Present at December 10th BPAC Meeting: Pete Uhry, Nancy Chapin, Greg Kramer, Darrin Wigglesworth, Lisa Beebe, Bill Rutherford and Lynne Davenport. Absent: JoAnn Messina, Frank Gorman, Mary Hull and Linnea Stenberg

1. The December Binney Park Advisory Committee meeting opened at 2:34pm with unanimous approval of the November meeting minutes by a motion from Lisa Beebe and seconded by Darrin Wigglesworth.

2. Conversation turned to working with the Department of Public Works to determine how best to influence the future landscaping of the northeast corner of Binney by the Perrot Traffic Island and across the road in the "Reading Room." Both areas will be disrupted by work on replacing the Sound Beach Avenue bridge this coming summer. The BPAC wishes to influence how re-landscaping will be accomplished - specifically what form it will take. Uhry, Wigglesworth and Rutherford will have a field meeting and report their suggestions for replanting this disturbed area to the whole committee. The BPAC will reach to DPW itself with the hope DPW can include BPAC recommendations in the bid to the bridge contractor. No contact has been made with DPW since Uhry’s meeting with Jim Michels in October when this topic was briefly explored.

3. Loop Trail: Darrin is issuing an RFP for phase #1 of the trail. The BPAC desires the first phase of the south end stone dust trail to start near the intersection of Arch and Wesskum Wood. However, the northern end point should not run fully up to Arch Street itself for safety reasons. In the future, the trail will veer east between the tennis courts and Wesskum Wood Road to a safer crossing point nearer the new bridge. Phase #1 of the trail would extend south along Arch Street to the SW corner of the park near the railroad tunnel and then run east to a point behind the baseball backstop near the south end bridge. The motion by Nancy Chapin and seconded by Lisa Beebe carried unanimously.

Phase #2 of the trail will incorporate continuing the walking path up the east side of the south end of the park. It will include a broader landscaping plan and be bid out later in 2020 or when the Wesskum Wood bridge is near completion. Nancy Chapin advocated establishing a short grass trail up the east side of the creek. Bill Rutherford encouraged more screening trees on the east side of the creek as a buffer where private property slopes to the park edge.

4. General Comments: All agreed that the removal of the overgrown yews and other plants has improved the general look in the park. The renovated island has been well received as has the work by the Park’s staff on the floral beds above the pond bridge and planting on the west side of the Club House.

Greg Kramer is to discuss the consequences of the "scenic road" plan with Joe Siciliano. At issue is what impact will such a road have on our design activities....not even guessing what impact it might have on plans for DPW and the Sound Beach Avenue bridge.
5. Nancy Chapin is to reach out to Al Monelli to determine how we might get help building the expensive terrace on the east side of the Club House. BPAC budgets would be sorely strained and we need support. Should Mr. Monelli not be able to help, we will likely go to some of the sport's groups. We have a printed plan and cost estimates for the terrace to share.

6. Using volunteers on future projects.... especially scouts and community service workers...will primarily be the charge of Mary Hull and Darrin Wigglesworth.

7. While all agreed that a Friends of Binney Park is a positive idea, most expressed a belief we should complete most of our committee projects first. However, since some names of volunteers have been captured, creating an email list of interested parties and sending out periodic updates might make sense. Lynne Davenport is to reach out to Nancy Caplan's daughter for names and Peter U has some from two volunteer days.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday February 4th at 2:30PM in the Parks Department second floor meeting room.

At this next meeting, we anticipate discussing: 1) a landscaping plan for the Reading Room and NE Corner. 2) approving the Loop Trail contract and 3) having some further directions about the Club House.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Uhry
BPAC Co-chair
Dec 16, 2019

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