

Parks Committee Meeting April 20, 2009

James Rossol called the regular monthly Parks Committee meeting to order at 6:30PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were James Rossol, Jolynn Reinhardt, Patrick Keehan, Michael LeClair, Barbara Anschutz, Douglas Smith and 9 visitors. Kay Hanna was absent.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Jim/Pat to accept the agenda. Carried.

Jumped forward to item #6: Listen to and consider request from Jerry Smuda to possibly establish a Baileys Harbor Dog Park – Jerry thanked the Committee for the opportunity. He met with the Committee 2 years ago and didn't quite have everything in line at that time. He did a survey a year ago and had about 76 names in favor of a dog park, so there seems to be some interest in it. With Door County starting to push being "pet-friendly," he would like to get the jump on it before another town or village does. There are currently 2 dog parks in Door County and they feel with Baileys Harbor being centrally located, it would be a good spot. There is 1 in Green Bay, but more have been proposed. There are about 100 dog licenses issued in Baileys Harbor. There are 74 lodging establishments from Sturgeon Bay north that allow pets. Restaurants are also starting to be pet friendly. Jerry feels non-dog owners would be equally in favor of this, in order to prevent dogs running at large. Jim stated there is a leash law, however, so that kind of takes care of that problem.

Jim did some research into dog parks. He feels one of the problems is sometimes how the owners behave, but more how the pets socialize with each other. From what he's read, there are some problems with dogs getting aggressive in these parks and biting other dogs or people. Some dog owners don't go to these parks because of that. Jerry hasn't experienced that in Sister Bay. Arlene Lis spoke and said if you're a dog owner and you know your dog is going to be aggressive, you don't take them to places like that. Jim said that dogs relate differently to other dogs and you can't exactly make reservations at the dog park. It's 18 miles to Sturgeon Bay and about 7 or 8 miles to Sister Bay, so they're quite handy. Another issue is the size of the park. Jim feels Sturgeon Bay is way too big. If a dog does want to get aggressive, by the time the owner got to it, the damage would be done. The Sister Bay one is about 1.4 acres. Jerry is proposing 2 acres, a half acre of which would be for smaller dogs. Jerry continued going through some of the potential benefits. Of the 74 pet friendly lodging establishments 14 are in Baileys Harbor, so it would help business market their establishments.

For location, Jerry looked at two places, one of which was the old Town dump. Jerry feels it would be a disaster. Jim went out there recently as well. The Sturgeon Bay facility is located next to the compost area and the Sister Bay facility was located next to the waste water plant. One thing Jim read was that location is key because one of the problems is that dog owners do not clean up after their dogs. Most may, but some won't and it ends up being a huge issue with groundwater contamination. There would also have to be a lot of rules established. The dogs have to be on a leash from the car to the park. One of the things the article recommended was that the park not be located near

any sort of recreational facility. Jerry said there were only 2 or 3 occasions where he found “residue” from another dog and he cleaned it up.

Jim asked how non-residents using the dog park would be addressed. Specifically, how do we know the dogs have had their rabies shots? It needs to be policed. If it's not policed, there is a liability that comes back to the Town because the Town wasn't enforcing the rules it created. In some towns a dog user group was created that helped design the park, come up with rules and also spend time at the park to enforce the rules. Dr. James Johnson was in attendance, and explained that in Madison, people have to have a sticker to enter the park. To get the sticker, you have to show the proof of vaccination. They have periodic, unannounced checks of the park. The fee for the sticker pays for the upkeep of the park.

Jerry got a quote for fencing and it would be between \$12,000 and \$14,000. Jerry feels the ideal spot would be to the west of the driveway for the Recreational Park on the property the Town just purchased. Jim pointed out that the land is very wooded. Jim didn't feel either of the dog parks in the county were attractive at all. Second, the parcel the Town just acquired could have a lot of other uses that could be incorporated in with the trees. Third, it's right next to the soccer field and close to the ball diamonds. That's why he feels they should take another look at the old Town dump. The cars that are there could be taken out. He feels that area could be cleaned up quite nicely and quite easily. Plus there is a natural parking area right there. The Town does have to leave some sort of the roadway there for access to the quarry that is behind the property. The area to the right as you come in would have to be left for the maintenance department. Jolynn said another good thing about that location is it's peaceful. There's not a lot of activity going on, like there would be at the Rec. Park. Jim recommended taking another look at the old Town dump site. Mark Franke will meet him out there. Jerry should also think about what the rules sign should say, as well as how to make sure the dogs are vaccinated. They should think about who is going to enforce the rules and if there are any fundraising opportunities. The Parks Committee will be happy to talk with them again in the future.

Citizen input – None.

Accept minutes – One small change to tighten a sentence up. Motion made/second Mike/Pat to accept the minutes with the change. Carried.

Accept Treasurer Report – Motion made/second Jim/Mike to accept the report. Carried.

Update on Rec. Park – Mark Franke dug out the area behind the bleachers for the press box. Two soccer games were played this past weekend. Door County United played a team from Milwaukee, who really loved the field. The first baseball home game will be played a little later this year. For scheduling, Clerk has been working with the newly formed Athlete Club. Jim asked if there was a way to get a full year viewable on the website. Clerk will give it a try.

Discussion regarding implementing budget at Rec. Park – Things are pretty much moving along. Some of the items have been completed and some have to wait for the weather to break.

Discussion regarding implementing budget at Anclam Park – We could probably get the edging done. There is some money budgeted for that. Jim has always liked the metal edging over the rubber stuff. It lasts a long time and is very low maintenance. He found a company out of Holland, MI that makes aluminum and steel edging. However, they didn't have pricing. Pat was at Menard's yesterday and saw a heavier duty plastic type of edging for about \$7 or \$8 per foot. The school uses an interlocking kind. We'll go ahead and do the edging. It's still a little early for the annual flowers. Barb is planning to clean up the gardening area and plant the annuals when it's time. Jim and Jolynn will help. We could also go ahead with a faux rock to cover the well head. We'll hold off on the lighting and playground equipment for now. For one reason, we'll wait until the construction work is done down there. Plus, for the playground equipment, we'll hold off in case another need arises and we could use the funds elsewhere.

Schedule meeting with DNR for discussion at Anclam Park – Jim called Carrie Webb and she was on vacation until today. Due to time and budget constraints, the DNR is not making any field trips unless an actual permit is submitted with a \$500 check and a plan. She seemed to be pretty open. She was okay with a boardwalk. It would have to be a non-impervious surface. Wood would be okay. Benches and lighting would be okay. Plantings were okay. Concrete was a definite no. The gazebo would not be an option unless we were building a dock structure. It would be okay as long as it's before the high water mark. The grading of the jetty would be an entirely different issue.

Discussion/possible decision on landscaping company at Anclam Park – Since one of the determining factors is how the fireworks display would be accommodated, Pat and Mike spoke with Kevin Peil about how everything gets set up down there. To the north, there is an area with a small mound of sand that's 15-20 feet long. It's just past the first big tree on the left. By the rocks, the set up the finale boxes. On the end, they have 8" to 10" pipes. Kevin's thought would be to build a flower box to hold the sand. The end would be nice if it were leveled off. The whole area ends up being full of pallets of fireworks. The big pipes have to be down 3 feet. Fire trucks do not come down the jetty, only a skidsteer. The smaller flower box would need to be about 3 feet wide by 15 feet long and about 1 foot deep.

Jumped forward to item 12 before continuing: Discuss/decide placement of Anclam Park sign – Jim feels a good spot would be where the Christmas tree was this year. Since there is so much work that is still slated to be done, we'll wait until it's all complete.

Back to item 10: Discussion/possible decision on landscaping company at Anclam Park – One thing we need to keep in mind, is the water line area is very sensitive to the DNR and we would most likely need a permit. The hardest things would probably be designing the boardwalk and selecting the plant species. Clerk explained bidding requirements. Jim stated all of the companies seemed very capable of doing our project.

All presented plans were reviewed and discussed at great length and all positives and potential negatives were weighed. Motion made/second Pat/Mike to accept the Anclam Park design proposal from Lakeshores Landscape & Design, Inc. and present it to the Town Board for approval. Carried.

Determine agenda items for next meeting – Clerk will be in contact with Jim before the next meeting.

Motion made/second Jim/Jolynn to adjourn at 9:00PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Parks Committee meeting.

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk