR to ask for population control assistance. Call the other towns and be consistent. Education/signs to stop feeding the geese.

Turf Maintenance Agreement: The committee received two bids for turf maintenance. Buske said maintenance did not have a preference except Lawn Doctor was local and easier to work with, they always gave notice when they were coming to treat, which was better for planning mowing etc. *Motion:(Merkel/ Lancaster) to use Lawn Doctor for turf maintenance. Carried.*

Dog Waste Dispenser: Buske said last year we had dog waste issues at the Kinsey property. Two options were presented. *Motion (Merkel/Lancaster) to place a waste receptacle at the Kinsey property with waste garbage attached or nearby. Carried.* Thyssen suggested requesting Harbor to inform their boaters to pick up after dogs.

Park/Facility Use Application: The application is what we currently use, it lacks a few locations. *Motion (Merkel/Kinsey-Jaquet) to add the Chambers Island Lighthouse to the form. Carried.*

Lighthouse Cistern Proposal, Donations, and other expenditures: There is a bid for the cistern in the packet. Leon Zellner said we finally got a quote; it would take about a day to do with all hand tools. We will need transportation for the crew. Would like to do it within the next month. Half down is requested to order the liner. Lifespan of the longer is 10-20 years, no sun, or elements. *Motion (Merkel, Lancaster) to move forward with Waterscapes Proposal minus the tax. Carried.* Sharon Zellner mentioned that the Blahniks requested to use the lighthouse property for a celebration of Life for Joel and MaryAnn Blahnik. The Zellners have confirmed and approved this. No issue with the celebration. Request a form with a waived fee. Cain-Bieri said we received a \$20,000 donation from the Havre de Grace Foundation for the Lighthouse Rehabilitation and Restoration. Great news for the Lighthouse.

County Request for Beach Advisory Signs: The county received a grant wants to do uniformed signs at all the beaches. They are 39"x48". These can be updated remotely. Will ask more questions to other municipalities and the county and bring back for next month.

Review Comp Plan Information: Will bring back next month with goals.

Ped Plan Updates: Town board approved funding to assist with getting a CORP plan for the town. This will tie together with the CORP plan.

Fish Creek Park Updates: No new grants, but still waiting on a few outstanding.

Hill & Bluff Updates: The project is moving along. Everything is on time and on budget.

Administrator Report and Maintenance Update and Concerns: Buske asked when the playground panels will go up. Thyssen said probably in April.

Schedule Next Meeting/Walk Thrus: Parks and Lands will meet on April 23, 2024, at 8 a.m. The next walk thru is March 26, 2024, at 8 a.m. the committee will start at Clark Park, Noble, Sunset, and Old Town Hall.

Adjourn: *Motion: (Kinsey-Jaquet, Lancaster) to adjourn at 9:35 A.M. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Cain-Bieri, Treasurer

