

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Mariners Park Project Development ad hoc meeting on May 3, 2021
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve minutes: 4/5/2021
5. Public input
6. Update on activities at Mariners Park at Gills Rock
7. Discussion and possible action: 5-year plan
8. Discussion and possible action: Presentation/report for Parks and Property Committee
9. Correspondence
10. Future meetings
11. Adjourn

Chair Cathy Ward called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Committee members Rick Johnson, Paul Schwengel, and Mike Bahrke were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell and 11 members of the public via teleconference (Zoom).

Schwengel moved, Johnson second to approve the agenda as posted. It was clarified that the preliminary plan reviewed at the last meeting would be included in the discussion of the 5-year plan (#7). Passed 4-0. Committee member Sylvann Welcome connected to the meeting.

Johnson moved, Bahrke second to approve the 4/5/2021 minutes with the phrase “preliminary concept plan” to replace “preliminary map” in the Activity update section. Passed 5-0.

Public Input – Carl Zapffe, Ellison Bay, stated that the decision-making process for this park has become a top-down process, and reiterated his opinion that the citizens are not being heard. Steve Eatough, Sister Bay, indicated that the current approach is piece-meal and an overall plan should be created as part of the recommendation. Ed Koznarek, Ellison Bay, asked where the safe harbor concept came from and requested minutes be available online sooner. Nancy Goss, Ellison Bay, stated that safety and maintenance are the top priorities and this past year high water damage was the focus and the buildings are not salvageable. The Town incurred debt to preserve these parcels from development, as requested by the Town Electors. A “Friends of the Park” group can be formed to raise funds to assist in a more rapid result for this park. Kalms noted that the committee has examined various aspects of the park and have had to focus on significant items such as high water and the 2-year occupancy of the house. The preliminary concept plan is being reviewed, it has not been selected for the recommendation. Welcome indicated that there are no nefarious goals, the committee is attempting to move forward and consider the options as they are brought forth. Ward stated that the citizen plan was considered by this committee as well as the Parks and Property committee; it was rejected in whole because it would not work as it was originally presented. The landscape architects have agreed that a phased approach will be appropriate after the buildings are removed which is what was approved at the Annual Meeting.

Activity update – Schwengel reported that the penning of Salmon would not be affected. The DNR would examine the potential effect on other species spawning during the permitting process if breakwater work is needed.

5-year plan – The preliminary concept plan was reviewed and the following items were noted:

- There is a boat launch very close, the safe harbor/transient slips could be beneficial without the boat launch.

- The neighboring marina rarely has vacant slips, these slips could provide a safe location during a storm.
- A launch ramp will likely invite a parking issue.
- This preliminary concept plan was created because the Waterway Commission requires a plan to start a discussion.
- Would Waterways consider funding a safe harbor only, or will they require a launch ramp?
- The removal of buildings will allow a better visualization for future plans.
- The park is too small for several paths, but one could be included along the water in the next draft.

The phased plan draft was reviewed, and the following items were noted:

- A temporary sign location will be determined
- Removal of buildings (\$60,000) and dock repairs (\$100,000) could be in the 2022 budget request
- Restrooms will realistically be significantly more than \$30,000. Waterways may assist depending on proximity to the harbor.
- Add a planning budget of \$5,000 to Phase Two to allow for plan drafts to be created.

Correspondence – None

The next Mariners Park Project Development ad hoc meeting will be on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Johnson moved, Ward second to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 5/17/2021 Mariners Park Development ad hoc Committee meeting