

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission

DRAFT Minutes: 5/21/2015

Present: Lise Pratt, Terry Ann Scriven, Chris Corbett, Chris Straw, Suzanne McGinn.

Staff: Bob Malley

Citizen Opportunity for Comment:

Citizen's present:

Brian Guthrie: Little League

Todd Gagne: Little League President, 129 Oakhurst

Pam Forre: Softball

Trevor Maxwell: 104 Two Light's rd, Little League

Roger Rioux: Pickleball, 5 Bridle Pathway

Sheila Gibbs: Pickleball

Bruce Gibbs: Pickleball 1021 Shore Rd

John Mitchell: Bleachers

Dick Gilbane: Bleachers, 226 Bowery Beach Rd

Bob Ayotte: FWPF President & Liaison

Jim Walsh TC Liaison

Bruce Gibbs helped to line two courts of pickleball on single court by basketball court last year. He would like to see 2-4 more courts on lower tennis courts by pond. Very popular sport for retired/senior community.

Todd Gagne. Little League serves 400 children with 150 volunteers. He's nervous to lose the field at the bleachers because they currently have only 1 other softball field in town at HS.

Dick Gilbane. He is very supportive of the amphitheater bleacher project. He's worked as a consultant for national war memorials around the country, and he is supportive of the use of the bleacher's historical features for this new proposed project.

Minutes:

- *FWAC 4/16/15 minutes. Considered request from TS to have the minutes reflect that the FWPF update FWAC on projects. Motion to accept as written by CS. Second by CC. Vote of 4 approval and 1 against.*
- *FWAC 5/11/15 on site walk through at Fort minutes. TS made a motion to accept. SM to second. 5 approved.*

FWPF summary by Bob Ayotte:

- Family Fun Day. Expect revenue from event (ie. \$1000 revenue from bungee jumping). Proceeds to benefit the Children's Garden project.
- 6/19 Summer Solstice party with private invites at home of the Haggertys, 21 Reef Rd, Estimated net profit \$10k.
- 6/20 Garden tour. 8 garden on tour. Target to sell 600 tickets for \$20/\$25 each. FWF merchandise will also be for sale. Estimated net profit \$25k.
- 7/25 Night at the Light event. 3000 tickets available, 1000 sold to date. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/student. All budgeted sponsors signed up for \$50k. 200 VIP tickets at \$250/each. 40 sold to date. PR includes link on town website, FWPF website, local

- papers and sponsor advertising. Goal is to pre-sell all tickets.
- FWPF requests time on agenda at next meeting for signage. 3 signs: Arboretum overview sign, replace Cliff walk sign, Children's Garden sign.
- 2nd graders came to FW on May 4,6,8 to study plant life cycle. This is an example of a 'living classroom'.
- 5/30 Volunteer Appreciation morning at Fort.
- Update on Cliff walk: next to work on the mid section of Cliff walk. \$10k grant to work with landscape architect for improving area. Plans expected in the fall. To date FWPF has raised \$50k for project.
- Joint meeting of FWAC and some FWPF committee chairs set for 6/11 at 6pm, prior to regular FWAC meeting.
- SM asked Bob Ayotte why the FWPF could not manage the offer of Tom's of Maine volunteer group of 150 people to help in the Fort on 7/23. This group volunteered last year. The FWPF has decided it can no longer manage groups larger than 25. SM stated that this is lost opportunity to utilize volunteers for improvements for the Fort.
- TS made a motion stating "When FWPF has offers of volunteers that they reach out to FWAC." 4 approved and 1 opposed.*

Bleacher Project:

LP provided background for citizens: Plan preliminarily approved but not endorsed in 11/14 by FWAC. Another option was to just demolish and remove bleacher material and slope with grass. New members wanted to revisit site design options to potentially provide more usable community space, better complement the Children's Garden, and create a space that could be a revenue generator for the Fort. A subcommittee is now working on Plan D, which is an amphitheater space.

Public comment:

- Pam Torre: Important to keep field because it is a dirt field and Cape only has 2 other dirt fields for softball.
- Trevor Maxwell: It's a special place/location. We only would have the HS field for softball. They would at least need a replacement field.
- Brian Guthrie: stated that LL invested \$10k in ALL the LL fields this season.

TS provided summary of the FWAC subcommittee for bleacher renovation: it is charged with developing an alternate plan to Plan A. Subcommittee has been meeting weekly for the past month. Subcommittee talked about moving the softball field down closer to ocean for plan A or D. TS reviewed the proposal document with everyone. She spoke of the physical space and placement, possible uses, potential event revenue sources, reclaiming the 58 granite blocks in Ship Cove (est. value of \$70k), preliminary budget costs, spoke with event managers, investigated permanent toilet systems (privy tank seems best).

Subcommittee will meet 5/29 @ 8:00am at Fort bleachers, and if rain at CS.

John Mitchell discussed and explained the plan D design with sketches which include 18" curbing with 5' of grass between granite curbing for additional seating, 3 stairways with railings, upper walkway would connect to Children's Garden, proposed irrigation would flow from top of seating, capacity approximately 400, handicap access, location of toilets by Fire House (slated for new windows @ \$37k this year in town budget).

Group discussion with citizens included the placement of toilets, the LL shed, the placement of the softball field. LL would like the placement of the field to be:

1. Lyon's field (Bob Malley said it would be very expensive)
2. By Gazebo

3. LL T-Ball area on Parade grounds

4. By AA field

LL needs 200 feet for a HS softball field. LL would also like a permanent backstop installed. LL will come up with a proposal for a field location and specs by 5/28. FWAC invited LL to attend the 5/29 FWAC subcommittee meeting at the Fort.

Jim Walsh was pleased with the work of the subcommittee, and he offered suggestions of how to present the material to the TC workshop on 6/15. FWAC document should be a brief overview with drawings. FWAC should have the formal presentation for TC in September.

LP reminded committee:

- FWAC full committee meeting 6/11. 6-7pm FWPF workshop; 7-9 regular FWAC meeting.
- TC Workshop on 6/15 to present Bleacher project update at 7:00pm.

Pickleball Presentation by Roger Rioux:

Thank you to FWAC and Bob for allowing Pickleball group to paint two courts on upper tennis court last year. Pickleball is a fast growing sport with seniors. 800-900 players in Maine with 62 indoor venues. 6 indoor courts a SPCS. They want to paint the two tennis courts by pond with 4 pickleball courts. Lines are painted a thinner red, and they use portable nets. Stated that the lines are not confusing to tennis players. Roger offered to pay to paint the lines. They would like to use the courts for 3-4 mornings a week from 8:00-10:30am. Basketball court is not usable since it's in bad shape (needs resurfacing). BM was provided correspondence Mr. Rioux from some tennis players and they don't have a problem with 2 sets of lines on courts.

TS and SM are concerned about the Pickleball group monopolizing the lower courts which are in better shape than the upper court. Good tennis players like the lower courts because the surface is in better shape.

Roger did not like the idea of having one lower court and one upper court for Pickleball because it is a social sport and they have a round robin format. TS had suggested this format as a compromise.

CS made a motion: to paint permanent lines on the lower two tennis courts for a temporary 1 year basis with the costs covered by the pickleball group. Second by CC. 3 in favor and 2 abstained.

TS made a motion: Establish a Fort policy if both lower courts are used for pickleball, then users move off one court to upper court for tennis players. No second so no vote.

Bob Malley Park Update:

- Initial shim layer of pavement on Ship Cove lot completed. Tested drainage with slope of pavement and it worked well, so final coat will be next week. Total cost \$18k (slightly under forecasted expenditure of \$20,000. Total budget of project was \$32,000.
- Park received some Commercial photography this month. \$1500 full day and \$875 for half day. Discussion on the fact that these fees are 3 years old and perhaps we should revisit this fee schedule. Some believe we should and could charge more since Fort and Headlight are so iconic.
- NESN filming in Fort on 6/2. We do not charge for filming by news organizations. Some questioned why we shouldn't charge news organizations. Request to revisit during next budget process.
- 7/18 Tall Ships coming to Casco Bay Harbor, 1-3pm. Fort will be REALLY busy with spectators. TS and SM want to take opportunity to ask for donations to the Fort and would like to talk to FWPF about opportunity, but no other committee members were interested. BM says it is the price we pay for owning a beautiful piece of real estate

next to the ocean, like Bug Light.

- To date budgeted revenue \$160,400 versus actual of \$156,851, and we have 6 more weeks in budget cycle. Bob thinks we will meet budgeted revenue with rental income within the Fort.

LP reviewed the capital projects for the fort from last meeting:

1. Pedestrian walkways
2. Restrooms
3. Ecology/Landscape (FWPF)
4. Pond restoration
5. TBD

Discussion in preparation for FWPF meeting on 6/11:

- Role of fundraising and supporting of FWAC priorities.
- How we set next fundraising opportunities?
- How to manage volunteer opportunities?
- Utilize BM as the Clearing house for projects within the Fort.

CC moved to adjourn and CS seconded.

Meeting adjourned a 9:50pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Suzanne McGinn