



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes  
December 3, 2019**

**Commission Present:** Farrell, Barlow, Hurley, Traverse, Healy, Harris, Todd

**Staff Present:** Wight and O'Daniel

The meeting was convened at 5:41p.m. by Traverse

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda by Todd, second by Barlow, motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Waived the reading aloud of the consent agenda, motion was made to approve the consent agenda without reading aloud with the included motions by Healy, second by Todd, motion carried.

**Penny for Parks Project Scoring and Requests**

Wight: Asked if any questions about the handout. No questions.

Our ranking along the top are all of the scoring criteria, talks about which each area means. Went through (planning team, parks team and Cindi) went through projects and ranked them. Some were small requests that they were able to just turn around – example Pickle Ball court lines at Appletree. Waterline at the Medical Center Garden. Bike parking expansion.

Calahan Park – Tennis Courts: fixing all of the cracks and re-sealing the tennis courts. This ranked high because of Health/Safety/Accessibility etc. Fits in our Master Plan for keeping up with court maintenance.

Battery Park – Chief Grey Lock repair: ranked high because there are unsafe aspects to it. The repair is not likely, the replacement could be a different art installment. There is a group interested in working on this. Potential fundraising and ideas from them.

Calahan Park – SD Ireland Lighting: Being ranked even though it is an expensive project. Could be a long term project, breaking it up into smaller projects year to year.

Waterfront Dog Park – Water Fountain: Getting water to the site is the most expensive piece.

Calahan Park – Pollinator Meadow: Scored lower because of the level of commitment from the public.

**Questions:**

Hurley asked how we get the word out. Seems like there are a lot of South End projects – what about the Old and New North Ends?

Wight responded that there isn't much pointed outreach at this time. Could be increased.



Barlow asked how the ranking system is determined. Wight responded that it is a choice by the individuals on the committee. Could be tightened up with a rubric of sorts potentially.

Todd asked if there was a timeline for submitting. Wight responded no, but they are reviewed in October/November. Some smaller ones that come in earlier with a time limit can be approved ahead of time.

Traverse asked if all of the money needed to be spend annually or if some could be rolled over and put towards more expensive projects.

Traverse what Wight would recommend the Commission do in regards to her presentation. What is the role of the Commission in this? To support your recommendation?

First time Commission has been asked for their vote of approval for Penny for Parks. Wight would recommend that for FY2020 we rehab the Calahan Tennis Courts and set aside the remainder towards the Chief Grey Lock repair/replacement project – potentially assessments.

Todd stated she feels that the Commission shouldn't micromanage the choices, but show support for the recommendations that the Staff brings.

Traverse moves to support the department's recommendation of \$25,000 to tennis court rehab at Calahan Park and to also support \$15,000 for the Chief Grey Lock assessments contingent to what information is brought back as more information is learned. Hurley seconds, motion approved.

#### **Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM)**

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Traverse.

Dave Hartnett: Wants a pavilion at Leddy Park behind the rink in the Picnic Grove. Weather always seems to be an issue, nice to have a covered space. Also nice to have bathrooms available to the public. Believes it would be rented every weekend and a welcomed addition to the park. It would be well served here in the New North End.

Dave Hartnett: Speaking to Penny for Parks also – used to take trips to all the parks as Commissioners to see the conditions. Helped advocate for all parks in the City and meeting all of their needs.

Pat Kearney: Would also like to see a pavilion at Leddy. Wants to see one similar to the ones at Oakledge Park. Would be a lot of money but would be well used and would pay for itself quickly.

Pat Kearney: Leddy Garage: Was told that the garage was going to be torn down. Told shingles would fall off and doors were too narrow. Will the arborists and the whole crew be able to move there?

Pat Kearney: We need some salt for the Leddy walkway!

Public forum closed at 6:06 p.m.



### **BTV Stat Recreation Presentation**

Wight explained that all City departments have to present – Parks goes 3 times a year: November, February and July. Really starting to narrow in on what they want us to present on. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we presented on this information so we were able to compare from last year.

Program Offerings and Participants – Increase in programs offered. Used the data to see where there were gaps and offered more where those gaps were.

Program Capacity by Season – Decreased a lot of the summer openings. Fall/winter stayed similar.

Program Cancellation Comparison – Where are there a lot of cancellations? Adults has the highest amount. This is when they tried a program and they were cancelled because of low attendance. Looking for thoughtful ways to create new programs.

Participant Survey Results – Are people happy with what we're doing? Increase with satisfaction overall.

Summer Youth Programs – 4 Year Funding Comparison – State aid decreased from 2018 to 2019, has to do with childcare resources. Financial Assistance awarded – Having more scholarships available. Daily Youth Participants By Race – looking at demographics by perception, a scan of the kids who are there. Daily Youth Participants by Race – Fee Based Programs vs Summer Meals Programs: less diversity in fee based, more diversity in summer meal programs.

P.A.L Camp – partnership with Parks, the Library, and ..... Realized there was a gap in the last 2 weeks of August. We committed to doing a licensed camp for those 2 weeks.

Department Events revenue

### **Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours**

Traverse asked the Commission if they had any additional hours for the month of November in addition to the commission meeting.

Todd, Barlow and Traverse attended the Barge Canal revetment tour with Kolitz and Wight. It was a 1 hour tour.

Pierce met with Wight individually for 1 hour.

### **Director's Items**

Wight explained updates.

Have selected someone to do a Commission retreat. Got 3 proposals from an RFP. Starting to think about dates in January, maybe a Friday. Tentatively 1/24/20. About 4 hours long. Discuss open meeting laws and what the authority of the Commission is. People wanting to know how to serve in this role.



Bike Path Update – assisting with Maple to College St. alignment for Amtrak. The 2<sup>nd</sup> track has been in discussion since 2016. In order for Amtrak to be accommodated and all other users to be able to access the tracks, there needs to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> track. We want to be on the other side of the track. CEDO is taking the lead on this project. DPW and Parks are involved. Open to concept.

Had name tags made for all of the commissioners.

Todd inquired about the Farmers' Market. Is it staying in the South End?

Wight responded yes for 2020. Not sure for 2021 yet. They need a certain amount of linear feet, which we are putting together for them now.

Harris asked for an update on the bike park.

Wight responded that it is currently with the City Attorney's office. Working on the MOU for doing the fundraising.

**Commissioner's Items**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:30p.m. by Farrell, second by Todd, motion carried.

