

Parks Committee Meeting July 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, Michael LeClair, Patrick Keehan, Barbara Anschutz, Douglas Smith and 16 visitors. Jolynn Reinhardt and Kay Hanna were absent.

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

Accept minutes – Motion made/second Jim/Mike to accept the minutes. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

Listen to and consider request from Jerry Smuda to possibly establish a Baileys Harbor Dog Park – Jerry Smuda spoke. At the last meeting on April 20th, their notes said they were asked to do three things; to look at the old Town Dump, check for grants available and put together a complete list of guidelines. The dog park committee group took a look at the dumpsite and the feeling was generally negative. If it was the only alternative, it would have to be on the right side of the road so it would be easier to clean up and it's more level. In general, he feels it's really not a nice site. It's not aesthetically pleasing and he feels it's not positive for Baileys Harbor. There are some cars out there that could be removed. It's also where they dumped the algae from the dredging project at the Marina.

Arlene Lis feels it should be closer to the Town. Jim stated that, having lived in Chicago and knowing the traffic involved there, moving here was a blessing. Getting around the Chicagoland area, it would sometimes take an hour or hour and a half to get ten miles because of the dense traffic. Jim wanted everyone to keep in mind there is a dog park in Sturgeon Bay that's 18 miles away and one in Sister Bay, which is 8-10 miles away. So there are two facilities that are very close by and very accessible. Jerry feels having one in Baileys Harbor would bring in people from Jacksonport and Gibraltar as well.

Another issue with the old Town dump site is the locked gate would have to be left open from that point on. The reason it's there now is because the Town mulch/woodchip supply is kept there. Jerry also noticed there was some chain link fence there that may be usable.

The dog park committee group is more favorable of getting into the Summit Road Park. Jerry feels that if the sports groups deserve a nice place, they should deserve one too. Jim agrees they deserve a nice place. However, according to research Jim has done, location is a huge issue. In Sister Bay and Sturgeon Bay, those facilities are away from playgrounds, ball fields, etc. Jerry explained they don't want to be next to the ball fields, just in the same general area. Jim thinks the Town Board would be more amenable to reclaiming some land than taking some prime wooded area.

Jerry is thinking they would only need about 1 acre for a dog park. He explained the general area he's thinking of and it's mostly just scrub brush. They would have to have a parking area made up. Mike feels the dump would be much easier to work with.

Jim asked if there was a formalized plan. Not at this time. Jim was hoping to have some sort of finalized plan that the Parks Committee could take a look at. They did bring in some guidelines, which are the same ones the City of Sturgeon Bay uses. The last one is that people are liable for their own pets and actions. For enforcement, they feel it's on the honor system. Dog owners that take their dogs to a park are responsible people.

Jim asked who gets to use the park. Jerry feels anyone that has a dog. Sister Bay and Sturgeon Bay let anyone use their parks. Bill Cecil feels that because there has been more a pet-friendly approach to tourism recently, this would be a big draw for Baileys Harbor. Jim feels there needs to be some way to police things to make sure the dogs have their shots. Karen Smuda feels a system could be worked out. Jim agrees and feels the dog park group should work on that as well.

A gentleman from Boulder, CO spoke and stated that city is in the process of creating a dog park and the burden really isn't on the citizens' shoulders to come up with the processes. He's also an attorney and says the liability factor isn't really a big concern. He also feels that driving north or south isn't a green idea and it's not adequate to just accept those. He may want to only go there for 15 minutes and wouldn't want to drive that far. He has a Baileys Harbor mailing address, but lives in the Town of Gibraltar. He feels Baileys Harbor having a dog park would be a great idea.

Jim stated that the population is 1210 with only 95 registered dogs. So we're talking about \$16,000 of taxpayer money to get a dog park together for 95 households. One person explained that in Madison, they have fees that pay for the dog park. She would be happy to pay a fee. The 95 might be a low number just because of people who have summer homes that have their dogs licensed in other townships. Jerry did a survey about the dog park on Scotty Walk Day. There were 57 people that signed it, 48 of which said they would be willing to pay some sort of fee.

Joe Miller spoke about safety and the need for a park. He has been here for 7 years and owns a large dog and has had a number of "near misses." He used to take his dog down Ridges Road, because he encountered a big Doberman that came after him. On another occasion, a large dog crossed the road in front of them. He feels Ridges Road is one less alternative. He has also walked on Ward Street, but another large dog nearly came after him. Same with Thimbleberry Lane. Linda Lane is too dusty during the summer and is a main route for snowmobiles during the winter. One Oaks Drive, two dogs were attacked. There was also a large loose dog on Frogtown Road. He feels it's difficult to find a place to walk your dog. Bluff Road is too slippery during the winter. He feels there is definitely an importance to having a dog park in our area.

Jim said that rules and regulations are good. He still feels there is a legal liability, but that's something that the Town of Baileys Harbor would have to determine as the project

progresses. Jim would like to see exactly what they have planned. Would there be any fees? Is the Rec. Park area a non-negotiable? How are the rules going to be set up/enforced? The ideas have come forward quite a bit, so that's a good thing.

Tom Bronsky spoke. He and his wife are the originators of the Scotty Rally. Back in 2001 when it first started, there were few places in the County that accommodated dogs. That has changed drastically in the last few years. It brings thousands of dollars into Baileys Harbor. For funding, he feels we should raise the licensing fees. He strongly feels the old dump site is not acceptable. He asked for opinions of the other Committee members. Pat explained that the dog park concept is new to him, so he's still learning about it. Mike said there haven't been any set plans for the new land by the Rec. Park. Someone should go out there and take a physical look at exactly where Jerry would like to see it at the Rec. Park.

Tom Bronsky suggested looking at grant money for funding. Jim suggested fundraising be a part of the plan. Bill Cecil suggested look at Room Tax dollars. Jim said there are only so many room tax dollars and other projects may be competing for those dollars.

Jim stated he was a bit disappointed because he was expecting a more detailed plan. Karen Smuda felt people may have been a bit confused because the talk about location. Jim read from the research he did, which stated that parents have expressed concern about safety of children, etc. when dog parks are located near play grounds and recreational areas. Pat and Mike will go along with the dog park group to see the exact properties they are talking about. The next time this topic is addressed, Jim would like to see a more organizational plan of what the group proposes. The plan needs to be fleshed out more specifically. Put some meat on the bone.

Update on Anclam Park – John Meredith was present and handed out packets to give an update on the landscape project. He's found some historical data regarding the jetty. He has been looking at the plan the DNR was promoting and dissecting it. There were originally buildings on the jetty, which started to deteriorate over time. Approximately 50 years ago, fence line stone was dumped along the jetty. About 35 years ago the riprapping and additional fills were put in. Most of the riprap is intact but eroding. Michael Till & Associates is looking at the engineering end of everything.

In the original Miller report, it maintains the gravel drive. That has been "blessed" by the DNR. We would be able to keep a sort of fire lane on the jetty, so long as some absorption remains. John is pushing for a 10 foot wide concrete walk. Some of the issues won't be the easiest to get through. The shoreline vegetation will be pretty easy, but the pavilion is really what John wants to push.

Mike asked that since the pipe is going out for drainage, could there be a manhole to drop the water down? There are existing manhole areas, which John is taking advantage of in the plan. John is hoping that a lakebed lease won't have to be taken out. According to the DNR, you have to lease the area below the high water mark. He's not sure how to get around it, but there's no way to not enhance areas below the high water mark.

Jim asked when permits should be applied for. John is waiting on the engineering report and is working on planting specifications.

John presented a conceptual. One of the things he'd like to do is to sink the pavilion into the ground to lower the profile. He moved it from the south side to the north side of the jetty. That way from the shoreline it doesn't obscure the view. The roof would also have grass on it. The front half is open. One of the issues that will come up is that from the water, you're looking at a structure. John feels that's a minor issue. He is working on a 3-D model of the entire site, so it can be looked at from all angles. That should help the DNR in making a decision. John thinks if it initially gets turned down, we'll have to get public support on it and go after it again. There would be more weight that way.

One of the other changes John made is that there will be a cul de sac to deal with some of the parking issues. There would be some minor loss of trees. Part of the cul de sac would be a permeable drivable area with a regular paved area. This would provide a large enough space for fire trucks, etc. to be able to turn around. Cars would not feel trapped if there was no parking. The middle could be plantable. He is suggesting some bollards around the edges. Runoff would be handled before it gets to the beach.

Another idea is to include some vegetative areas to discourage geese and seagulls, but not discourage songbirds.

Barb asked if John has talked to Kevin Peil about the fireworks. Not yet. He feels it's easy enough to accomplish. He went out there after the 4th to see the "aftermath." He does want to get a little more detail as to how and why they do certain things. This year all the shooting off of fireworks were automated. They do tend to change a little bit every year. The biggest issues are what kind of surfaces we have and what kind of vegetation will be placed.

Everyone agrees the plan looks good thus far. The historical placards will come in a later, more detailed plan, as will the lighting and the specific plant types. The actual permit applications will need to be submitted by the Town, but John will work out all the details and get them to Doug. It will probably be a couple of weeks. At that point, the approval of the permitting process will go straight to the Town Board. John will also present this same information to the Town Board.

Jim asked who the DNR reports to. There is a DNR committee that oversees them.

Discuss/decide PA Amplifier for Rec. Park – Jim found two very inexpensive amplifiers, both about \$100. One is available from Radio Shack. It has 40 watts of power, 2 mic inputs, input for a CD player and a turntable. The PA speakers are very efficient, so the wattage should be enough. These are mono, not stereo. The Pyramid Amp has three times the power and a little more flexibility. Jim is recommending the Pyramid. Motion made/second Mike/Pat to purchase the Pyramid amplifier. Carried. Doug will get it ordered.

Update on Rec. Park – Press box is built to code, but for some reason there is a wobble in it. Since the bottom is open, they're going to enclose it and that should help.

Accept Treasurer's Report – \$1,820 Associated Bank charge was to the credit card for the paint sprayer. Motion made/second Jim/Mike to accept the report. Carried.

Committee input/items for next meeting – Dog Park will probably be on the agenda for next month. Otherwise, just the standard updates. Barb asked when the storm sewer project at Anclam will start. Probably late summer/early fall.

Motion made/second Jim/Pat to adjourn at 8:52PM. Carried.

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

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk