

**Fort Williams Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21, 2009**

**Approved
6/18/09**

Present: Dan Chase (Chair), Greg Altnauer, Bill Brownell, Frank Butterworth, Maureen McCarthy, Bill Nickerson, Chuck Wilson, Bob Malley

Absent: None

Guests: Carol Fritz (FWCF)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of minutes of April 30, 2009 meeting:

Minor corrections were noted. It was moved by Frank Butterworth, seconded by Maureen McCarthy that the minutes be approved as corrected. 7-0 for approval.

Park Update:

Bob Malley reported that:

- Hardscape is in at Kitty's Point. Directional signs are needed and will be installed soon.
- There have been concerns expressed by neighbors about too much light from the new lights at the main gate. Steps are being taken to drop the wattage from 100 to 50. Also, the large flood light on the pole will be removed.
- There was an approved film shoot last week for a fee of \$2500.
- The picnic shelter painting is still underway.
- There have been 11 Senior Transition students working in the park.
- Summer help is on board and they are up to full staff.

Budget Update:

Bob reported that there were no significant items to report.

Workshop with the Town Council:

Dan reported that a workshop has been scheduled with the Town Council on **Monday, June 15th at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall**. He requested that all Commission members plan to attend. Discussion will be primarily focused on the Goddard Mansion recommendation. It is likely there will be questions on the \$6,000 request from the Capital Fund for fencing and perhaps the clarification of the Council's request that the park become self supporting in the 2010-2011 fiscal budget.

Battery Blair Subcommittee:

Bob and Chuck gave an overview of the subcommittee's activities to date. The goal of the group is to see if a plan can be developed for making the battery accessible to the public and to see if there are funds or grants available to start the process. It is clear that we need a plan articulating the vision and goals of the project if we are going to seek funds. The group has worked with Renner-Woodworth to develop a phased plan. The plan was reviewed and discussion followed. The group is recommending that we spend up to \$5000 to start the

FWAC Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2009

Page 2

planning process as outlined in the Renner-Woodworth proposal. Bob noted that there were funds in the 2009 and 2010 budgets that were intended for this type of work. After additional discussion, it was moved by Frank that the planning process be started, following the outline from Renner-Woodworth, and using available budgeted funds in the 2009 and 2010 budgets, not to exceed \$5000. Seconded by Bill N. Voted 7-0 to approve.

It was noted that the subcommittee has tentatively scheduled their vision and goal meeting on Wed, June 24th, 7:30 AM to noon at CEPW Building. Any FWAC member is welcome to attend, but please let Bob know in advance.

Discussion of sources of Park Funding:

-Bob and Bill N reported on their meeting with Mark Eyerman of Planning Decisions and the resulting proposal to help the FWAC look at options. Concern was expressed that they readily acknowledge that they do not have specific experience related to park operations, nor could they recommend anyone. Bill B and Chuck both suggested that if we hire someone to help us, we need to look for somebody that has experience to give us new ideas and broader options, not just be facilitators. Greg suggested that we contact other governmental entities that operate sizeable parks to see what their experiences have been, as what we are doing is not new.

-There was a wide ranging discussion on fees, costs, who to charge, how to charge, etc, with no conclusions. The only consensus was that we need better data than we currently have.

-Bob will talk to COG about their availability to help gather data and he has already arranged for CEPD to install their traffic counter at the entrance.

-Dan reported that he had an additional discussion with Community Services about their thoughts on any options we might have. Some suggestions were:

- increase fees

- expand hours of use

- they think we could easily fill reservations for an additional picnic shelter area with if it had a view of the ocean.

-Dan and Bob raised the question of putting some sort of a shelter on the cement platform near the beach. Some concerns were expressed about parking and the impact of significant numbers of people on an already heavily used area.

-Bob was asked to have a casual conversation with Code Enforcement/Planning officials to see what issues might be involved with constructing/installing an additional picnic shelter in the park.

Arboretum Update:

Dan will contact Kathy Bacastow for an update at our next meeting.

FWAC Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2009

Page 3

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 18th, 7:00 PM, at the CEPW Building.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles F. Wilson

Acting Secretary