

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Master Plan Workshop
Zoom Public Hearing/Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2021**

Present: Jim Kerney (JimK), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR), and Lauren Springer (LS)

Absent: Jon Dienstag, Suzanne McGinn, and Doreen Theriault

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

Guest: Todd Richardson and Cat Birmingham, Richardson and Associates, and Will Haskell, Gorrill Palmer

Call to Order: Chair, Jim Kerney called meeting to order at 7:01 pm. JimK brought forth a late request for a fundraising walk in the park on a Sunday afternoon. Recognizing the less than ideal time and date but a good organization. His thought was have KR get back to SafeBAE, change walk to 9:00 am and if KR and CC feel time okay, committee provides a preliminary okay to go forward. MR asks what else we would need for final approval. KR clarified need to speak with CC and make sure time change works. Committee approves if all agree to changes.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda:

None

Master Plan Recommendations – FWP Committee and Vendor:

JimK provided an introduction and explanation of process to date. JimK introduction/discussion begins at 10:03 through 29:01. KP shared that JimK did a great job and he felt the survey brought forth the tension from the town on the focus towards visitors versus residents. JimK explained we do not advertise however we are managing as best we can. KR thanked all survey participants, user groups, town departments, vendor and the committee. Presentation by Richardson & Associates begins at 32:48 of recording and ends at 1:23:30. JimK thanked Todd and team for the presentation of where Fort Williams is today and where it could be tomorrow. These are concepts and pathways to get there that will need to be prioritized and funded. Great themes with recognition that safety issues will need to happen. JimK then asked the committee if there were any concepts/themes/concerns/ideas that have not been brought forth. KP thanked for a job well done but asked if there is an ability to provide an artistic look at what we are looking at for the Goddard Mansion and the name of the mini-theater. MR, great presentation. LS just wanted to note the change to the mini-theater name but overall a great presentation, nice to see it all come together. KR liked the visuals and was easy to follow and very nicely done. CC thought presentation was thorough and looks forward to how we get it all done, he is excited. MR one comment was while he likes the change to the overflow lot his concern is there is only one egress which may be an issue when the lot is full. When known events fill the lot there will

likely need to be someone on Powers Rd assisting with the traffic management. Additionally, some municipalities deal with similar traffic issues we face with traffic circles, as you come down Powers Rd towards the Central Parking lot. CC suggests graduation will be a great time to view all the parking lots and how traffic is dealt with in the park at a busy time. Andrea Southworth, Friends of Fort Williams thanked vendor and just wanted to make sure any planting requires little maintenance. She loves the pedestrian walkways, connecting walk spaces and invasives. Everything ecologically is very much on track. JimK emphasized we have provided ideas and recommendations however many other bits of information in all the materials provided online. MR for public information should be pointed out that we have discussed the Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations and the Outdoor Water bottle Fill Stations. JimK then explained it is an old fort that we have tried to repurpose as a park. There is no infrastructure, there is no sewer or septic systems.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next meeting: Town Council Presentation, Monday June 14th @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Raftice