

MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 6:15-8:00 PM
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library

Participants

Committee Members:

- Councilor Dave Hartnett, North District (Chair)
- Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6 (recused from Agenda item #1)
- Councilor Selene Colburn, East District

Staff:

- Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
- Doreen Kraft, Executive Director, BCA
- Sara Katz, Assistant Director, BCA
- Kath Laing, Development, FFL

Others:

- Councilor Joan Shannon, Ward 5
- Ken Braverman, Consultant with CEDO
- Chuck DesLauriers, Jerome J Parks Companies
- Jeff Hodgson, Wagner Hodgson Associates
- James Lockridge, Big Heavy World
- Barbara Perry, BCA Board
- Rick Norcross, BCA Board
- Margaret Coleman, BCA Board
- Bryan Parmelee, BCA Board
- Jill Nye-McKeown, Prevention Coordinator, BHS
- Hawa Adam, Rachel Horton and Rachel Watson – BHS students in START (Students Taking Actions and Risks Together) Prevention Group

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 01/26

The agenda was unanimously approved by committee members present. The draft minutes from 01/26 will be approved during at the next meeting to be held May 10th.

2) Public Forum

No time was taken for public forum at the start of the meeting. Councilor Hartnett encourages the public to participate throughout the meeting.

3) Marina Update (Braverman)

- The Burlington Harbor Marina redesign was presented. The redesign focuses on public accessibility and the environmental and engineering aspects of the project. A new green space / park has been incorporated into the design.
- The redesign embraces a working waterfront and provides the same quality as in the previous design. The redesign also takes into consideration how the Marina integrates with other waterfront uses, such as the Coast Guard, the Water Department, the Sailing Center, the New Moran, the WAN, traffic circulation and parking.
- Access to parking was discussed. Parking has been moved from between the Coast Guard and the Water Department to Lake Street, where a parking lot for WAN had been previously permitted. The current redesign includes 23 exclusive parking spots for the Marina between May 15 and October 15. Under the redesign, the Marina will seek a waiver for 1 parking spot / 2 slips.
- The business terms for the Marina are being fully developed for presentation to the Board of Finance in May. The Marina project will be developing certain public amenities for the City that are needed. The rental agreement will take this into consideration.
- Members of the public raised 2 concerns – the project should not diminish the fishing pier needs and sufficient parking is a necessity.
- Councilor Colburn stated the new park was an exciting development and stressed the need to ensure the rental agreement considers long term return on investment.

4) Dialogue with James Lockridge (Councilors)

- James Lockridge expressed gratitude for the BCA grant program, however expressed disappointment in the size of the program and the lack of equitable distribution of resources. James Lockridge also expressed the need for the inclusion of a broader range of arts organizations in policy making and resource allocation at BCA. James Lockridge also expressed his disappointment regarding the lack of response from BCA Board to his requests for a conversation.
- Councilor Colburn described her experience last summer participating in the BCA Board recruitment process, commenting that this process was a more representative process than that which is used by the City Council to appoint people to City Commissions and Boards. Councilor Colburn believes there are areas that still need work in the BCA Board recruitment: ensuring the compliance with open meeting laws and ensuring transparency regarding the number of vacancies to be filled through recruitment efforts. Councilor Colburn stated that the Burlington community is complex and ensuring equitable arts support is not about one organization or one person.
- Councilor Paul believes BCA has achieved a more inclusive Board through the new recruitment process, reaching a delicate balance. Councilor Paul believes it is necessary to find new ways to achieve inclusion in the arts community. Councilor Paul admires BCA for raising a significant portion of the funds being allocated through the grant program.
- Councilor Hartnett believes it is necessary to bring closure to this dialogue that started over 6 months ago. Councilor Hartnett believes it is possible to expand the grant program by finding new sources of revenue – increasing investment in Burlington’s arts community.
- Doreen Kraft believes BCA has learned a lot from their recent Listening Campaign, and agrees there is a need to attract new sources of revenue in order to better serve an ecosystem of 80 arts organizations.
- Barbara Perry, a BCA Board Member, agrees with Councilor Paul’s summation of the need to achieve a delicate balance. She admires Doreen Kraft for being able to work under 4 mayor with very different political affiliations and styles.

- Rick Norcross, a BCA Board member, believe BCA has come a long way with their new grant program and Board recruitment process.

5) Smoking Ban

- Councilor Hartnett presented a smoking ban survey and associated administration process to the group present. Councilor Hartnett reported the survey was administered in City Hall Park in which 21 community members said no to a smoking ban.
- Councilor Shannon perceives this issue as a public health one, which cannot be decided through a survey. Councilor Shannon believes designated smoking areas in parking lots may be an option to consider. Councilor Shannon will be proposing a new resolution to the City Council.
- Councilor Hartnett believes designating smoking places in the parking lots of parks is counterproductive. Councilor Hartnett thinks a smoking ban in parks will be as hard to enforce as the smoking ban on beaches has been for the last 8 years. Councilor Hartnett wants to know if there is an appetite in the community for designated smoking areas in parks.
- Students from the BHS START program reported they had conducted a survey of students – 70% were in favor of a smoking ban, 36% would be more likely to use parks and beaches with enforced smoking bans. The students believe a survey of users of the parks will not be productive as many people do not use the parks and beaches due to the second hand smoke. The students are happy to engage with Councilor Hartnett to identify designated smoking spaces in the parks.
- Councilor Paul believes a survey needs to be carefully crafted in order to statistically valid. Councilor Paul believes Parks needs to be able to enforce a smoking ban.
- Jesse Bridges agrees a survey needs statistical validity, and states Parks has experience administering varying survey models.
- Councilor Colburn also believes a survey needs to be statistically relevant and administered without bias either way. Councilor Colburn has learned through research that second hand smoke diffuses in open air and is considerably less damaging than second hand smoke in enclosed spaces. Councilor Colburn suggests a working meeting to establish a way forward on this subject.

6) Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on May 10th at 6:00pm. This meeting will be a working meeting to develop a way forward for to develop and administer a survey regarding the smoking ban.

7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm