

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2022

Present: Chair, Ken Pierce (KP), Jon Dienstag (JD), Jim Kerney (JimK), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Mark Russell (MR), and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Lauren Springer

Staff: Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director and Andrea Southworth, Friends of Fort Williams

Call to Order: Chair KP called meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda

Mya Cohen, 21 Surf Road, CE. Surf Rd residents wanted to bring to the boards attention that the bittersweet is running wild where the park abuts the fence. AS will look into this.

Approval of October 20, 2022 Draft Site Walk & Meeting Minutes

JimK asked that site walk be amended to remove the reference to the Cape Campus as it was noted and on the regular meeting notes to add his suggestion of outsourcing maintenance issues if needed. Motion by JimK to approve the October 20, 2022 Site Walk and Meeting Draft minutes as amended, second by JD. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No)

Pond Feasibility Update – Will Haskell, Gorrill Palmer

Will introduced team and proceeded with the presentations on history, what was learned of the existing conditions, group exercise and where do we go from here/potential improvements and costs. All agree focus is on cleaning the pond, ensuring adequate water supply and working towards multi-seasonal use. DT shared that this is what the residents are looking for and JimK shared that it was the #1 response from the community during the Master Plan survey. Discussion on the water supply. Bruce Fowler feels there is enough water to maintain however need to keep the water in the pond and make it deeper. Discussion on dredging the pond. KP asked how often this should be done. Bruce felt on a 15 year cycle is adequate. What is needed? Who will do it? KR will speak with Public Works to do this on a smaller level so usable this winter. JK summarized 3 areas of focus – dredging, improving the outlet and restoring the wall. Full report attached.

Friends of Fort Williams Update

AS had shared report prior to meeting. KP thanked her for doing so and asked that all read prior to and have questions if needed. SM found it interesting to hear from the Surf Road residents on the bittersweet and AS will look into this. AS also hoping to kick off the resident plan donation program this winter and will be working on a presentation to be scheduled after the New Year. JimK asked about the blue

Dog Update – Kathy Raftice

KR shared the update from our spring meeting. There has been 10 written warnings from 4/1/22 to 11/14/22. There were roughly 5-10 calls for dogs left unattended in vehicles. There were no summonses for dogs off leash. There was one report on 9/8 of a female knocked over by a dog, injuring her leg. There has been a large increase in police presence in the park with 308 recorded for 2022. Hopefully this is impacting the abusers. Police will continue to monitor. KR shared she received a phone call from a patron still concerned with the controls and feels there needs to be better monitoring.

Fort Williams Update – Kathy Raftice

KR shared that no responses to the Playground RFP were received. She did speak with one company that said the timing was not good but if we resend for bids they would more than likely submit. KR will repost. JimK asked about LS being involved on the design side. SM suggests reaching out to Laura Newman, formerly of Portland Trails. She had previously worked on alternative play spaces. DT will work on this and obtain pictures and see if we can pull this together. KR covered her meeting with Matt Sturgis and Sebago Technics regarding Powers Rd. We should hear back from Sebago Technics after the first of the year, then as a committee we will meet prior to a workshop with the Town Council. This is anticipated to be on February 6th. KR then went through the budget workbook outlining how FY 22 ended, how FY 23 is progressing and the need to begin preparation of FY 24. In discussion on projects remaining for FY 23, KR shared the estimates received on replacing the wooden stairway with a granite stairway from flagpole hill down to the lighthouse. JimK would like it to be a grand stairway, wider than present one, MR agreed. KR will work with JimK to write an RFP as this is different that was understood. Discussion on the stone wall at the end of Central Parking Lot and whether it could be removed and landscaping/gradual decline could be there in place. KP feels that would be fine, MR would like to see pictures of what it may look like. Discussion on Ship Cove Platform. KR looking for clarification on exactly what the committee is looking for. Committee does not feel covering works, just clean up the concrete base to be more aesthetically pleasing. Committee asked about the signage at the park. This will be a focus this winter. Pickleball and Tennis Courts maintenance scheduled for the April/May. KP will reach out to Calen Colby on Goddard Mansion. KR did receive a list of maintenance opportunities that she has discussed with Public Works, AS and CC. These items are being addressed. KR shared the holiday lighting pictures presented by Blingle! Of Portland. All in agreement to move forward. KR will contact.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda - None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. MR motion to adjourn, second by JimK, motion passes unanimously. (5 – Yes, 0 – No) (JD had left at this point).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Raftice