

MINUTES

Park, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

5:45-7:00 p.m., Miller Community Center, Kids Room

Participants

Committee Members: Councilor Karen Paul, Chair, Ward 6 (KP)
Councilor Vince Brennan, Ward 3 (VB)
Councilor Bryan Aubin, Ward 4 (JF)

Staff: Jen Francis, Parks Planner, Parks & Recreation (JF)
Jesse Bridges, Director, Parks & Recreation (JB)
Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager (KS)
Nate Wildfire, Assistant Director, CEDO (NW)

Others: John Bossange, Parks & Recreation Commission (JB)
Barbara Heller, Heller + Heller (BH)
Eamonn Hutton, Sasaki Associates (EH)

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 3/12/13

- Meeting came to order at 5:54 p.m.
- Agenda approved as is (Brennan/Paul)
- Minutes approved (Brennan/Paul)

2) Public Forum

- No public comment

3) PIAP Update (Wildfire)

- PIAP: a process to determine how the city will utilize TIF funding within the Waterfront District
- 50 concept proposals were received on April 5, 2013
- First time a public process has been engaged to determine TIF use
- Learning from the process as it evolves to build improvements (concepts, criteria development)
- 3 deliberate meetings by the Public Investment Teams
 - All 50 proposals we scored
 - All proposals were placed online
 - Two open houses were held
 - 500-700 comments provided by public
 - Projects split into 3 categories (Moran, Special, Other)

- 29 projects are moving forward, many will seek to partner with each other and invite some who did not move forward into collaboration
- RFP for approved proposals is currently in draft and will be issued by the end of June
- 90 days to draft full proposals
- Members of the public are invited to submit a “Memo of Advisement” and these have come from different constituent groups
- Staff performing due diligence on approved proposals to ensure they have an opportunity to move forward – making sure they are TIF-eligible
- VB: Where are the Memos of Advisement located? They could spur conversation...
- NW: They will be posted online.
- JB: Is the decision system clear?
- NW: The system is set up, but needs to be made clearer. It would be helpful to do another barnstorming tour... everyone gets to vote on these in March.
- KP: Has a proposal for Moran that did advance. PIAP website was very good, easy to comment and see all of the projects.

4) Parks Master Plan Process & Dialogue (PMP Team/Francis)

- Presentation by Barbara Heller & Eamonn Hutton
- BH: What outcomes are important to consider?
- BA: One of the key things is really connecting with local communities, NPAs... making sure everyone is involved in the discussion from the get-go.
- VB: Think there are a lot of assets that we have that are currently under-utilized... what is the potential? Raising the awareness of the assets we have would be a great outcome. Small pocket parks should be recognized as contributors... certain areas do not have great access to assets. Strive for walkable access to parks.
- KP: Need to make parks accessible to everyone, improved lighting & safety within Parks. Calahan is a unique example of what I hope we can do more of in Burlington. We tend to focus on ways to use city funds for these projects - it would be good to find additional ways to fund future park improvements. What do people really want? What do we need? Finding ways to increase revenue, but not at the expense of excluding people who use parks for recreation, who are dependent on parks.
- BH: What are the major issues facing the department in the next five years?
- KP: Other than money?
- BA: One of the biggest things is the big path. When think of the parks it is the waterfront and the bike path.
- VB: Safety & blue light systems... on the bike path. Maintaining that concept within other parks? As a future plan. Making connections within the City, paths, trails, assets, etc.
- KP: I don't think that most people in Burlington understand the amount of responsibility the Department of Parks & Recreation has: programming, real estate... it is a lot of work. The buildings, the cemeteries... A huge percentage of Burlingtonians would not have organized sports activities without this work. Find ways to equitably generate the revenue. There is a lot to be covered by 40 full time staff. We want the City to look beautiful, but all of these things need to be done... a lot of demands & expectations without a lot of money.
- BA: How does our acreage stack up to other cities? Right now roughly 7 acres per 1000 (national standard it 10-12 acres per 1000), but this does not include the city's public open space lands.

5) Imagine City Hall Park Update (Bridges)

- Doreen & BCA has is working on fundraising for design development drawings. The estimate is \$80,000 for this project.

- Parks Foundation is actively in development
- A number of improvements have happened: retaining wall repairs, turf improvements, looking at modifying lot coverage rations to rewrite zoning language with active parks
- Balancing between what can we do to maintain the park in the short term, utilizing reasonable resources, but stabilize until Imagine can be constructed?
- Installing two Big Belly solar trash compactors next week, supported by a grant from CSWD. The units are \$6500 each, but greatly reduce staff time in pick up... and recycling will be mandatory in a couple years – this will introduce huge costs into the department. Big Bellies reduce emissions, staff time, incorporate recycling.

6) FY13 PFP Implementation Update, FY14 PFP Proposed Project List (Francis)

- Description of FY13 achievements, FY14 project list, budgets
- KP: Another ambitious list for FY14...
- JB: With Parks Master Plan & Bike Path rehab we are retaining Associate Parks Project Coordinator position for FY14. Leveraging grant awards in support of BIG grant and CCRPC grant.
- VB: When does Skatepark break ground?
- JB: In the fall. Bike path improvements are being coordinated... the city applied for a \$10 million TIGER grant for bike path on May 31.

7) Other items

- None

8) Confirmation of next meeting date

- Best meeting day tends to be Wednesday, second Wednesday of the month
- Next meeting dates:
 - July 10, 5:45-7:00, location TBD
 - August 21, 5:45-7:00, location TBD

9) Adjournment