

Approved: June 19, 2018

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PARKS AND LANDS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order: Laurie Buske, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Members Present: Laurie Buske stated that a quorum of the committee was present.
Members present: Laurie Buske, Dwayne Daubner, Bonnie Ansley, and Tom Thurman
Absent (Excused): Brian Hackbarth

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Sara Lancaster verified the agenda had been properly noticed.

Motion: (Daubner, Ansley) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried.

Boat Trailer Parking Lot Retention Pond Landscape Plan:

Buske stated the goal tonight is to gather positive feedback regarding the retention pond area landscaping.

Dick Skare said he invited Jason Feldman of Jason Feldman Landscapes who did work for Northern Sky Theater to offer input and answer landscape related questions. Skare restated the goal of the meeting is to gather ideas for the landscaping. Skare said the 356 trees cleared have been logged and will be repurposed in the project (i.e. he gave the example of a privacy fence between the parking lot property and Stubenvoll property) and would like to have a preliminary landscape plan in place that goes beyond the minimum landscape requirements prior to going for the conditional use permit.

Thurman asked Skare to clarify if any other privacy fencing has been requested. Skare said no other requests had been made at that time, but the materials are available if needed.

Bob Spielman questioned the distance between the edge of the pond to the back of the condo property line. Buske suggested the distance be noted in the plan so it is clear. Spielman added he would prefer a natural buffer or barrier instead of a fence.

Ansley asked if anyone from the condos was in attendance (at this time there was not). Ansley said she would like to know their wants and requests, especially regarding what type of buffer or barrier they would prefer.

Buske said she questions building walls or fences as barriers in a natural park setting. She suggested using native, natural options that would also create a beneficial habitat for wildlife.

Mike Wickman asked if the plan would be sent out for multiple bids. He also mentioned his residence as an example of a successful natural barrier. He also suggested seeking 3-D renderings and virtual tours of the final design. Buske restated that tonight is to gather information only and couldn't comment at this time whether or not the Town would or wouldn't seek multiple bids, or in what format, but would take the suggestions into consideration.

Jason Feldman of Jason Feldman Landscapes, 1309 Utah Street, Sturgeon Bay, said he is a landscape designer and horticulturist, not a landscape architect. However, he is still extremely knowledgeable in native and non-native plants and could provide information about specific plants and offer suggestions for natural barriers. Feldman said his experience shows the benefits of natural barriers outweigh those of non-natural barriers.

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Thurman added there needs to be consideration about plant type and planting location, and how those plants benefit or hinder maintenance of the pond landscape, soil erosion, and water quality. Buske referenced the packet from the DNR about waterway/pond water quality made available at the meeting for additional information on this topic.

Feldman said having a long-term maintenance plan (5 to 10 years recommended) with funds for maintenance in place before beginning the project should be a top priority and included in all bids. Buske added this is also important because of the time it takes for perennial plants to become established. Feldman noted there needs to be a plan for invasive species that come into the landscaped area. Skare added these ideas and the option of taking a natural approach (limiting the use of pesticides, using natural barriers, use of native plants, etc.) with the landscape/pond plan could be beneficial to the Town as a stepping stone for the Fish Creek Watershed restoration project.

Ansley asked about waterflow and aeration within the pond to ensure the water is moving. Buske added the type of mosquito control in and around the pond (i.e. a pesticide vs. aerator approach) as well as weed control in any potential gravel- or mulch-covered areas in the perimeters of the parking lot need to be considered due to potential run off. Feldman recommended not using chemicals/synthetic pesticides because the pond is acting as a filtering pond and in his experience has recommended a more natural approach in these situations.

Thurman asked Peter VanSistine (in attendance on behalf of the condo association) what type of barrier the condo association would prefer. VanSistine said they would prefer natural barrier/buffers over fencing/man-made barriers/buffers. Condo association's main goals are to block the view of the parking lot, as well as light and sound from the parking lot (specifically buses and trolleys). In regards to the pond, the condo association would leave the decision/need for landscaping and a privacy barrier/buffer up to the landscape architects.

Ansley asked about town noise ordinances regarding overnight parking and the running of RV/diesel vehicles. This might be something to look into when considering appropriate landscape buffers.

Bob Spielman asked about the trees shown in the plan presented at the meeting. Suggested a double row, partial double row, or staggered row that includes some taller trees over 5' tall. Buske said that part of the plan should be marked as a high priority concern. Buske added smaller trees are usually preferred so the roots become well established and for cost effectiveness. Wickman mentioned the natural barrier he put in at 4086 Main Street uses large arborvitae and may be an example of planting larger trees the committee might want to consider.

Ansley asked Peter Van Sistine whether a fountain or pond aeration would produce too much noise. VanSistine said no. Mary VanSistine added the concern is with noise generated from buses or trolleys, not the pond.

Daubner said the next steps will be to summarize the suggestions from tonight and submit them to the Town Board. Buske added it would be nice for the Town Board to seek multiple bids to get a variety of ideas.

Mary VanSistine asked about whether a lighting plan is in place and would be included in the landscaping plan. Buske said tonight was just about the landscaping plan around the pond, not the parking lot.

Ansley summarized priorities and input gathered from tonight's meeting:

- using natural barriers/buffers where needed vs man-made barriers/buffers
- using a natural, pesticide-free maintenance approach
- planting native plants
- pond aeration to minimize mosquitoes and maintain water quality (using a natural approach if possible)
- Seeking multiple bids for the project
- For overall landscape plan, consider/look into using plants to buffer noise and light in addition to sight lines between the parking lot and the condos.

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Adjourn: *Motion: (Daubner, Ansley) to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Lancaster

Administrative Assistant
Town of Gibraltar