



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
February 2, 2021**

Commission Present: Barlow, Traverse, Johnson, Farrell, Todd, Lantieri and Harte

Staff Present: Wight, Rogers, Carter, Sauve and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 4:17p.m. by Todd

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Farrell, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Todd asked to waive the reading of the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval.

Approval of consent agenda by Johnson, second by Barlow, motion carried.

Update on Parks Foundation

John Bossange introduced himself to the Commission and stated he had served on the Parks Commission for about 9 years and serves on a number of Burlington Boards and when on the commission was able to blend in the Parks Foundation. Formed with former Mayor Bob Kiss and formed the non-profit to assist with initiatives that fall within the parks and waterfront division. The main drive and push centered on the bike path project, \$16 million went toward rehab and then little less than \$1 million for Rockpoint area. Currently the path is new and beautiful, all wanted to be done as the path was the signature of Burlington and was then renamed the Greenway. Foundation built pause places along the path. Raising close to \$2m. Very proud of the Board, been going for 6 years, chair since the beginning and will leave position as terms are being created and will continue on as an advisor. Stated all had been sent annual report, the sixth since inception. Explains projects and shows images of such. Explained how working on estate planning for individuals who would like to bequest monies to the foundation, starting legacy process, hope to create endowment for future projects. Explained several projects and plans to help spark the desire to continue to give and have restricted donations that are specific to projects, the Frame is one of the such projects as well as the Oakledge Playground specific pieces. Explained how the Foundation has been blessed and supported by past and present Mayors, Councilors and many others.

Farrell thanked the Foundation for all the hard work and dedication they put into the projects and fundraising efforts.

Todd asked if the Foundation was committed to working on equity issues and the like and Bossange said focused on commitment to alerting people that these parks and places are for them, but not getting in touch with other communities about what might be missing rather to keep spaces open to the public and to have access. Todd asked to have the other on the horizon moving forward.

Traverse asked if ever in need of assistance to reach out to the Commission moving forward.



Calahan and Perkins Pier Plan Updates

Sauve explained she would give update on siting studies, first Perkins Pier and how it has great greenway but needs lake level addressed and popularity of vista and made a request for proposals, hired firm out of Massachusetts, members or employees were at Sasaki previously, very familiar with Park system and Agency is working with Bike Path alignment with VHB so great role to help with how the rail shift will tie in and all come together, they have subcontracted VHB to help and have expert in soils which is very important to know what can be done at Perkins Pier. They have Moffat and Nichol Engineers, expert on marina side, in terms of what services are missing. Well underway, very organized, collecting information, organizing local working groups, from neighbors, to other stakeholders, from uses to users, going to do outreach in two weeks, then regroup and discuss and then prepare public outreach. Parks Commission is considered an advocate and if interested in participating will send out an invite to the commission to line up for everyone as best as possible and also can attend a public meeting as well as a virtual meeting.

Once done with public portion will reconvene and see limitations and start to develop options for what it can look like in the future.

Calahan also had call for proposals, had 7, was very excited, had a vast interest and range of ideas, in end chose Offshoots, brings ecological perspective, felt gave the best impression of understanding the need at this park, also principal of company is in pseudo remediation of how plants can remediate pollution and figuring out how to remediate and reduce pollutants from the perspective of what is currently happening in that park and neighborhood and improve. They just started doing site analysis, will start compiling lists of key stakeholders/neighbors, then open public process. Team is composed of Stone Environmental Services, and very familiar with the area and what can be done on site, and two other firms that will be working on the project. The "Tot lot" had to be decommissioned earlier in the year and will make suggestions for the playground area so it can be implemented earlier and will be done in tandem.

Stated a lot of conversations around Oakledge anniversary and trying to coordinate construction with the celebration, so requested any preplanning that can be shared or space that can be collaborated early would be greatly appreciated.

Traverse stated that he and Lantieri had over a dozen neighbors that were interested in helping out with the celebration and the next plan is to get a meeting together to begin the planning process.

Todd would like to be invited to the small group sessions and Sauve said for advocates the meeting dates are 2/16 or March and then will reconvene to figure out. Todd said likely March and was confirmed by Sauve as that would likely be when the public process would be.

Johnson asked the name of the group in Massachusetts working at Perkins Pier, was told Agency Landscape and Planning.

Traverse thanked and asked Sauve to keep updated on the dates for public input on the projects.

Burlington Little League Programs; Burlington Waves, North Burlington, Center City and Burlington American



Wight explained Traverse had previously requested the Little Leagues come and speak to the Commission.

Denton said played in 70-80's nice to see how shifted and how become bigger, worked with Cindi and Wayne at Hunt school with goal to get as many girls involved in softball as able, to help to feel a sense of belonging and worked with Rogers to have a central location so kids were not placed based on location and ability. Had Smalley Park skinned a number of years ago, continue to grow, in south end and north as well as girls from Winooski.

Center City Jules Fishelman, lives in Old North End Burlington, been involved for about 10 years maybe more, is president for Center City League, early 80's, start was encouraged through Sanders and area residents to help children in the neighborhood have a manageable neighborhood, had limited ability to travel to different fields, might not be able to work and get kids to games and practice, may not have car, was the reason for the beginning of the league. Worked very hard to ensure that no player regardless of financial situation was unable to play. Have many leverage opportunities for finance.

South Center Nathan Bramhall, Burlington American in the South End, part of for almost 20 years, been coaching and just started as president in the past year. History as long as been there fabulous families from sisterhood to up the hill, great group of volunteers, kids say favorite time of the year on opening day. Felt the biggest hardship during COVID with the younger kids with regulations and interest was not good, hope to see how to reach out to the younger children this year. A lot of competition with soccer and other sports.

Ken Vachereau, New North End, 1950's oldest and the best in his opinion and resident for 57 years, been on board as president for last 5 years. Steve Schifiletti built the field, baseball is extremely sentimental. Did not have a season for the younger children this year due to COVID, pulled through also had an all-star season, have hosted all-stars for over 25 years, have outstanding support group of volunteers as well as City employees and specifically mentioned Deryk Roach and Ritchie Snow. Have only town with natural dirt, not the red clay, only issues are using park as a dog park and leave bags with waste and vandalism occasionally. Had many kids that do other sports come back to baseball. Proud of the fields and raised a lot of money to get the fields in great shape and donation for new scoreboards. Irrigation is an issue as well as would love to see aluminum seating as opposed to the current wood that is always in need of replacement.

Farrell thanked all for the great work on the fields and the program.

Fishelman said one of the things to know about a combined or unusual situation is to have 3 leagues in such close proximity, even though there are three, feels strongly that all have a very positive relationship, play each other all the time and constantly playing each other building baseball through Burlington and to move through middle School and high school and grows into comradery, important to know that all three approach, play and have fun together.

Todd asked how they would describe access to students that can't afford, what are efforts to support other communities and how does the league address diversity and getting within equity. Denton said have girls come from High School and gets word out to other schools to get the word out, make sure all get to play no matter what financially, has a tournament to raise money to sponsor kids to play.



Fishelman stated he has a high level of New Americans and has had limited success, made inroads into community to bring into the game, have many trust, language barriers, every season and recruitment time it is at the top of the list and open for any and all help or ideas to help recruit moving forward and Bramhall conquered with.

Public Forum (Time Certain 5:00PM)

Public Forum was opened at 5:18pm

Ruby and Andy said they lost rack storage for kayaks and canoes when the Sailing Center left and would like to figure out a way to get that back. Stated don't own a car but have two small boats and used to be racks on the waterfront that could be rented for the season and wanted to request if it would be possible or if he could help facilitate that happening.

Traverse explained how there will be public forums on the planning for Perkins Pier and that would be a good forum to bring up this request.

Public forum was closed at 5:26pm

Request for Sound Waiver and Time Extension, Battery Park

Traverse explained not every day have a request and explained that there was a correspondence sent to all with what was requested from the department and its support for the request.

Kunkel explained that his group was left without an hour of time to do and also need to do the event with music and explained how the fire goes with the music and it is necessary to have a permit to have louder music during the time to do or longer time with quieter music.

Wight explained that the sound and level would require to have staff, ordinance states as long as you are not breaking an ordinance you are allowed theoretically and you could technically do fire as long as not breaking sound, the sound is the part that needs the permit. The fee structure changes with the sound change.

Kunkel asked who would decide if they were breaking an ordinance and Wight said if they obtained a traditional permit from BPRW for gathering for amplified sound, and if sound is at a time after the allowable time, then staff would measure and be able to show a log that either they have a permit or not and the decibel reading. Kunkel said he would prefer to have longer time than louder sound, it was never the intent to be extremely loud. Wight asked what was originally used for sound and Kunkel said he had a large speaker about 14 inches or an amount bigger and then went back to a small bluetooth speaker, and it was hard to keep a reasonable volume of sound.

Traverse said the question before the board is to approve an entertainment permit to use between 7-10pm subject for the need to secure fees and permit for amplified music.

Barlow asked for clarification of amplified sound and if it the fact that it exceeds something and Wight said specific to parks and in specific parks needing approval. Barlow asked if any sound coming from speaker is amplified and was told yes as in stereo, radio, etc. and depending on the park it depends on the decibel level and Battery can't exceed 70 decibels. Hence you would need someone to monitor the sound levels.



Farrell asked if approving extension to 10pm and then asking for amplified waiver from 7-9. Originally thought needed extension but the park is open past 9pm and does not actually need to be extended. Kunkel asked for middle ground to have amplified sound til 9pm and then trickle out through 10pm and department would not support sound after 9pm.

Farrell moved to approve special use permit that allows for waiver for amplified sound from 7-9pm, subject to securing any permits as necessary, second Todd, motion carried.

Champlain Senior Center Name Change

Rogers explained how members came to change name, introduced Sarah Carter and Mulu Tewelde, Carter said in September 2016 looked at how the population is aging and heard from seniors and other friends and neighbors of how don't this group does not want to go to a place called "senior", came up with CORE Center which stands for the CORE Adult Center, gave some background on all the things that they do which are not necessarily related to Senior but rather adult and expose to everything possible, serve 60-80 year olds.

Tewelde hoping to open soon in person and have a new branding when that happens.

Rogers gave some history of the Champlain Sr. Center, approached the city and asked to take on the operations, Park Foundation got involved with process and looked at revenues and assets, some money earmarked for Sr. Center in Foundation. Carter said when she came on board it was changed once already and the 60 plus population nationwide is much more active than predecessors and would like to have them see the center as something they would be interested in.

Johnson said sounds logical, asked if a lot of logistics in changing literature and others or is it less of a project. Rogers said less of a project, some signage but financial is very minimal. Will work with marketing staff person, Diana Wood and will get out well in advance and promote. Also received a grant and will use some of those funds to help celebrate and promote the new name.

Todd stated how her mother cringes under the senior name as well and with the closure it may help with the rebranding process.

Barlow asked if charge for any of the senior programs and was told no, have registration form and part of Age Well program, will take a donation if they can but don't charge as a rule, if having an art class or paint class would ask for a couple of dollar donation, not required. Barlow felt great marketing might get greater participation. Rogers did reiterate that there are some classes that are with a fee that is different than drop in programming at the center.

Todd made a Motion of support of the change of name from Champlain Senior Center to CORE Adult Center, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Todd had 5 hours ski BTV with Cahill, Traverse 1 hour, Lantieri 30 min.



Director's Items

Wight said Phet from Trusted Voices for the City would come for a working meeting prior to the regular part of the meeting if the commission was interested and was told yes. Rail realignment as of yesterday all documents, easement, licenses, agreements are in, Sophie and Norm got in about 8 different agreements to City Council, all were excited at the meeting. Arthur Park and Long Pond are mentioned that have a box at the top with boot grippers in case icy and you don't have any you can use and when done put back for others. Thinking about finding sponsors to do at other places.

Cost recovery has been worked on, gathering all data, categorizing, tentatively March 11th special meeting with commission and public interested in service categories to categorize programming and what level of subsidy is given to each area, trying to get as many diverse thoughts together as possible, likely 5:30 meeting, 90 minutes just on that topic. Programming at Miller and Leddy currently, trying to get feedback on season at Leddy, might lose \$5500 if closed 10 weeks early as opposed to 5 weeks, would be able to tighten up the use of staff to do other work out in the park system.

Todd asked if staff knew how many people that would effect and Wight said trying to take out ones that would not be able to use do to pandemic rules and don't have definitive number but how much would really be doing and if Cairns could do based on the cut in services and added ability. Todd feels a lot of displaced people that go to indoor rinks and if not a big budget hit should keep spaces for the leagues. Wight said would not affect that much, currently can't mix households, can't do public skating and if under our control have to be able to do. Very unsure of what the Governor will have as an order moving forward and at what times.

Traverse agrees with both that if the budget is not adversely affected and have groups that want to use and it is available would like to see stay open if possible and happy staying mindful of all. Wight leaning toward tighter staff with prime hours and maybe do more. Traverse also felt would be a lot of new skaters coming in, thought new groups to tap into.

Wight said Roach had put in the grounds spreadsheet and was looking for some feedback. Todd stated that she loved the quantifiable time spent on specific duties. Appreciated done by the month.

Johnson said it was interesting to see the seasonal items and the constant higher needs.

Farrell said helpful to see that some of the items that he thought would be larger were not and it was interesting to see broke out during the course of the day.

Wight said several RFP's for waterfront sent out, only one for information Center, Rail Center and Chamber, State Park back out again and Concessions at North Beach had two. Put out for about 3 years and based on qualifications.

The barn at North Beach is coming down very soon and design firm will be allowing for large RVs to pull through in the future.

Wight asked to have Emma Allen included in the Oakledge planning committee as it would very helpful to have the Events staff involved.



Todd thanked for the March 11 meeting with Trusted Voices and the Yak Track at the Park, wanted to have a blast done for the surveys on what is happening down there and very excited about all that is happening and was very pleased with the engagement and all that is happening.

Commissioner's Items

NONE

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. by Traverse.

DRAFT