

BOWERS HARBOR PARK EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting

March 2, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Present: Shipman, Snow, Swift, VanDenBrand.

Absent: Sanders, Foote, Gardner.

Approve Agenda

Motion: Swift/Snow to approve the agenda. MOTION PASSED.

BRIEF CITIZEN COMMENTS – FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bill Gittlen, 15063 Dunn. The public input meeting presentation was excellent.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Snow/Swift to approve the consent agenda. MOTION PASSED.

BUSINESS

A. Review public input received at or since February 23 meeting

The committee reviewed email comments sent both before and after the meeting, and reviewed a summary of comments made verbally at the public input meeting. A suggestion to amend the summary to include a comment regarding the adequacy of fencing recommendations was accepted.

B. Discuss final concept plan and phased development recommendation

The committee reviewed the concept plan and discussed final adjustments. Shipman to request final changes by Beckett & Raeder to both concept plan drawing and presentation.

C. Discuss process for recommendation to Park Commission

Motion by Swift, second by Snow *to recommend the final Proposed Concept Plan as amended to the Park Commission and to ask the Park Commission for a motion to adopt the plan as a guideline for development.* MOTION PASSED. Shipman to present recommendation to Park Commission.

The Committee also discussed the continuation of the committee now that the planning process has been completed.

Motion by Swift, second by Snow *to request that the Park Commission approve for the Bowers Harbor Park Expansion Committee to remain active to assist in implementation and planning for development of the park as the Bowers Harbor Park Advisory Committee.* MOTION PASSED. Shipman to present recommendation to Park Commission.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

MOTION: Snow/Swift to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Shipman,
Bowers Harbor Park Expansion Committee

These minutes stand to be approved at the next meeting of the BHP Expansion Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BOWERS HARBOR PARK
FINAL PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN**

Susan Eckert

Feb 3

Hi Susie. I've emailed you before about the park! I would still like the expansion to be as natural as possible. This is a world class natural area. I'd love to see walking paths, picnic areas with shade, playgrounds, with shade. Please no splash pads or artificial attractions. Possible solar lighting along paths...so exciting. Thank you from Florida 🌍 Susan Eckert

Linda Raetz

Feb 6

We live across the road from the expansion. People walk there every day, so I would like to see natural walking paths (no asphalt) for people and animals.
Thanks,
Linda Raetz

William Gittlen

Feb 24

To Members of the Harbor Park Expansion Committee:

Thank you for all of your hours and the excellent work you have done in preparing the Proposed Master Plan for Bowers Harbor Park. I especially like the manner in which you have envisioned a more active zone of recreation in the northern portion of the park, and a more natural zone for passive recreation in the southern portion.

The one improvement I would suggest is removing the second pavilion that is further from the parking area in the southern portion. Eliminating this structure would save taxpayers the costs of building it and the cost of mowing the nearby area. Leaving these grounds as natural meadow will improve the vistas from the southeast corner area and provide a more expansive zone for small creatures, with an uninterrupted connection between the forest and the meadow. The northern portion of our Old Mission Peninsula has the woods of the Lighthouse Park, and the base of the Peninsula has the Pellizari Natural Area, but currently the mid-portion of the peninsula has only Bowers Harbor. Also, having a large structure down the trail, away from the parking area, would promote gatherings that will disrupt the otherwise quiet zone of the park. With no trash collection, no adjacent toilet facility, and no water fountain, we can expect some people leaving trash and debris behind there. It would be more difficult to patrol, and I can see people choosing such a site for more rowdy gatherings.

Thank you for considering this suggestion, and for being willing to spend the time upfront to reflect on the various options so that we can create the best possible park.

Sincerely,
Bill Gittlen
15063 Dunn Drive

Sarah Campbell

Feb 27

Thank you for accepting this comment. It appears that the plan for the new addition to the Bowers Harbor Park preserves much of the natural beauty and relative quiet that currently abides there. This setting which nurtures contemplation and reflection is perfectly complemented by the older portion of the park with its generally more active, busy and (happily) noisy character. Towards that balance, I would like to suggest removing the second shelter/pavilion on the master plan for the new addition. Perhaps a bench or two along the trail would better serve. I am so glad the peacefulness of the new site will continue to be available for all to enjoy-- wonderful in every season but perhaps especially so in summer with its birdsong and butterflies and the sound of the wind blowing through the grasses and trees. My gratitude and thanks to you all for your efforts. Sarah Campbell

Notes from verbal comments at February 23 Public Input Meeting:

- Please include benches for the new loop
- Is a water source planned for the expansion area (answer – no)
- Consider a more rustic vs. modern style for pavilions
- Please provide shade for play areas, eg. sails that create shade
- Please work to eliminate spotted knapweed and transition to native grasses
- There are significant encroachment issues with neighboring properties – concerns about the adequacy of fencing to address encroachment
- Do we really need second larger multi-use pavilion? Perhaps the unrestricted views of natural area should not be impeded by a structure
- Hunting - is it allowed? Does DNR require that it be allowed?
- Please include play equipment that older children/young people can still enjoy (eg. current swings in north)
- Please provide periodic review of the implementation process (allow public to review progress, make suggestions)