

MINUTES

Park, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

4:00-5:15 p.m. Room 12, City Hall

Participants

Committee Members: Councilor Karen Paul, Chair, Ward 6 (KP)
Councilor Bryan Aubin, Ward 4 (BA)

Staff: Mari Steinbach, Director, Parks & Recreation (MS)
Jen Francis, Parks Planner, Parks & Recreation (JF)
Doreen Kraft, Director, BCA (DK)
Sara Katz, Assistant Director, BCA (SK)

Others: Jim Lockrigde, Ward 1 (JL)
Bill Lockwood, Ward 3 (BL)
Alison Lockwood, Ward 3 (AL)
Greg Roy, Ward 4 (GR)

1) Approval of agenda & 7/19/12 draft minutes

- Meeting came to order at 4:05 p.m. (Paul)
- Agenda approved as is; may take items out of order to accommodate presenters (Aubin)
- 7/19/12 minutes approved as is; bulleted format acceptable (Aubin)

2) Public Forum

- BL: Waterfront Park/Finance Triathlon great success... \$4m in economic infusion, RunVermont charged \$150 per entrant in excess of 3,700 participants. On what basis has the City set the \$5,000 rental fee and would it be appropriate to appropriate to review?
- AL: Question of basis of decision-making for future events. The City only gets about \$40,000 in actual revenues from the events... fees should be commensurate with impacts to quality of life.

3) Discussion Re: PACC with Mayor Weinberger (Paul & M. Weinberger)

- Change in direction on Moran, plan detailed.
- Questions on role: PACC has always had a cooperative role with the administration in the Moran process and Mayor Weinberger does not see this changing. This seems to be the appropriate forum for the collaboration between the Council and the Administration.
- September RFQ/RFP, followed by identification of the finalists in December, narrowed to three finalists in February... by April final idea and possible special election in June to gain approval for the proposal.

- People want a say in what gets built on the waterfront; PACC is a natural, public forum to aid in paring down and procuring the ultimate proposal.
- The Mayor will have Peter Owens get back to PACC with updated timeline, and all are open to the possibility of joint pre-meeting to discuss.

4) Imagine City Hall Park presentation (Kraft, Katz)

- A \$50k grant was awarded late spring of 2011 to create a master plan for City Hall Park.
- Five-month summer-fall public engagement process followed; artists went into the community to work with the general public.
- A dedicated Task Force also provided leadership during the process: DPR, PD, Flynn Theater, King Street, BBA, Marketplace, and BCA.
- There has already been improved safety and behavior modification through physical design elements (e.g. new alley lights).
- Presentation of Imagine City Hall Park by Jeff Hodgeson with the H. Keith Wagner Association; final scheme merges three options and features:
 - Connection between St. Paul & Church St.
 - Interactive fountain/splash area
 - Vending opportunities & eyes on the park
 - Diagonal circulation routes
 - Performance stage near City Hall
 - Building in flexibility and multi-use
 - Consideration of strategic design for lighting, seating, event spaces, infrastructure, storm water treatments, art & vending opportunities
- KP: Was bulletin board relocation included in process/design?
 - DK: This preliminary design did not get into that detail, though importance of bulletin boards is noted. This issue should be considered on a comprehensive level.
 - KP: Mission of restoring bulletin boards that have been lost; request that final draft contains a reference to bulletin boards.
- BA: Where does this go from here?
 - \$20k from PFP, in conjunction with other funds, may be applied to the development of concept drawings & bid documents to produce cost estimate
 - Working with CEDO to identify funding mechanisms
 - Mayor would like to see construction implemented by 2014
- JL: On behalf of independent artists, seeking the restoration of the ability of the public to participate in bulletin board posting; looking for intention to restore & BCA to commit to this.
 - DK: Cannot commit to this until a comprehensive plan has been developed between Parks, BCA, Marketplace, and P&Z. There are significant maintenance & infrastructure issues that need to be carefully considered.
 - AL: Bulletin boards speak to the livelihood of the arts community and you can feel that when it is not available. Should not be left missing.
 - KP: We will revisit this. Postpone item 7 until next meeting.

5) Italian Club Request for Signage (Steinbach)

- VT Italian Club has presented a proposal to install 5 interpretive panels within the green space managed jointly by DPW/DPR. The Letter to the Mayor outlines the locations and details.
 - Parks installs signs
 - MOA between VTIC and City detailing terms
 - VTIC received grant from Lake Champlain Basin to install these signs, based on Basin wayside exhibit plan

- Celebration planned for early October; VTIC hoping to have signs installed for this date.
- DPW has sent MOW to city attorney review; it is unprecedented to put signage like this in the ROW... concerns with maintenance practices - these become items that the City must manage without additional resources.
- MS: PRC typically does not weigh in on ROW and greenbelt issues.
- KP: from a cultural point of view the PACC is supportive of this installation.

6) FY13 PFP Implementation Plan Update (Francis)

- PFP update
 - 3 projects complete (Appletree, Calahan & Leddy tennis court repairs)
 - 18 projects underway
 - Currently hiring for Assistant Parks Project Coordinator position
 - FY14 PFP Project Request Form now available
- Review of FY13 PFP Implementation Plan

7) Bulletin Board Update & Written Communication to Council (Paul)

- POSTPONED

8) Confirmation of next meeting date

- Tuesday, September 18, 5:45-7:00 p.m.

9) Other items

- None

10) Adjournment

- Paul motion to adjourn as a committee at 5:32 p.m.; Aubin second