

**Town of Windermere  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes/Notes  
October 8, 2020**

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

**Others Present:** Scott Brown, Bob McKinley, Robert Smith

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

**Business Agenda**

**Public Resident Comments**

- Stephen Withers – Planned Fernwood walkway is too big, and agrees to expand boat dock area rather than build walkway, and benches with lake view seating would be nice additions
- Jim Willard – Sees Bird Island as an ongoing issue, vehicle pedestrian impacts, and staying out of wetlands as issues for the opposed Fernwood walkway
- Anna Clonts – Opposed to Fernwood walkway impacting wetland areas
- Ron Tegler – Believes that cost to double size of Fernwood boat dock is roughly \$7k

**Old Business/Events**

- A. 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Run Among the Lakes – Nora indicated that many 2020 packets have not been picked up. She mentioned a tentative April 10, 2021 date for the 2021 event
- B. Halloween Candy Caravan Sat, oct. 31<sup>st</sup> – Nora noted that she is working on a printable caravan route to include the Mayor and Police Chief. The caravan will meet at Town Hall at 9:45 am and follow the local route until Noon. The bags will be stuffed on October 28<sup>th</sup> by the Windermere Active Youth Committee (WAYS). The Police Foundation will be providing glow sticks in addition to the candy bags for the kids on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The group indicated a need to hire a photographer for the event. Lesha Miller made a motion to spend up to \$200 for a photographer, and this was seconded and approved by the committee. The committee agreed that Jennifer Roper is first choice and Bob will approach her to work that day.
- C. Kayak Storage – Frank Krens introduced George Poelker who developed the idea of kayak storage at one of the town parks. The goal of the initiative is to improve resident access for small non motorized watercraft on the lakes. Mr. Poelker estimated the cost of a kayak structure at around \$1500. Ideas of where to locate the kayak storage were tossed around with no consensus. The

committee asked Mr. Poelker and Frank Krens to develop more of a plan and come back to a meeting in the near future.

- D.** Tennis – Doug Bowman noted that a town resident is still having problems with non resident tennis pros bumping residents on the courts. Doug mentioned that he had asked the resident to take pics of the pro so they can be identified, and possibly have the Town Manager counsel with them to stop this issue.
- E.** Fernwood (Frank Krens) – Frank asked the committee to come back and consider a list of suggestions he had for the park. He noted that he agreed with some of Jim Willard’s ideas including the idea of expanding the boat dock. He asked that a copy of these suggestions be attached to the meeting minutes. Doug Bowman concurred that this would be the case per below – “Inputs to the Parks/Rec Meeting” addendum.

More discussion ensued around the plans for Fernwood Park. Doug Bowman asked to convene a working meeting at the park within the next 30 days pending coordinated scheduling. The committee agreed to do this to develop a workable plan.

#### **New Business**

- A.** Minutes Approval – Meeting minutes from September were unanimously approved as submitted based on motion approvals.
- B.** Liaison Reports – Bob McKinley had no formal Liaison report although he mentioned that a boathouse lease plan (near Palmer Park) will need to be developed at some point.
- C.** Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

#### Inputs to Parks/Meeting - Addendum

##### Frank Krens’ Recommendations:

1. Storm-water Control - Replace the berm that used to border the lake and that was removed years ago. This would help reduce run-off into the lake and provide a small elevation for a sitting / viewing platform. Modify the boat ramp and dock entrance area to restrict run-off. Integrate this into a comprehensive storm-water control / retention plan for the park, 7th Ave, and Butler Street.

2. Parking - Establish and clearly mark parking spaces, using RR ties and granite gravel.
3. Sitting / Lake View Area - Install on the berm a platform like Jim Willard's drawing shows, but separated from the dock by about 30 feet. Move it to the West, hugging the edge of the wetlands. It would be behind two of the trees and rest on top of the replaced berm. There is a mostly clear view of the lake from there, and shade during most of the day.
4. Landscaping - Install and maintain low-growing native plants along the shoreline in the wetlands.
5. Lake Debris - Clean up all the invasive species, dead trees, and the mess the whole length of the park and maintain it.
6. Boat Launch / Lake View - Extend the existing boat dock 20 feet to the West. This would double the space for temporary boat tie-ups and sitting / viewing. Add another bench or two.
7. Large / Occasional Lake View Area - Consider creating and maintaining a path along the lake for 50 - 100 feet west of the sitting / viewing platform, with a few places for people to put chairs where there is a clear view of the lake. This would be a low-cost way to provide lots of viewing space for the boat parade. Make it clear where the path ends and that further passage is prohibited.
8. Adopt-a-Park Program - Consider an "Adopt a Park" program for Fernwood and other Town parks. Other towns and counties (including New Smyrna Beach and Orange County – see links) have done that with success.

<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/CultureParks/AdoptAParkProgram.aspx#.X379sC9h2qA>

<https://www.cityofnsb.com/1064/Adopt-a-Park>

9. George Poelker's Kayak Storage Rack

Questions and Concerns:

1. Will Fernwood be used as a storm debris transfer station again?