



Cliff Walk Commission 2015 -Year End Report to the City Council

Following are current commissioners and their attendance records for the 11 Cliff Walk Commission meetings held in 2016:

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- ROBERT POWER: CHAIR (11 of 11 meetings)
- PETER JANAROS, VICE CHAIR (10 of 11)
- JOHN HIRSCHBOECK, SECRETARY (10 of 11)
- DAVID McLAUGHLIN (8 of 11)
- DAVE DOWNES (6 of 11)

OMBUDSMAN:

- WILLIAM COCHRANE

CITY REPRESENTATIVE:

- SCOTT WHEELER, BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERVISOR/TREE WARDEN

SUMMARY OF YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Major Accomplishments

- Collaborated with the city on the procurement of \$600,000 in additional state and federal funding and subsequently approved plans for additional hurricane Sandy repairs between 40 Steps and Webster Avenue. Construction will begin in spring, 2016.

MOTIONS PASSED:

1. Passed a motion supporting a green infrastructure initiative at Marine Avenue approved by council.
 2. Passed a NO SMOKING motion approved by council and then posted along the Walk.
 3. Passed a motion advising council and city manager of a proposed fence that could obstruct passage with recommendation to pass on to CRMC for review.
 4. Passed a motion that engraved caricatures not be allowed on new memorial benches. A new policy regarding design restrictions was subsequently implemented **by the city.**
- Explored legal status of rights of way along the Walk with CRMC.
 - Developed and implemented a smart phone accessible Trail Marker Program with 16 QR coded points of interest along the walk.

- Secured \$6,000 in Trail Marker sponsorships. Funds were contributed to a restricted Cliff Walk fund administered by the city.
- These funds were then used to develop two permanent Cliff Walk maps and displays at entrance and 40 Steps that will be installed in spring, 2016.
- Monitored cliff face reinforcement of the Menco property fully paid for by the homeowner.
- Recommended that the “love locks” on fences be painted black to be less intrusive. Eventually, all locks were removed in late fall.
- Oversaw the private purchase and installation of 3 additional memorial benches.
- Monitored the new “Pay & Display” parking on Narragansett Ave.
- Recommended additional parking pay station for 2016.
- Participated in the “What’s Out There” weekend sponsored by the Cultural Landscape Foundation featuring tours along the Walk.
- Designed and fielded an Economic Impact Survey with Salve Regina. Results due spring, 2016.
- Reviewed landscaping options of eroded ground in front of 40 Steps restrooms and recommend solutions as part of additional repairs schedule for 2016.
- Planted an additional 25,000 daffodils along the Walk.
- Monitored on-going maintenance and rights of way along the Walk throughout the year.

Acknowledgements

The CWC would like to thank Scott Wheeler, Newport’s Building, & Grounds Supervisor, and Ombudsman Bill Cochran, for their many contributions to the Committee and their steadfast involvement support and guidance through the year.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hirschboeck
CWC Secretary
1/4/16