

**Town of Windermere
Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020**

Members Present: Doug Bowman, Nora Brophy, Tracy Mitchell, Lesha Miller, Frank Krens

Others Present: Scott Brown, Bob McKinley

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Nora Brophy. She noted that a quorum was present to approve official business.

Open Forum: Nora recognized 5 town residents that moved to the podium to address the committee for Fernwood Park feedback. Angela Withers first addressed the committee about Fernwood and the plan to propose a boardwalk for the residents to enjoy. Her primary concern was disturbance of the wetlands in this area. Jim Willard then addressed the committee expressing his desire to delay the proposed Fernwood boardwalk until some ideas regarding better controlling Bird Island were resolved. He set no timeframe for when these might be implemented, and noted he had no objections to a more modest sized boardwalk and downsizing the seating. He also expressed some concern about pedestrian safety if the boardwalk were located too close to vehicular traffic. Next to speak was Ron Tegler who expressed his concerns about park policing enforcement with a new boardwalk, and infringement on wildlife posed by the boardwalk. Council Member Liz Andert spoke and gave her contact info to any attendees that wanted to provide outside feedback to her. 5th to speak was Tom Stroup. He articulated the need to find solutions to the existing Police issues at Fernwood. He indicated that this park gets the highest number of police calls which are mostly related to park users going to Bird Island. Additional ideas were batted around in the discussion about separating the Boat ramp from the rest of the park. Jim Willard re-approached the podium and expressed his support for a ramp users only designated area, but other residents including Angela Withers opposed that idea. Jim Willard then expressed that if the committee were agreeable, he would have a boardwalk counterproposal design proposed by the residents drawn up for review by July 2, 2020. Frank Krens concurred with that idea, and the rest of the committee agreed to Jim's offer for a counterproposal boardwalk design by that date, and notify Jim Willard in writing of this offer acceptance.

After the residents departed, the committee discussed the general consensus from the feedback. It was generally agreed that most residents were fine with a boardwalk, but with some re-review of the boardwalk size and scope. In regards to the existing park issues, the committee concurred that a boardwalk would not exacerbate those issues, and that a boardwalk would have minimal impact on this issue. The current Fernwood policing issues are related mostly to Bird Island, and Chief Ogden will handle those issues appropriately in the opinion of the committee.

Based on this and the time sensitivity, the committee agreed on the recommendation to spend \$4k for the boardwalk permit with the understanding that boardwalk size changes

can be made to the original concept after a review of the forthcoming resident proposal on/after July 2nd.

Business Agenda

Old Business/Events

- A.** 18th Annual Run Among the Lakes –Frank agreed to send the 2021 “event manager” RFP draft for review for the next PR meeting
- B.** Tennis Updates – Doug mentioned that the turnout for the first kid’s tennis camp at WRC was very good. MG Tennis is following very strict protocol which Doug observed on June 8th. The committee also agreed to table the adult tennis mixers until further consideration in the Fall.
- C.** Halloween Costume Parade – Doug mentioned that obviously holding the Oct 2020 event as it’s been structured in the past appears to be problematic. Doug noted that he would be open for ideas from any committee members. Nora asked to table further discussion until the next meeting.
- D.** General Parks – Bob indicated that he has been working on a park keys policy draft that applies to both tennis court and boat ramp usage. This stems from the fact that some residents are giving away park keys to non-residents which is causing issues. Bob will send the policy draft to the committee for the next meeting.

New Business

- A.** Minutes Approval – Meeting minutes from March 12, 2020 were unanimously approved as submitted
- B.** Liaison Reports – Bob McKinley mentioned that the July 4th Pancake Breakfast is a go as of this date.
- C.** Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 9th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall.