

Town of Cape Elizabeth

Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2014

Present:

Bill Brownell (Chair), Chris Corbett, Bill Nickerson, Lise Pratt, Mark Russell, Terry Ann Scriven

Absent: Don Head

Also present:

Mike McGovern, Bob Ayotte (FWF), John Mitchell (Mitchell & Assoc.), Barbara Powers (250th Cmte.)

Staff:

Bob Malley

Call to order: Chair Bill Brownell called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 17 meeting were approved unanimously.

FWF & Arboretum Updates:

Arboretum: Lighthouse View is virtually complete. Last week, James McCain welcomed members of Maine Landscape & Nursery Association and SMCC students to the Lighthouse Restoration Area to begin removing invasives. 100 employees of Tom's of Maine spent a half day weeding and pruning at Cliffside as a community service project. Regina Leonard is creating an inventory of vegetation along the Cliff Walk and is expected to report in by the end of the month. James is developing a maintenance plan. Recognition plaques for Cliffside donors and Arboretum founders will be installed this fall.

Children's Garden: The paver campaign is well underway; they have raised \$40K from this effort to date, bringing the total raised around \$150K toward the \$400K goal.

FWF: They are updating their website, with support from a private grant. Their goal is a November launch.

Proposed PSO Concert in 2015 (250th Anniversary Committee)

Barbara Powers, chair of the CE 250th Anniversary Committee, submitted a proposal on behalf of the committee and FWF to host *A Night at the Light*, a Portland Symphony Orchestra concert in the Park, as one of several 250th celebration events. There have been many preliminary planning meetings to work through the logistics, particularly security and parking. Proposed concert date/time: Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 6:00-7:30pm (rain date Sunday 8/30/15). The event will be paid for primarily through sponsorships and ticket sales. The committee anticipates tiered ticketing options, including a VIP level; they plan to cap ticket sales to 3,000 attendees. The request includes 1) use of Battery Knoll for a proposed reception (4:00-5:45pm) for sponsors and VIP donors, which will include serving alcohol; 2) use of the Green as the concert venue (no alcohol); 3) waiving the usual fees. FWAC members agreed that an exception of allowing an event on the Green and Battery Knoll could be made in this case, because it is a town-sponsored event. The fee would be waived on the same grounds. The motion, made by Lise

and seconded by Bill N, that the proposal be accepted as proposed, was approved unanimously. The request moves to the agenda for approval by Town Council at their October 6 meeting.

Old Main Gate/Temporary Parking Restrictions

Mike McGovern gave some history of the Park's old main gate and explained his reasons for recently closing parking in that area. The increased level of parking over the past two years in this undefined area outside the old main gate has led to more instances of cars parked on the grass, close to Shore Road, or obstructing the fire lane. This had become a persistent and growing safety issue, so he took the step of enforcing existing ordinances. Citizen response to the closure has shed light on who parks there and why. The jurisdiction of this area lies with the Town, although input from FWAC is welcome. After much discussion, it was agreed that until FWAC can consider and execute a plan for the long-term use of this area, a short-term solution will be to define parking spaces in the existing paved area. Mike and/or Bob will work with a professional to mark out as many spaces as possible, complying with all ordinances; this could be 3-4 spaces, one of which must be designated handicapped.

Bleacher Improvement Project

John Mitchell presented three concept designs, based on input and discussions at the July 17 meeting and a meeting Bob had with Jeff Shed re: HS graduation. The designs ranged from a minimal to a grander scheme, but all included a defined seating area (capacity range 250-800) with granite risers and plantings. They all required the total demolition and removal of existing concrete bleachers. Cost for demolition (estimated \$75-148K) will depend on the thickness of the concrete and whether or not there is reinforcing. The estimated cost of constructing the design options ranged from \$103-\$313K. John will return next month with a revised design and more information about phasing construction/later expansion options. Bob and John will try to acquire results of core sampling this month to narrow range of demolition cost. FWAC will make a recommendation for the final design at next month's (10/16/14) meeting.

Park Updates

Bob Malley reported that they have received lots of compliments about the Park. It continues to be very busy, particularly with buses from cruise ships. The wooden rail fence that runs from the entrance to Cliffside to Capt. Strout Circle has been replaced; the funds were approved in the FY 2015 Park (645) operating budget. The paving at Ships Cove has been deferred due to abundance of other paving jobs in town requiring immediate attention.

Other Business

Bob Malley reported that in late August he revoked the permit of vendor of site B for the remainder of the season, based on a pattern of misconduct as food vendor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm. Our next meeting will be Thursday, **October 16**, at **7:00PM** at the Public Works Facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Pratt for Don Head, Secretary