



Cliff Walk Commission
Approved Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2018
5:15pm: Newport Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE

Commission Members: Lesley Brooking Elms, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros (Chair), Dave McLaughlin

City of Newport: Scott Wheeler, Building & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden

Citizens: Leigh Schoberth, Preservation Policy Associate – PSNC; Graham Balog, Megan Wicander, Tyler D'errico, Alexander Carver, Sam Sacco = Salve Regina

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from January 17, 2018 were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Salve Regina Economic Impact Survey Status

Peter J. Thanked Professor Sacco and the Salve students for their work on the Economic Impact Survey that they are in the process of updating, stressing the importance of the Survey to the Commission and to the City of Newport. A draft of the report will be presented to the CWC in April. Dave suggested the findings be presented as part of a shorter April CWC meeting. All agreed, and Dave will contact Salve to arrange a location for Wednesday, 4/18 at 5:15pm.

B. Status of final repairs between 40 Steps to Ruggles

The only remaining work includes the replacing the permeable aggregate surface in front of the restrooms by the contractors and new handrails at Narragansett and Webster, which will now be installed by City staff.

C. Various new signage

1. The sign at the end of the walk at Bailey's Beach will soon be installed.
2. An audit of missing blue street signs at various intersections with Cliff Walk will be conducted. Lesley will assist.
3. Additional directional signs at Ledge, Ruggles, perhaps Marine Ave. will be considered. John will provide Scott with the balance of the CW restricted fund, but primary funding will be pursued via a Trails grant request.
4. A complaint was received by City Council about how rugged the trail becomes south of Ruggles. Scott will see that warning signs are installed there and at Marine Avenue warning of rocky terrain ahead.
5. The issue of too many signs with too much different information was raised. It was suggested that future explorations as to how to better sign the entire walk should take place.

D. Maintenance issues

1. Railings at Ruggles and Anglesea. No action.
2. Restroom painting. Only one bid for \$23,400 was received. Funds will now be requested from Council for an all epoxy painting of the interiors before the summer season. Restrooms will be opened April 1, weather permitting.
3. Erosion behind the Breakers. No action.
4. Lesley reported that large puddles continue to form at Cliff Terrace. Scott will explore remedial action.

E. Marine Avenue G.R. I. P. infrastructure project; Seaview; Cliff Terrace; Bailey's Beach exit/entrance; other rights of way

Newport's application for GRIP funding just missed receiving EPA funding a few years ago. The application will now be re-submitted.

F. Concessions on the Walk and other infractions

Peter J. reported that he discussed adding a surveillance camera at 40 Steps with the NPD, as well as their continued vigilance of illegal concessions, graffiti and unleashed dogs.

G. New brass markers near Ledge Rd.

Scott advised that 17 new stamped brass markers would cost less than \$1,000 and could be funded through existing City funds.

H. Fund raising opportunities and other issues; result of meeting w/ City Manager and Peter J.

In terms of generalities:

1. The City Manager will explore the "Give by Cell" program with the city's IT Department to determine feasibility.
2. A second restroom on Shepherd was viewed positively, further west of Cliff Walk itself. Scott will contact Bill Hall at Salve to float the idea.
3. The CM did not favor concessions on the Walk.
4. Selling "I survived Cliff Walk" T-shirts on the Walk was questioned, though earlier the design was viewed positively.
5. The CM did not favor contracting with a photographer to take pictures of the public for a fee.
6. Hospitality guide/restroom attendant(s) was dependent on self-funding, or perhaps on a volunteer basis. Peter J. will approach the City Manager again and suggest necessary funding be derived from parking meter revenue.

I. D.E.M. and R.I.D.O.T. "TIP" program; green economy bond, long term improvements to the Walk

No action.

J. Possible new entryway/exit to the Walk

The subject was raised with the City Manager, but no suggestions were offered.

K. Discover Newport phone number on CW site

Peter J. will contact Vic Farmer asking him to include the Discover Newport phone number for inquiries from his CliffWalk.com website.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. HEZ/Boys & Girls Club visits to the Walk

Dave M. will contact Bill Corcoran to explore transportation options during the summer for various youth groups.

B. Adopt (a) Spots

1. Clean Ocean Access at Marine Ave/Belmont Beach

Dave M. is securing support from *Protect our Wildlife* group and will advise.

2. Flower beds at 40 Steps

Newport in Bloom will be exploring the feasibility of planting and maintaining annuals in the larger chained off area in front of the restrooms. Other options could be via Salve and/or the Bellevue/Ochre Ct. Neighborhood Association. John will report back.

The other daffodil flower bed next to the wall has been seeded. Either the daffodils will be cut back after regeneration or John will attempt to plant wildflower seed to see if such flowers could survive along with the daffodils.

C. Invitation to PSNC and Salve to regularly attend CWC mtgs. – No action.

D. The Flower Poem

Received and commended by the CWC.

E. Clean Ocean Access Cliff Walk Report

The CWC expressed their appreciation to Dave M. and COA for their fine Photo Journal report and record of the entire Walk featuring 250 pictures. The report is now available on the City site.

F. New Cliff Walk sign at Memorial

The CWC thanked Scott and his crew for their initiative in creating and placing the new sign on Memorial Blvd.

G. Removal of graffiti at Miramar

Removing the graffiti can only be done at low tide. Since it's on concrete and difficult to access, it will simply be painted over when weather permits. Peter J. will explore requesting the vandal's \$2,000 fine be used to help offset the cost of the cleaning.

H. Overlook and benches

Peter suggested additional benches could be placed at the Overlook, but it was pointed out they would be directly facing the protective fence. John suggested public art might be a more attractive alternative. This item will be carried over.

I. Cracks in the Walk

Peter offered to explore crack sealing of certain areas of the Walk with Bill Boardman.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next CWC Meeting: 5:15pm, April 18, 2018 @ TBD, Salve Regina Univ.