



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
October 12, 2021
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Traverse, Hurley, Johnson, Duke, Lantieri and Farrell

Staff Present: Wight, Sauve, and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:34 p.m. by Traverse

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Farrell, 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.

Approval of consent agenda by Duke, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Parks Funding Sources

Traverse indicated that Schad was unable to attend the meeting and this item would be removed and rescheduled for a future meeting.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:03 pm

Seeing nobody from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:04 pm

Park Comprehensive Plans Update

Sauve stated she would share her screen and go through two comprehensive projects; the Calahan Park Master Plan and Perkins Pier Re-Imaging. Sauve began with the Perkins Pier siting study, after the results are received, will redefine final plans, trying to complete the plans before the end of the calendar year. Looking to see how it can be incorporated into the park and the bike path. Overview of the site today is 47% parking, 23% green space, 23% hard surfaces and 1% building. Permeability is 65% impervious and 35% pervious. Two concepts; The Outlook, about making tangible for people to connect with the water, Perkins not easy to touch, easy way to enable people to play in the water more as a steeped ability to touch but not beach setting. Have dinghy docks on one side, coming from the south traverses and goes up Maple and where after realignment. Have building dedicated for Waterfront staff, more public building to the south, potential for a partner and presence in the park, play area would not move, picnic tables spread out and connection to the pier. Want to make sure building is more than 104 feet above water for flooding purposes.

Second option is to connect the Promenade to green area through art, fun structures, not specified at this time, shade structure, maybe pavilion, play structure near building, major switch is boat launch, would switch to the southern end, public dock and dinghy dock and connection to the water. Wastewater treatment plant has potential to expand and taking into consideration. More green space, promenade and parking area. Looking down Maple Street it would be more tree lined and greener.



Farrell was concerned with the calm water area and asked if any concern with creating a hub for water to stagnate and create algae blooms. Sauve not sure and Wight said she thought there are some blooms by existing docks. Also added not looking at as a beach but more of an access area. Wight also said Lavalley Lane access is explicitly not a public road but rail right of way and would have to negotiate it.

Johnson said wastewater plant has first right of land use and asked if that could ultimately change the bike path again and Sauve said if the plant was to move it would be moved up and follow Lavalley Lane.

Lantieri said the one aspect that he was concerned with was the smell, often hard to enjoy being there and not sure how that is factoring into the planning process. Sauve said working with DPW and Wastewater and they said that is the major issue at Perkins Pier and their system is very expensive and with any plan need to think of some combined way of getting funds to address that issue. Most of the plans are not adjacent to the wastewater plant. Not focusing any highlights near the plant and until funds to cover up would likely not. Lantieri feels should need to happen first and at the minimum be tied in to each other.

Sauve then spoke to the timeline for the Calahan Park Master plan, started in February, and had working group meetings with the City and others. Had public meetings in May and August, the August meeting was via Zoom and had a lower turn out. Went out to parks and spent time when athletic events were going on knowing more people out in the park, also had online survey, had over 100 responses. In terms of King Street, Pine, Edmunds, Rice, Champlain and Christ the King to respond to the following amenities; sledding, playground, concession, restroom, soccer, ice rink, swing, tennis courts. After first meeting, consultant asked people what they liked/did not like. Some of the plans stay the same, such as the multi-use building, the gardens and the little league field.

- A. Concept, main item switched was basketball court away from people, playground moved, ice rink growing, tennis stay but switch out one to pickleball, connections to the road, using some of woodland and wetlands to maintain tree canopy in parks.
- B. Playground expands along the sledding hill, multi rink, most things moving and big gestures. If felt a need to move all, could do in stages, hard to say all should happen.
- C. Playground expands, basketball court, no pavilion with rink, put pickleball court in, expanding gardens
- D. Most conservative, building is relocated, playground next to, sledding hill, picnic grove next to trees, two pickleball courts, hockey rink and multiuse court, pretty conservative. Most chose this concept. Lots of support to keep the snack shack near baseball fields, close to both fields.

A lot of concern putting a building near the road, due to safety concerns.

Farrell said not much more to say about Plan B, a lot of moving things and not sure how much is gained. Sauve said the disconnect of the ballfield was a bit tough on several and if you have multiple kids playing you can watch both.

Duke said it is very important to have the snack shack close to the ballfields. Concept D seemed to be the best alternative.

Hurley said that her daughter is on a team and people that planned the park before them may have known what they were doing.



Wight said the playground could get phased in as part of the planned playground area includes the existing building. The funds are not in place to build a new building.

Traverse asked what direction for shelter looking at Sauve said not community indoor space but as a pavilion space, outdoor that could be rented, going in that direction. Last question was if the team had any concern coming at certain time if the surveys would be skewed by specific users and was told no overall, not only one time when a group of baseball families came but otherwise due to GBSL many are coming from outside of Burlington, felt got feedback from people that used from play perspective but also from other users that would use differently also. Got the people that would not have had the conversation with them otherwise. Traverse asked for future purposes/sessions and as commissioners how they can help to get people to the planning aids, even if FPF or any other areas to help with other networks would love to help by volunteering at tables and events.

Use of Conservation Legacy Funds/311 North Avenue

Wight showed pictures of 311 which would be called Kieslich soon. Explained asked to the Conservation Board in August and then in October to consider more money and did get unanimous approval. The Conservation program moved into the building and has been a great home for the program. Cahill has engaged with neighbors on one side and is doing same with apartments on the other side as well. Been good use of property with neighbors already. Two paths used are heavily eroded and property needs the next level of work. Purchased 2016, had State funds, Legacy funds, local donor and Land Water Conservation funds. Building includes the front which is historic. LWCF land is forever to serve outdoor recreation and any improvements made to the building must include outdoor recreation, which includes access to public restrooms. 2019 made final payment. Believes it is about 12 acres in total. The paths will include a stone dust path from North Ave leading to the a paved path coming down from Cambrian Rise. The paved path will end at the Greenway. The lower parcel is what is referred to as Texaco Beach. Showed photos of the cottage. Jay White, Architect completed a conceptual plan for the Cottage and envisioned emphasizing the historic building. A portion of the addition would get removed with a glass walkway between the historic building and the addition. The front vestibule would have public restroom and information materials. The main floor would function similar to a library with, access to computer terminals, meeting space, reading nooks, and access to resource materials. An accessible office space would also be on the main floor. The second floor would be office space. Tours of the building on the 29th at the Kieslich celebration. The upstairs is not covered by the historic easement but the first floor is. The West Wing (1980's addition) could be used in evening or part time for meetings and programs without opening the entire building.

Lantieri asked if second floor is mainly office space and was told yes. 5 Work spaces currently and would need to have renovations. No changes to the basement.

Wight said asking for approval to spend up to \$250,000 of Conservation Legacy funds for improvements at 311 North Avenue and needs all three approvals from each organization (Parks Commission, Conservation Board and City Council).

Motion to approve up to \$250,000,

Johnson asked for confirmation/clarification of the funding that would come into the Conservation Legacy fund and Wight said if funds are fully funded next year it would be substantially more in that



pool. About \$200,000, \$130,000 would go into the account. It would take two years to pay off that amount.

Motion to approve up to \$250,000 of Conservation Legacy funds for improvements at 311 North Avenue by Farrell, second by Duke, motion carried.

Standing Item: Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Johnson had 2 hours extra for a work day at Myrtle Street garden and corresponding with them, Traverse had an extra hour.

Director's Items

Wight mentioned will find out mid-October on VOREC grant. Got notification that 37 that are extended to submit full application, Halloween howl is full, hoping to get back to fees that have to be approved by City Council and commission, coming in November, will need to approve, poetry walk at 311 was amazing, Hurley said she went to kickoff celebration and was very good. Wight said scan QR code and hear poem, very cool. Marina and campground closed on the 15th. Update of Urban Park Ranger job description to HR and got input from CEDO and Police and Internal team and Fire, helping to put job description together and hope to post in November and on board in December and develop the rest of the program once hired, emphasizing the urban part. Pine Street, two open parcels, city position is developable parcels but city owned also and taking out to see if the land out there can start conversation as to what to do there. Disc golf will open on the 21st and have volunteer time 12-5 and ribbon cutting at 5pm at Schifilliti. Wight said she would let the commission know the date of the Conservation meeting and they can attend if they are interested, November meeting but early for tour.

Commissioner's Items

Lantieri said that he has been traveling a lot and been looking at other parks and comparing to Burlington and having some gratitude for the commission. Asked when the open ceremony for Kieslich is and was told 2pm on October 29th.

Hurley said well done on advertising the Halloween Howl and asked if maybe could expand two days next year and Wight agreed but said currently don't have events person and would love to have volunteers to help with a second day.

Communication from Cindi Wight/EXPECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into executive session at 7:15 pm to discuss securing purchase or lease options by Farrell, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Motion to go out of executive session at 7:24 pm by Farrell, second by Duke, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. by Traverse.