Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024

Present: Lauren Springer (LS) Chair, Curtis Kelly (CK), Jim Kerney (JK), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Terry Bagley

Staff: Chris Cutter (CC), Fort Williams Park Coordinator, Kathy Raftice, (KR) Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director and Andrea Southworth (AS), Friends of Fort Williams

Call to Order: LS called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda – None.

Approval of March 19, 2024 Draft Minutes

Motion by JK to approve the March 19, 2024 draft meeting minutes, second by MR. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No).

Friends of Fort Williams Update

AS shared her Ecology report. She is working on hiring some interns to help with projects. She brought the committee up to date on the Story Walk and Gnome trail proposal. She shared some details on a few projects to take place; hill in front of Goddard Mansion, hill between the tool shed and new picnic shelter stairway and by Battery Garesche. JK asked when VCS would be back to the park, AS shared they would be back in July to treat the black swallow and in the fall to address the woody invasives.

B2B Add-on Request – Bruce Forsley

Angela Best and Bruce Forsley introduced the request to add a showing of the Joan Benoit Samuelson documentary "There is No Finish Line". They are seeking authorization to show the documentary on Thursday, August 1 under the big tent. Rory Strunk, O'Maine Studios attended and explained the technical aspect. JK asked if this would be open to the public and the number of expected attendees. Rory clarified the tent would hold 200 however they have estimated 150. Bruce explained the request to serve alcohol. Discussion on the hours of the event and pros and cons of an additional event and alcohol. Angela explained the importance of respecting neighbors and if the closing of the park could be pushed back to 8:30 pm, they would be appreciative. JK asked whether the B2B Board have approved. Angela explained they are meeting next Wednesday to work out details but preliminarily all on board. LS shared her concern regarding another event with alcohol. LS asked if there would be a cap on the number. KP feels the tent is there and it should be used if they want. MR asked about the communication process and they have a captive audience with registrants for the race recognizing this is a separate event and may invite a different group. Angela clarified that it will be promoted by

B2B. CC shared some concern with parking and wanted to know what the park staff expectations will be. Angela explained it would be a responsibility of the B2B volunteers. LS wanted to clarify that there are two parts to the request, the showing of the film and the serving of alcohol. She is concerned about setting a precedent. CK shared that alcohol is served on Wednesday evening without issue. KP feels that B2B has a proven record of accomplishment and has earned the trust of the committee and the Town. He feels there should be a cap on the number of attendees. DT shared that she had reservations when the beer tent was proposed however was handled very well and has no issue with the new request. There was committee discussion on the possibility of selling ticket to the film and providing an allowance for two drinks. Bruce Forsley also shared there will be non-alcoholic offerings. MR feels there is a precedent that is being set however, feels the numbers can be small enough to contain.

JK moved to approve the tentative proposal to allow the showing of the documentary to a set number of guests, and to provide a way to limit the alcohol offering through the purchase of the ticket to view the film. B2B will come back with specifics on how that is to be accomplished. Logistics will be worked out with CECS and park staff, second by KP. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No).

LL Request/Update

In our February meeting the committee approved 2-8'x8'x8' backstops. One permanent behind Officers Row and one portable or removable on Parade Ground. KR shared she has received an email stating LL did not find a removable solution that is cost effective and they are concerned with the removable and maintenance. They are asking the committee to reconsider the installation of a permanent backstop. CK shared that he supports the request. It is a Town benefit and in previous years, there was a permanent backstop on the field. JK shared the one that has been installed up by Officer's Row looks great. It is solid, clean and safe. MR agreed, it was there before and he supports a permanent one. LS brought up the discussion that field may move in the future, however all agreed that would be a long time away if at all.

JK moved to accept the installation of a permanent backstop at the softball field on the Parade Ground, second by DT. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No).

FWP Update

June Regional Training Event

Anthony Sturgis, Army Chief Warrant Officer and fellow Officer Dirk, have requested the use of Fort Williams Park for a regional training event to complete a threat credibility evaluation. This would be mutually beneficial to all and will involve many departments from the Maine National Guard, 11th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Joint Force Headquarters, Provost Marshall, Flight Operations, Region 1 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, US Coast Guard, FBI, TSA, US Customs and Border Patrol, State Agencies, Maine State Police, County EMS and local Police and Fire departments. The goals are to Validate Unified Command operations and information sharing, Establish a unified Command structure, and Validate Weapons of Mass Destruction. This is a weeklong training event with the scheduled day at Fort Williams on Thursday, June 6th. The training would be pre-staged, with high visibility and a media release. Signage to be provided to make all aware that it is a training exercise. VIP invitation to different parts of the training. Possibly a HU-60 airlift. JK asked what the timeframe is and expected number of participants. Anthony shared it would be approximately 50 people and run from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. CK asked where in the park. CC suggested up by the Overflow parking lot and asked what vehicles would be involved. It was clarified that there would be a site truck and trailer. There may be fire trucks supporting but they will control numbers. All from the FWPC strongly supports the request.

CK moved to accept the request to host the Military Regional Training event at Fort Williams on Thursday, June 6 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, second by KP. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No).

Following the vote, CC escorted the guests to the location for viewing.

KR shared with the committee the Rotary request to hold a tournament on the Pickelball courts. LS led the discussion by stating when the courts were being considered the committee agreed there would not be tournaments. JK agreed, feels it will set a precedence. MR asked about the discussion and when it took place. KR clarified the discussion took place during the design and development of the pickelball courts RFP. MR not sure the small request is an issue. LS feels timing of the request is tough. She would like to see how things progress once courts are completed and can be re-evaluated. Committee all in agreement.

KR shared progress of Pickelball courts, stairways, pond and Battery Blair report. CK and KR provided Playground Sub-committee update. KR brought forth the need for a discussion on the update of fees. We have the fees through 2025 however, we committed to reviewing every three years with notice to all impacted as early as possible. Committee agreed. JK volunteered to update the Workbook the committee has utilized and bring to next meeting. KR shared her thoughts on a 5-year plan. She requested the committee take the Master Plan recommendations, review what has been accomplished or ruled out and plan what to address yearly for next 5 years. With this information, we can obtain more credible costs for consideration. All agreed.

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

Motion to adjourn by MR, second by CK. Motion passed (6 – Yes, 0 – No). The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raftice