

Village of Grand Beach
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

April 9, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pete Doerr (Chair); Ed Brandes; Gary Kagan; Judith Blackburn; Norm Cherrett **Absent:** Jerry Dyson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pete Doerr at 5:00 pm;

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: On motion made by Kagan and seconded by Brandes, the minutes of the Committee meeting of January 9, 2024 were approved as drafted.

OLD BUSINESS (2024 initiatives):

Jensen Court (Lake Street) beach access development update: Chairman Doerr updated the Committee regarding progress on a special initiative to sell a resident family part of the Village-owned parcel around Jensen Court in order to raise revenue for construction of stairs leading to the beach and an ADA compliant viewing platform.

Golf Cart Parking/Signage: Doer confirmed that mock signage for golf cart parking and access was approved by the Village Council. In addition, signage connected to street-specific beach access points was also approved. The goal is to make access point parking availability clear and accessible to all Village residents and visitors;

Pokagan Funding for Special Projects: Doer confirmed that there is approximately \$50,000 in a Village-controlled commercial account which represents the accumulation of quarterly donations by the Pokagan Fund. Pete reminded the Committee that the funds are unrestricted and might be available to fund Parks & Recreation initiatives such as new playground equipment with the approval of the Village Council.

43 Acres: Doerr confirmed that since the work on the Village Master Plan was close to final, it is time to convene a workgroup to study ways to optimize utilization of the undeveloped parcel and make specific recommendation to the Committee and the Village Council for short and long-term improvements. Doerr confirmed that Gary Kagan was willing to serve as lead for the work group and recruit additional volunteers with interest or subject matter expertise. There followed general discussion around developing a strategic plan for improving this parcel and accessing the funds necessary to do it, including potential funding through the Village's capital fund.

Viewing Platform Developments: Doer updated the Committee on the current progress of six (6) different projects (Ely, Whitewood, Pine, Walnut, Robin Lane, and Jenson Court) to build out viewing platforms and/or build stairs connected to existing platforms to allow pedestrian access to the beach. Thereafter, on motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved a recommendation to the Village Council to contract with an outside firm for the installation of aluminum stairs to the beach off of the existing viewing platform at Ely at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. In addition, on motion made and seconded, the Committee approved a motion to make a separate recommendation to the Council of

installing a set of aluminum stairs connected to the existing wooden viewing platform at Whitewood , at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.

Royal Street Playground Equipment update: Norm Cherrett updated the Committee on the progress of acquiring and installing a new merry-go-round and teeter-totter. Cherrett is in the process of soliciting vendor bids which should be completed soon. Then he will be in a position to make specific purchase recommendations to the Committee and ultimately, the Village Council.

Part-time summer beach maintenance employee: Doerr confirmed that arrangements have been made to hire a part-time, temporary Village employee to help maintain the beaches this summer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fireworks: Ed Brandes solicited input from the Committee on the potential of 4th of July fireworks being sponsored by the Village. There was discussion and general support for the idea. Committee members emphasized the need to nail down important event details such as: funding, lighting, clean-up, insurance, police support, safe access to the beach, providing a safe launching zone for setting off the fireworks, and planning in advance to avoid the possibility of competing fireworks being launched on the beach by private parties at the same time the Village is launching fireworks.

Other (?): None

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: Patrick Shannon and Cosmo Briatta

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 9 @ 5:00 pm (EST)

ADJOURNMENT: On motion, made by Ed Brandes seconded by Norm Cherett and approved thereafter at 5:37 pm ;

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Brandes, Meeting Secretary