



BURLINGTON  
PARKS  
RECREATION  
WATERFRONT

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
And HARBOR COMMISSION  
Minutes  
June 1, 2021**

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Commission Present:** Lantieri, Traverse, Johnson, Todd, Hurley

**Staff Present:** Wight, Cate and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m. by Traverse

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Traverse asked to waive the reading of the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval, motion to approve items II B. through II F. by Todd, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Todd asked to have item II A. May Minutes, pulled from the consent agenda to make corrections, motion to approve the minutes as amended by Todd, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

**Request for Bike Rack Encumbrance**

Wight stated she had a request for bike rack on Waterfront, not in favor of the requested location, but would support a location at Leddy or Perkins Pier, would not be running a business at that site but rather would be currently a drop off and pickup for bikes being stored and available. Rick Sharp stated he and others would like to have nobody on waterfront but since Bolt is currently on waterfront he would like to have a space on College Street, Perkins Pier does not work for them as it is south of all the construction etc. and would like to put information on the sign that would be north. Would like a space near Community Sailing Center. He explained how his company, Burlington Segway, teach safety and they just meet at the rack on front end and at the finish of the ride. Believes they need to have a similar venue, as BOLT is directly competing with them currently. He spoke with 8 different people over the weekend and said that the geo-fencing is working well and that is where people want to get the bikes from. Would like to level the playing field.

Todd asked if this opportunity is available to all bike shops in Burlington or just Segway and would like available to all bicycle enterprises. Sharp stated he would like to have the City support local bike shops and he would be open to that. Other shops are located close to waterfront and would like to have all in the general vicinity. Todd asked if there would be racks for non-renting bike users to also use and Sharp said he did not have a problem with users using the racks when he is not using.

Lantieri asked if this would be a place to put bikes when finished with them and Sharp said that was correct, would meet people give bikes and then meet them back to pick up. Asked how many bikes could be left at a rack at one time, was told up to six but would likely be less at a time. Currently have all bikes and Segway's located at home in Colchester off bike path. For those that are unable or are staying in town, want to give the option to leave and pick up from town/waterfront. Lantieri asked if bike rack



has other specifications or would be similar to ones currently located on waterfront and was told, ordering and would be very close to what is currently offered on the waterfront with signage.

Traverse asked Wight to reaffirm and explain the recommendation of the department to have at Leddy, Perkins Pier or other areas. Wight stated the department is currently running a meal program from one location in summer and Near Maven, would have to be off the bike path, got one year permission for Ice Cream Bob to be located on waterfront and did not want any further business on the waterfront, also it will be a major construction site and the fewer things on that side of the bike path would be better. Traverse asked if BOLT had given any more to the City other than the encumbrance fee and was told no by wright and it was to have a Bike Share in Burlington as the City could not do and an RFP was put out prior to the contract with them. Traverse asked Sharp if department could make Maven location work would that be acceptable and Sharp stated he did not believe the reasons were valid and felt discriminated against and unfair by not allowing to have College Street location. Would take Maven area if only location, patch of grass by sailing center he felt could accommodate and only affect the grass. Traverse explained an RFP was put out quite some time ago and understands but first time hearing about this request and understands time is of the essence and Sharp confirmed but said did not know about the location of BOLT being located and does not want them to have the best spot in the City and it interferes with the local bike industry and it will drive the locals out. Feels BOLT will be gone in 3-5 years.

Todd asked if similar to the way restaurants purchase and utilize parking for overflow and asked if bike spots could be purchased in the same way to try and level the playing field. Wight said they pay the encumbrance rate that was set and Todd asked if you could use similar to parking and Wight said that would be DPW question and could possibly apply to DPW for encumbrance permit and Wight was not totally sure how it worked and thought the cost was the value of the parking but again was not completely sure.

Wight said will not be biking on Penny Lane and will be closing bike path in the area during the height of construction. Happy to look in other locations.

Traverse asked if any other companies were using the BOLT bike racks and Wight said very clear this is not a business, this is to encumber the space and the business is not run from the location. Traverse asked how many racks are on City property, Wight stated they had just one on Waterfront Park on Penny Lane side. Wight said RFP was awarded to Gotcha at the time and in order to put rack in came to park to put Bike Share racks in parks. Traverse was concerned if this was done for Burlington Segways would all others be asking down the line for racks moving forward and asked what the scope of interest for space on the waterfront was.

Sharp said Northstar is interested in doing similar, the problem is slippery slope by allowing BOLT to be there and now all are entitled to request. Feels if BOLT is on waterfront all others should have the opportunity to be present too.

Todd asked the timeline with BOLT and the rack and if reevaluated yearly to have others use the space and Wight said BOLT paid for one year fee and if Commission wanted to reconsider next year they could. Would like to see some commerce in the area for this year and evaluate in the fall-winter.



Lantieri asked how many existing racks in the Skatepark area and Wight said if space does not work could use some of the existing spots and signage. Wight said a challenge to have sign without encumbrance, and Lantieri said could still have encumbrance and would help if green space is not available, also gets into different signs on racks and lots of confusion.

Traverse asked what exactly Sharp was asking for and Sharp said he wants exactly what BOLT has and in similar area/space, wants to be treated fairly.

Lantieri asked if there was anything in the contract with BOLT that can't be anyone in same place or within certain area as them. Wight said could look at the area but not sure would put two together. August 2019 was when approved bike racks, in up to 7 parks to be worked out by director.

Support approving with future conversation in the fall (Todd) stated would like to speak about further in another meeting for commercial use.

Traverse asked is there really anything for the commission to decide tonight, approved in August and Director has permission to make approvals and has. Wight said that was for Bike Share program and this is for bikes that are rented and used.

Fauna said it seemed like it was left in the Directors hands and asked if Wight was a part of the decision for the BOLT bikes location.

Johnson appreciated has had to change operations since pandemic and decision in 2019 should be reexamined and hopes to address in another month for more discussion.

Traverse said an issue that want to do right, assumes time is critical and next meeting is in August, Sharp wanted Commission to authorize the Director to find a spot and they would be satisfied with that.

Recommendation to approve the rack in 3 locations to include but not limited to those locations extending approval of the Bike Share racks to allow bike rack for the purpose of renting to include commercial bike racks in August 2019 at same price, motion by Todd, second by Johnson, motion carried.

#### **Public Forum (Time Certain 5:05PM)**

Public Forum was opened at 5:05pm

Seeing nobody from the public, Public Forum was closed at 5:07pm

#### **Urban Park Ranger Update**

Wight stated will get funding to hire two full time and some seasonal, two main issues, beach fires and dogs off leash. Conversation with Brookline, Ma and have plan, 50% issues are on dogs. Would be focused on education. Build small committee to build plan and it also included an individual from BPD and asked if anyone from Commission would be interested in being on the committee. Todd asked what the focus on the committee would look like and Wight said on accomplishments, and the like. Also asked if there would be ticket writing and Wight said education and very rarely but at times, will need to write a ticket. Traverse asked to follow up with Wight if interested.



### **Penny for Parks**

Traverse explained City tax base was about 37Mil and why possess 1 penny about \$370,000, city just put out a recommended budget that maintains flat funding for program and suggested \$381,000 slight raise but basically flat. If last year that would have been full funded but with new assessment city can base going up to 54Mill if still assessing 1 penny then program should be funded with \$533,000, about difference of \$150,000 in the program. Feels could go a long way with programs and the residents and other communities. Would like to present as a commission to formally adopt a recommendation to continue to fund at a full penny on the new assessed value. Would like to know how everyone feels and would like to get approval from all to move forward to sending letter to Mayor and others for this fiscal year budget.

Todd stated she liked seeing applicants and feels good about having full penny funding and also know more broadcasting that needs to be done about PFP and promoting to public to get more projects.

Hurley is supportive of the full penny and great opportunity to engage more people and more groups, have been good about spending equitable and over all areas of the community.

Johnson stated makes a lot of sense to have an idea of projects that need to be done and in favor of particularly with all the use since the pandemic.

Wight said accessibility has been brought to attention in playgrounds and see additional funds to bring other areas up to ADA compliance. Johnson stated also saw Leddy as a place that also needed attention.

Lantieri also in favor and hopes City Council will see it the same, like the cost recovery chart, small amount but can make such a big difference.

Traverse will send letter out to all to take a look at and can contact him regarding any concerns.

Motion to recommend PFP program be fully funded Johnson, second by Todd, motion carried.

### **Schmanska Barn Rentals and ONE Community Center Event Hall Rates**

Cate stated how she had just taken over CORE and NE Studios oversight, currently have management contracts, with CHT along with a management agreement in place and rate structure of non-profit versus straight rental rates. Commission does not approve the rates, just looking for feedback. Admin staff feels more work and should be more, very difficult to police.

Todd stated community members that would like to be able to celebrate and reaching to Trusted Voices as well would be helpful to ask how they would like to utilize space or pay for space would be helpful. Felt sometime don't know how to find or can't afford group spaces.

Wight added looking at Schmanska Barn and going to start renting again and looking at pricing for private or non-profit, with private paying more.

Lantieri said a lot of non-profits that don't actually have the actual non-profit label, it would be helpful to include the other community groups that are small.



Traverse asked if any fee waiver process, Cate said not for facilities but do for programming. Always been first come first serve on rentals.

Wight said also sharing fees with others to see what else is out there.

Todd would like to see a sliding scale and increasing affordability in the community spaces.

Zach Williamson, BCA explained rentals require a lot of staffing and do have non-profit rate, also Contois is a much more scalable rental.

### **Service Sustainability Strategy**

Wight showed slide of the SSS, first of the mission, then the service categories, removed inclusion category because it is something that must be included. Went through and listed from high to low subsidy and common good to individualized and what the cost recovery would be for each of the 11 services offered.

Open Access, Community Events, Human Services, Drop-in Access, Enrichment, Beg/Intro Activities, Special Events, Interim/Adv. Level Activities, Rentals, Enterprise and Resales. Listed were current percentages within the categories. Looked at next steps and asked if allocate correctly and focus on pricing that needs commission/council approval. Field, Marina and Parking; gave a good understanding of indirect fees, need to be careful of what is being charged, if real expensive to run and not capturing should run independently.

Todd liked evaluating what offering and would like to see community outreach around what we are not offering and what would you like to see. Would like to see diversity and inclusion included and not just relying on one group but rather create working model to how can it be created. Wight said that Roach offered to help move in that direction.

### **August Commission Meeting Time, Location and Topics**

Wight stated had set first Sunday in August, could not do last year, North Beach was not available but Leddy had a new space, asked if could do from 2-3 or 5-6, Open Skate so that all volunteer and family could come. Do business before and then go to shelter have ice cream truck. 1-2 business then family and volunteers, do volunteer of the year.

All were in favor of doing the first Sunday of August, 1-2 business

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

Hurley .5 of extra time, Johnson 2 hours, Lantieri 2 hours, Todd 3 hours, Traverse 2 hours.

### **Director's Items**

Wight spoke with a colleague from a parent University and is meeting with families that they would be interested in and one thing would be to have gift cards to show value time for participating. Felt parents would be very interested. Would be contacting when school is ending, sending brochures home from school. No meeting in July, if someone needs commission approval might do 15 minute virtual meeting if all are in favor, all were good with that. Roosevelt Park has Jake Kids on the ball, looking at concept of mini tennis courts and would be multi use for skating in winter and would have covered shelter, creating entrance, to add more sidewalks working with DPW, removing some Pines for area to create more



welcoming entrance, plant different trees. Also showed plan of building shell that came from Holiday Inn and Larkin would dismantle and donate.

Todd asked how this would align with the master plan for Roosevelt and Wight said did not have one and last one was done in 1999 and stated was not driven by BGC but rather brought up by Jake. Not touching any of the open spaces. Going to public meetings to see if interested in more or different pieces in the park. Todd asked process wise would like to see more of a master plan process from the beginning in terms of ideas.

#### **Commissioner's Items**

Johnson stated going to have gardening work day coming up soon and invited others.

Lantieri in the process of moving over to Pine Street area.

Hurley stated that Traverse was having a baby in July and congratulated.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. by Traverse.

