



Cliff Walk Commission Minutes

August 19, 2015

5PM: Newport Public Library

Commission Members in Attendance: Dave Downes, John Hirschboeck, Peter Janaros, Dave McLaughlin, Bob Power (Chair)

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

I. MINUTES from 7/15/15 CWC meeting were approved.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Repairs between Webster St. and 40 Steps

Representatives of the National Park Service have conducted a site survey and a cooperative agreement will now appear on the 8/26 City Council docket along with the contract extension request for Commonwealth Engineering. Total costs for approval total approximately \$600,000. Work will commence in spring, 2016.

B. Summer maintenance update

Weekly mowing underway, including trimming at Pelican Lodge, however the owner did not allow cutting back on the waterside of the property.

C. Stone placement/unevenness south of the second tunnel

Dave M. and Dave D. will gather a work group together to secure the loose stones in October

D. Fencing Status resolution between Bailey's Beach and Ledge Road

As agreed to in the last CWC meeting, Dave M. has sent a notice with picture of the Walk at Pelican Lodge with the new fence that would have required CRMC approval. No response to date from the permitting department as to whether the permit was filed. Scott advised that the permit filing should be accessible.

E. Photo Journal documentation/mileage markers status

Dave M. will take a team out to photograph the Walk on September 8. Dave will contact the Boy Scouts regarding placing the markers.

F. CRMC rights of way at Marine Avenue and others, including Green Infrastructure

CRMC has requested the CWC support the appropriate right of ways along the Walk and will present their plans their green infrastructure project at a public forum in the fall. The CWC passed a resolution that encourages any responsibly sanctioned community organizations to adopt legal rights of way along the Walk. Clean Ocean Access has done so with the sponsorship of Marine Avenue, which the CWC endorses.

G. No smoking ordinance and sign placement

Signs have been placed. Larger “Breath Easy” signs have been placed on prominent locations along the Walk. Dave M. and Scott reported a significant reduction in cigarette “butts” at Queen Ann Square and Second Beach.

H. Trail Marker Program & Maps Status

John presented map copy to the commission for comments and will forward all agreed upon revisions to the designers for final layout.

The total Cliff Walk restricted fund now totals \$5,987. A portion of these funds will be used to print the two maps and purchase the “Pannier” stand at the Memorial Blvd. entrance and frame at the 40 Steps Restroom.

I. “Love Locks”

Bob suggested the City should develop an overall policy on all public memorials, including the “love locks” along the Walk.

The City has now painted the locks black per previous CWC agreement. The commission discourages their placement on the Walk, although the ultimate decision as to removing the locks and/or developing a policy on their prohibition now rests with the City Manager.

J. Menco property repairs

Soil testing was conducted July 22. These results will be used to help finalize design for construction this fall. Such construction should not interfere with safe passage.

K. Economic Impact Survey

John presented the current questionnaire. Minor modifications were suggested and the survey will now be fielded on Salve’s Community Volunteer Day September 8 and subsequent weekends. The focus will be on visitors, rather than locals and could then be repeated at different times of the year.

L. New memorial benches at Bailey’s and for Lori and John Adams

Scott presented a bench plaque design featuring a “photo etching” portrait of the deceased that was requested by her relatives. After extensive conversation, the CWC voted 3-2 not to allow such a deviation from the design norm, the specifications of which are outlined on the City’s official memorial bench request. Scott will also be reviewing the issue with the Parks and Open Space Committee.