Approved: October 20, 2026

PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
4097 MAIN STREET, FISH CREEK WI 54212
8:00 a.m.

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

Roll call/Quorum: Present: Laurie Buske, Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet, John Lancaster, Kathy Grawien and Jayson Merkel. Absent: None.

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Proper notice of the agenda was confirmed. *Motion (Kinsey-Jauquet/Grawien) to adopt the agenda as amended to reflect the correct meeting time of 8:00 a.m. Carried.*

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s): The August 25, 2026 minutes were corrected to reflect the proper spelling of "Zellner" under Reports. *Motion (Grawien/Merkel) to approve minutes from the August 25, 2026 meeting as corrected. Carried.*

Public Comment: None.

2026 Budget updates: Committee reviewed 2026 budget expenditures and remaining funds. Chair Buske advised that approximately $13,000 was safely available for the remainder of the year and asked the Committee to keep available funds in mind as it considered items later on the agenda.

Consideration of well cover options for Clark Park: Committee reviewed well cover options included in packet and discussed a cast-stone/concrete cover similar to existing cover at Clark Park. Cast option was noted to be heavier, more durable and less likely to fade or be moved, although its weight when access to the well is needed was discussed. Merkel indicated he had a source for similar covers and would obtain pricing and measurements. Item will be brought back for further consideration.

Benches and Slabs:

Donations: Committee discussed recent bench donations and need for additional benches at Old Town Hall, Clark Park and Fish Creek Park. Benches were noted to cost approximately $820 each, and ordering four at one time would provide freight savings. Current $600 bench donation amount was also discussed as no longer covering cost of a bench and plaque. *Motion (Grawien/Merkel) to order four benches and update the bench donation amount to $850. Carried.* Committee reviewed Peninsula Property Services quote for concrete pads under benches and bike racks at various park locations, including optional additional pads and topsoil and seeding. *Motion (Grawien/Merkel) to approve Peninsula Property Services quote for $10,620. Carried.*

Replacements: See above.

Wall Repair at Clark Park: Committee discussed repairs needed to several damaged sections of Clark Park stone wall. Thyssen noted wall repairs could potentially be incorporated into larger downtown project if approved; however, timing was uncertain and damaged areas should be addressed. *Motion (Merkel/Kinsey-Jauquet) to authorize repair of Clark Park wall up to $2,000. Carried.* Committee requested a future agenda item to discuss a more comprehensive, long-term approach to wall rather than continuing individual repairs

Fish Creek Park:

Restoration Public Meeting Feedback: Thyssen reviewed feedback from Fish Creek Park Pond and Ecosystem Restoration Project public informational meetings and subsequent discussions regarding fish passage. Skylar Witalison explained the proposed in-front-of-dam/step-pool concept was a "person-based solution, not a fish spawning passage-based solution," but could still improve passage for primary target species, northern pike and suckers. Discussion included fish passage, pond oxygen levels, maintaining existing pond size, and concerns previously expressed by former property owner and neighboring properties. Committee favored pursuing step-pool option in front of dam as primary option, with bypass retained as an alternative if preferred option cannot obtain necessary approvals. *Motion (Merkel/Lancaster) to authorize Stantec to proceed with in-front-of-dam option and pursue necessary agency approvals. Carried.*

Trail Updates: Buske and Grawien reported on walking newly cleared trail and noted it was well cleared and retained a natural appearance. Final section near Butterfly meadow and parking lot was discussed as needing slight realignment toward parking lot. Committee to review area on site at its next meeting.

Cedar Fence: Committee discussed cedar fencing at Fish Creek Park, including a section damaged during winter storm and another section leaning near creek. Committee agreed damaged fencing should be repaired/replaced.

Gazebo: Committee reviewed a $500 quote to touch up Fish Creek Park gazebo. *Motion (Merkel/Lancaster) to approve the $500 quote for the gazebo touch-up. Carried*

Park signs review and inventory: Committee reviewed quotes for replacement and maintenance of park signs. Sunset Park sign was noted to have deteriorated and require replacement. *Motion (Grawien/Lancaster) to approve Hasenjager Woodworking quote of $1,350 for Sunset Park sign. Carried.* Committee also discussed Bob Wise's process for restoring and sealing existing wooden signs. *Motion (Grawien/Merkel) to approve $700 for work on Old Town Hall and Spruce Park signs. Carried.*

Parks Walk-through list updates: Committee reviewed park walk-through list. Cobwebs accumulating on park signs, particularly within cutout lettering, were discussed and will be addressed with maintenance.

Lawn Maintenance: Committee discussed current lawn conditions and noted improvement at Blossomberg following treatment. Regular lawn maintenance will continue as scheduled, with additional treatments only if recommended by lawn care provider

Spruce Park: Committee noted recent rainfall improved conditions at Spruce Park.

Trees: Committee discussed tree availability and determined there was no need to order additional trees at this time.

Harbor Walk Park Updates: Thyssen reviewed updated Harbor Walk Park plan and discussed modifications made through planning process. He noted project is being driven in part by infrastructure concerns, including roadway sinkage and collapsed sanitary lines that require repair. Discussion included revised parking area, increased green space, use of pavers, existing willow tree and tree plantings. Committee also requested that plan be corrected near Gardner property so the depicted green space does not appear to encroach upon neighboring driveway or building and improvements do not cut through cottage garden or too close to maple.

Reports:

a. **Chair:** No report.

b. **Invasive Species:** No report.

c. **Gardens:** Buske reported gardens are doing well with recent rainfall helping conditions.

d. **Lighthouse:** Zellner's reported 570 visitors through September 11 and approximately 98 attendees at the annual chili cook-off. Final Lighthouse Tour Oct 3. Painting work is complete, storm cleanup continues, and a leaning tree near the lighthouse was identified as a safety concern. The septic system needs work to pass inspection. Lighthouse caretakers noted concern about boathouse repair and replacement of caretakers when they retire.

e. **Administrator:** Thyssen reported that fall cleanup will begin soon. He also noted plans to clean out catch basins to remove accumulated material and help address phosphorus, including possible vacuuming in the beach area.

Set next meeting date: October 20, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. at Fish Creek Park trail head.

Adjourn: *Motion (Buske/ Kinsey-Jauquet) to adjourn at 9:35 a.m. Carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Reetz, Clerk