

Bayfront Park and Nature Trail Committee

Meeting Minutes -- April 2, 2017

2 pm – 3 pm

Attendees: Corinne Black, Nancy Feuerle, Larry Jaworski, Keith Pardieck (Absent: Kelly Norton, Jan Ruttkay, Ken Rasmussen, Ilonka Weida, Gary Gardner, Terry Klazer)

- I. **Bayfront Park Clean-up: Saturday, April 29, 10 am - 1 pm (no rain date)**
 - a. Town to provide gloves, trash bags, and water.
 - b. Will town also provide rakes and trash stickers, and staff to help with tire removal. (KP to ask Town Administrator)
 - c. Perhaps ask scouting troops to assist with clean-up.
 - d. Does town have sign “Bayfront Park Clean-up Today” that can be posted on roadside? (KP to ask Town Administrator)

- II. **Discussion of Bayfront Park – Purpose, Goals and Sustainability**
 - a. Purpose of park thought to be defined in Town Comprehensive Plan. Need to review.

 - b. General discussion of park issues and opportunities. Pardieck relayed Mayor Mahoney’s intention to install security camera(s) at parking lot and Mayor is considering additional safety/security steps.

 - c. Group agreed to put forward two suggestions.
 - i. Add wooden bench about halfway between beach and parking lot. A natural looking bench preferred. For example, a board fastened across two or three tree trunk rounds. But safety considerations may dictate other type of bench.

 - ii. Initiate an educational Walk & Talk series highlighting aspects of the park. That is, engage experts or highly informed people to give informal presentations on various aspects of the park. For example, bird identification, coastal geology, fossils, skate biology, horseshoe crab biology, Puritan Tiger Beetle biology, etc. Perhaps have a presentation once per month starting in May and ending in September; can have more it will just depend on availability of people to lead events. To keep group of a manageable size (15-20 people) would probably need attendees to pre-register. Also should have some presentations for teens and up, and some for families with younger kids.

III. Adjourn

Addenda:

3/25/2017 -- Met briefly with Kelly Norton, Jan Ruttkay, Cathy Sheridan and Valerie Beaudin to discuss park issues on May 25th. Below are recommendations resulting from that discussion.

- Enact town ordinance, similar to existing county ordinance, that makes it illegal to leave dog waste on public property.
- Provide more trash cans on boardwalk. Be sure trash cans are near pet pull-offs and mitten dispensers.
- Beach patrol should offer guests trash bag upon park entry to encourage cleaning up after themselves, if they do not already do so.

4/13/2017 -- I drove by Bayfront park today around 11 am and saw parking lot was almost full. I stopped and spoke to folks. There were over 25 people. Most were from out of town. They really like the park and beach. The one complaint -- no place to use the bathroom; 25+ people most from out of town. We all know what is happening when nature calls... They are using bushes, trees and Bay, although water too cold for swimming for most. Unsanitary, illegal, disgusting, and embarrassing for them and the town. While the unseasonably warm weather this year has exacerbated the problem of early beach use, this is most likely the start of a trend and the Town needs to explore expansion of port-o-pot service in the park making them available earlier in the spring and later in the fall, if not all year round. This is not the first time this spring for a crowd at Bayfront Park. There was a crowd last week also, and one nearby resident confronted a beach goer looking for a good spot to go in their yard. I relayed this information to the Town Administrator, who confirmed that they are looking into appropriate solutions.