

FINAL

Village of Grand Beach
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
April 10, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Slater (Chair); Amy Slater; Blake O’Halloran; Ed Trainor; Sheila McGinnis; Ed Brandes;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Hanley; Keiran McHugh

SPECIAL GUEST(S): Tricia Bulson, GIS Specialist, Abonmarche

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: by Chair Steve Slater at 6:00 pm EST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Agenda adopted on motion made by Ed Brandes, seconded and approved

MOTION TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF A CERTAIN AGENDA ITEM: At the suggestion of Steve Slater and on motion made by Ed Brandes, seconded and approved, it was agreed that the agenda would be altered to immediately address the issue of the upgrade of the 5 year plan and to hear a special presentation of Ms. Tricia Bulson of the Abonmarche firm on the subject.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REPORTS

- **5 Year Parks & Recreation Plan Rewrite (New Business category):** At Steve Slater’s invitation, Ms. Tricia Bulson, project lead for the Abonmarche firm on this project, participated in the meeting. Ms. Bulson handed out a proposed schedule for the completion of the project, including key project milestones. Ms. Bulson indicated that the overarching goal was to complete the project no later than February 2020 in order to meet applicable legal and administrative requirements and position the Village to launch grant request proposals next year. Questions and comments followed, particularly on the timing of the release of a planned Parks & Recreation questionnaire to all Village residents. The questions and comments centered on the subject of: the communications program around the release of the questionnaire; the contents of the questionnaire; and the timing and sequence of key project milestones such as the deadline for the questionnaire response, the mandatory meeting to collect input from all Village residents and final, formal approval of the Village Board. There was general agreement that the questionnaire in its final form should be released to all Village residents no later than June 30th. In response to a question, Steve Slater promised to follow up with Mary, the Village Clerk, whether it was necessary to secure Village Board approval of the contents of the questionnaire. At the end of the discussion, Steve requested that all members of the Committee review the contents of the draft questionnaire prepared by Abonmarche and provide him with specific comments and proposed changes by no later than April 30th.

- **Beach/Lakefront Plan:** Ed Trainor and Steve Slater led a discussion regarding a draft '*Beach/Lakefront Plan and Policy*' document that they developed for the purpose of creating a formal policy to acknowledge the strategic value of core assets such as the Village's beaches and put in place written standards, plans and rules for maintaining these resources in such a way as to ensure maximum enjoyment of these resources by all Village residents and their guests. The proposal included a draft beach/park weekly inspection checklist to be completed on a regular basis by the Village's maintenance staff. There were significant questions, comments, and suggestions raised by various Committee members present regarding the proposed Plan. Shortly thereafter, Steve Slater asked all Committee members to provide him with additional comments and suggestions on the draft policy. He also indicated that shortly after the meeting, he would reach out to Deborah Lindley and ask her to place the Plan on the agenda for the upcoming Village Board meeting on April 17th.
- **Pickleball Courts:** There were no specific updates provided by Blake O'Halloran, but there was some general discussion about the potential location of new pickleball courts.
- **Additional Royal Street Park Plan/Updates:** Amy Slater reported out that she recently met with parks and playground equipment consultant Rich Sinclair, Vice President for Sinclair Recreation, LLC. Mr. Sinclair is a local representative for the sale and service of GameTime play equipment. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the current state of the playground equipment at the Village's Royal Street park in preparation for a potential upgrade of this equipment. Amy reported that the equipment was last upgraded over 25 years ago and based on the input she received from Mr. Sinclair at their on-site meeting, there is a great deal of potential for better, safer, more handicapped-accessible equipment on that site. Questions and comments and further suggestions followed Amy's presentation. She indicated that she is in the process of developing a written plan along these lines for future consideration by the Committee.
- **White Creek Mitigation:** No updates available.
- **Grant Efforts:** Ed Brandes updated the Committee on his efforts to put together a data base capturing all the relevant information about grant funding sources available. He handed out a rough draft of a spreadsheet and requested further input from individual committee members regarding the layout of the spreadsheet, the data fields captured, and additional potential funding sources as they become known. There followed a general discussion, including a number of specific suggestions about potential future grant funding sources for the Village.

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- **42 Acres – Communication Plan & Fundraising Plan:** Sheila McGinnis reported out that a special event planning committee meeting was scheduled for April 20th, in preparation for a fundraising event which was tentatively scheduled for July 6, 2019. Sheila is currently in the process of reaching out to potential committee members. A significant number of comments, suggestions and questions followed, particularly on the subject of potential fundraising vehicles (e.g. donor-specific benches, plaques, trees, trail naming rights). The fundraising suggestions also included the potential for a special auction and development of a donor recognition program based on the size of individual monetary contributions.
- **42 Acres – DEQ Submittals:** Steve Slater reported that he recently spoke to Mario Ortega of the McKenna consulting firm. Mario is the project lead for the Village’s efforts to eventually access the DEQ funds which have been earmarked for the Village’s acquisition of the 42 Acres. Steve reported that the Village is ready to proceed right now. However, per Mario, the Village is currently in “stand by” mode on this project while the DEQ fulfills all of its legal and administrative requirements for the disbursement of the funds. There followed additional comments and questions, particularly on the subject of how the market appraisals for the parcel would turn out, and whether and to what extent the Village would ultimately have to come up with the full \$488,000 to fulfill the program match requirements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Village Facility Tour:** Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 AM (Central) – MEET AT VILLAGE HALL
2. **Update on Capital Plan – Status of Budget**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Beach Policy Review and Approval:**
2. **Upcoming: Next Parks & Rec Committee Meeting on May 8 at 5:00 pm (Central)**

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: N/A

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: On motion made by Steve Slater, seconded and approved at 7:45 pm (EST)

Respectfully Submitted: Edward P. Brandes; Meeting Secretary