

## Parks Committee Meeting September 21, 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, Barbara Anschutz, Douglas Smith and 4 visitors. Michael LeClair and Kay Hanna were absent.

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

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

Consideration of request from Jerry Smuda to establish a Baileys Harbor Dog Park – Since there was no meeting last month, there was plenty of time to review the proposal. Jerry explained that some members of their committee are out of town. There is one change to the location in the proposal, as requested by Barbara Anschutz. It was to move it to the northwest corner of the same parcel. It would be the same dimensions. There is also a natural culvert in that area. He also dug some holes. He got down to about 12 to 14 inches and didn't find any rock, but the fence company he spoke with said they go down 4 feet. Jerry feels it looks very nice and is pleased with the move. Jim asked Jerry to read the letter from Bill Cecil. Jerry read the letter into the record, a copy of which is available in the 2009 Minute Book.

Jim had really been looking forward to the proposal, because it put everything together in one document. Over the past month, Jim has been agonizing over the proposal. Last night, it occurred to him that perhaps what the Committee should do first is to determine whether or not Baileys Harbor needs a dog park. If it is determined that Baileys Harbor needs one, the Committee could work with Jerry and his group to brainstorm and streamline the proposal. It occurred to Jim that since we are looking at a proposal, then we are agreeing to the fact that Baileys Harbor needs a dog park and he feels they haven't done that yet. There are approximately 110 registered dogs, which is less than 10% of the population base. It seems to Jim that a certain fraction of that would use the park. He doesn't think all dog owners would use it. Appleton, WI has one dog park for a population of 70,000. Door County's population is 27,771 and there are two dog parks. That's one dog park for every 13,885 people. In the Chicagoland area, including the suburbs, there are about 13 million people and 32 dog parks. That's one for every 406,000 people. Jim is guessing that Door County has the highest population of dog parks per person, perhaps in the country. Jim has a problem with spending around \$18,000 plus the use of the land. Nine miles from here, there is a dog park in Sister Bay. Eighteen miles there is another dog park in Sturgeon Bay. Jerry feels that driving that distance in this day and age is not a good thing to do. Jerry also mentioned the tourists with dogs that would visit. Jim feels the people that are coming here have probably driven hundreds of miles and it would not be a burden to drive another 9-18 miles to get to a dog park and they are probably going to drive to Sister Bay and around the County anyway.

Karen Smuda mentioned that it seems the people who are seasonal residents aren't being taken into consideration. She feels there are a lot more that have their dogs licensed somewhere else.

Jolynn has some concerns about it too and she is a dog owner. The main concern is the cost. We already have a park that we're trying to fix and to beautify that would benefit everyone, not just dog owners, and we're debating whether or not we should do it or what we can do with it. She's not saying she would use the dog park or wouldn't use it, but \$18,000 is a lot of money. Location is huge too. She feels the cemetery was bought to be a cemetery. Jim Rossol is absolutely against the dog park being anywhere near the cemetery. He feels it would destroy the entire setting.

One other point Jolynn would like to make is that you have to drive to go places when you live in Door County. The closest pharmacy is 9 miles or 18 miles away. The closest grocery store is 8 miles or 9 miles away. In Door County, things are not two blocks away like they are in the city.

Karen asked how many people use the soccer field. Pat stated a lot of people, though he's not sure how many from Baileys Harbor specifically. Jerry said it seems like money can be spent on any other kind of recreation, but when it comes to dog owners, "screw 'em."

Pat stated for the record that the way the dog park proposal was delivered was a federal offense. It was stuck in his mailbox with no postage. Jerry agreed that was wrong.

Jolynn once again went back to the cost. There was nothing that talked about what kind of user fees would be charged, or any fundraising or grant activities. Jerry said the increase in the dog license fee would take care of that.

Jim stated we're going into the specifics of the plan when we haven't decided if Baileys Harbor needs a dog park. Jerry said if the Parks Committee is saying no, then say it.

Motion made by Jim Rossol for Baileys Harbor to have a dog park. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion made/second Jim/Pat for Baileys Harbor to not have a dog park. Motion carried.

Arlene Lis stated she doesn't understand how Baileys Harbor approved the condos being built, but can't approve a dog park. Barb Anschutz responded that it was an individual that was building the condos and not the town.

John Meredith of Lakeshores Landscape – Update on Anclam Park landscape plan – The entire package that is being sent off to the DNR is complete. It includes a site analysis, which is everything that goes on currently, such as storm water runoff, present invasive species, etc. The demolition plan shows where any silt fencing would have to be and takes account for storm water runoff. The grading plan includes cross sections of what's

being proposed. It mainly deals in elevation changes. Some of the existing riprap will try to be salvaged. The pavilion had to be moved because of the fireworks display. It will be near the grassy area by the beach. Jim suggested that then the pavilion might be able to be used for concerts in the park with audience sitting in the grassy area. There will be several different soils. The hardscape plan goes over the driveways, the walkway, etc. John also has some 3-D pictures, but wasn't able to bring them tonight due to issues with the computer. John would like to see an asphalt driveway. Concrete would be the ultimate, but would probably be very pricey. Jim was concerned the asphalt would be harsh looking, but John explained it would probably blend in a bit better than concrete. The path was about 6,000 square feet.

John will need to discuss certain things a bit further. The port-a-pier at the end of the jetty, for example, as well as the observation deck. Full access is the goal. There are some sections where the new culverts are going and the very end of the pier that John would like to see in dimensional stone. He'd like to have sort of a natural step down for people. Between John's report and Mike Till's report, there's a push towards the safety aspect of everything for the DNR. John explained that no-mow grass is being used, as it would eliminate a lot of maintenance. It's a finer grass, with thin blades. It's worked very well for Lakeshores. It requires low fertilizer. It likes a sandier soil. The outer edges are no-mow, the main lawn is no-mow. He would encourage not to mow certain sections, as it would help with crowd control and keep some borders. Jim knows someone that has no-mow and he wouldn't be proud of the lawn. He feels we can spend a little time mowing the lawn. He feels a normal grass seed would be higher quality. John encouraged him to go look at what they use. There are some that are clumpier with less variety. It's easy enough to switch the seed. Jim will go to John's shop to investigate.

John is suggesting that a line for the fire truck be buried for the fireworks display. If there is a buried line that they could hook into, it would save a lot of problems and time for the fire department. There are a few items, such as this, that will need to be talked about with the Committee and the Town Board.

As for the DNR, John won't actually be presenting the plans in person, but all the plans, plus a narrative will be sent. John read through the narrative. A copy of the plans and the narrative are available for review in the Town Clerk's office. From the time the applications are turned in, it's about 60 days for approval or denial. We may have to appeal, if the DNR denies any permits. Doug will work with John on the permitting process.

Jim feels the Parks Committee made a good decision by selecting Lakeshores Landscape. Parks Committee likes the plan. Town Board will take a look at the plan now. John will stop by Doug's office to cover permit forms. Doug will let John know when the Town Board can take a look at the plan.

Accept Treasurer Report – Motion made/second Jolynn/Pat to accept the report. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

Set date for Committee to visit all Town parks – October 8 at 5:00PM.

Recommendations for next month's agenda – Budgets will be on the agenda. Doug will talk to Jim as the date draws closer.

Motion made/second Pat/Jim to adjourn at 8:16PM. Carried.

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

Douglas Smith  
Town Clerk