

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Fort Williams Park Committee**

Zoom Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

**Staff:** Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Chris Cutter (CC), Fort Williams Park Coordinator, and Jeremy Gabrielson (JG) Town Councilor/Liaison.

**Guests:** Todd Richardson (TR), Ken Studtmann (KS) and Cat Birmingham (CB), Richardson and Associates, Kayla Caron (KC), Simons Architects and Will Haskell (WH), Gorill Palmer

**Call to Order:** Chair, Jim Kerney called meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Approval of February 18, 2021 draft minutes:** SM motion to accept, JD second, draft minutes approved as submitted. (6 – Yes, 0 – No). (KP arrived after vote.)

**Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda**

None

**Master Plan Draft Recommendations – Richardson & Associates**

JimK introduced the discussion regarding the recommendations. Purpose of the evening is to step through each of the recommendations. R & A will present in its entirety and then circle back to committee for discussion. JimK did want to reiterate these are draft recommendations. We will come together to solidify what the recommendations will be to the Town Council later this summer. There are two pivotal decisions or recommendations the consultants has come forward with that guide the other recommendations. The first is some sort of a Community or Park facility. If we were to do this, where. Fort works under a central artery system and several recommendations take travel out different arteries. We will need to have a workshop to work through the recommendations once presented. May want to start prioritizing as you hear using a 1-4 scale. There may also be recommendations we come up with that the consultants did not.

TR began with a thank you to committee and reintroduced his team. Presentation began at 13:42 of the first recording to the end or 28:14. Recording went down and brought back up, second recording of presentation through 1:28:57. JimK thanked TR for excellent job in taking through the presentation in a timely manner covering a tremendous amount of information. Recording for the team discussion did not work however I will summarize each team member. JD wanted to say the presentation was super impressive and a herculean effort put forth. Lots of initial impressions and internal priorities he would like to work through for the workshop on the 31<sup>st</sup>. KP asked for a few clarifications. 1) KP asked about the playground by Ship Cove are you suggesting to move the existing to there or add a new separate one and does this depend on whether the Community Center is there. 2) The Ship Cove parking area he likes the idea of eliminating altogether however wonders if the Overflow lot changes would be enough. TR shared they would be conducting a net/net on the parking to see if adding, losing or staying the

same. 3) KP preferred choice for Community Center if we recommend would be at the Pond. MR shared he felt the presentation was thoroughly impressive. He shared how popular FWP is and may continue to be in the next 10 years and how properly sized are the roads. He does feel the curbing is an issue. TR shared standards are different for different uses. Safety needs to be considered. A caution will be to not make roads wide enough to encourage increased speed. MR concern is with the safety. TR feels the vertical curve and curbing will help. MR feels park will continue to be more popular and TR agrees and with increased popularity a pedestrian path system will help with safety. MR felt great job overall. JG had a couple questions to follow up on but overall a great job and nice work. Need to look into the dedicated open space and public access that the funding often impacted. He likes the pedestrian promenade but wondering if wide enough to plow for safe use. TR shared they will be wide enough and with benches will celebrate the strolling concept. Supports a park environment. JG supports the separation of pedestrians and traffic but should check with Public Works on the type of curbing throughout the town. He likes the parking at Ship Cove and the closeness to the ocean not found elsewhere. LS thanked the consultants and felt the presentation was amazing. She grew up near and now lives next to the Fort so there often. No red flags through initial presentation. Likes the dog leash area. TR shared that as for dog issues general public was one way or another, not a lot in the middle. There is community value in walking dogs. With proper policies and signage may be smoother. DT wanted to share the elephant in the room with respect to the Community Center. Liked the overall presentation. SM asked about the greenhouse suggestion previously mentioned. Thanked the consultants and appreciated their time, effort and thought into result. Wants to see the parking to the back of the park and leave the ocean front for viewing. Likes all the sporting activities together and feels the Ship Cove area needs to change. JimK questions what the park is going to look like in 10 years? How do we limit? Internet is promoting, what are we going to do? JimK explained the next steps. Big decisions to make and we need to begin by scheduling a workshop to work through the recommendations. JimK will create a matrix for team to work through priorities. KS will send the recommendations in an excel spreadsheet and JimK can set up and send to team.

**Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda: None**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Next meeting: Master Plan Recommendations Workshop – Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

**Next monthly meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 6:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raftice