



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
February 8, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission**

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

Staff Present: Wight and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:42 p.m. by Traverse

Approval of Agenda

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

Report on Main Street, Great Streets Project

Wheelock introduced herself and said no action tonight just bring into conversation tonight, introduced Darisse who thanked the commission for having and spoke to the revitalization project that falls under the initiative of City Hall Park and how projects compliment and unify downtown. Introduced project team, engineers herself and Laura, along with VHB, Grayscale and Agency Unique & Beautiful, CEDO, REIB, CSM, BPRW and Burlington City Arts.

VHB has a lot of experience and partnered with agency that will take on more of landscape and architecture part and partnered with Grayscale for outreach.

Launched in 2016, standards were adopted April 2018 for rebuilding downtown public streets and give guidance on 6 bullets; street and Intersection composition, place making, bikeways, street ecology, lighting and materials & furnishing. City Hall Park currently done, Main Street initiated around same time but on hold while St. Paul Street was worked on. Six intersections from Battery Street to Union Street, concept plan in 2016 and will be similar, wide sidewalks, pervious pavers, protected bike facilities, two way traffic, rain gardens and then activated intersections with seating and amenities such as garbage receptacles. Three areas, functional Streets, Community led and unique and beautiful, top to bottom revitalization from above the street level to below.

Functional Street means establishing safe crossings, sustainable transit, storm water management, place making, movement of people of all ages and abilities and supporting local businesses and curbside uses. For pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists, business and property owners and vehicle drivers.

Project schedule is to refinement concepts now through May, design and permitting May 2022 through summer 2023, construction beginning fall 2023 (two years), public and stakeholder engagement throughout can visit www.greatstreetsbtv.com for a full list of engagement opportunities. Some past meeting recordings will be listed on that site as well as contact information for Darisse.



Lantieri asked how much they foresaw concept changing and Wheelock stated some adopted visions along the way can change some in terms of the actual feet but open for discussion as public can have full comment and not totally set in stone for the full canvas.

Hurley asked if there was an order or phasing for the construction and was told by Wheelock likely from Battery first but not totally sure yet at this point.

Lantieri asked how the two areas work together on the super block and Wheelock said she had not been involved but said she is not sure of what is happening on the top portion of that property only the underground being a part of the Main Street project.

Traverse asked how the parks commission could be of assistance moving forward with the planning and Wheelock said to continue to share with friends and neighbors and want to hear from them and they do not have to live in close proximity to be involved as well as being receptive to them coming back in the future.

Lantieri asked where program can go after Main Street and Wheelock said probably Bank Street and Cherry and continue to pursue funding and after that DPW is submitting for planning assistance for Battery Street.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:09pm

Seeing nobody from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:09 pm

Parking Rates

Wight said had not done anything with season pass rates in some time, looking to raise season pass rates \$5 for resident and \$10 non-residents, increase on league participants also. Also at some point might look at charging at Leddy again but would put on an agenda for larger discussion with public if that was to take place.

Lantieri felt rates were reasonable across the board and asked when last raised and Wight said she thought 2014.

Traverse asked to make sure passes are available to low income residents

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

Leddy Rates and Ordinance Change

Wight stated that Leddy had very specific language in appendix D regarding parking fees but in chapter 22-21 of ordinance has rules in 1973. City created covering Arena and updated 76, 80 and 81 and included fees, smoking in prohibited areas and nothing in over 40 years, recommends removing section 20 of the ordinances. This is not consistent with any of the departments other facilities or buildings.

Traverse asked if the attorney was in favor of this and was told yes by Wight and would have to go before the City Council, Ordinance Committee, PAAC Committee and back to City Council for approval.



Farrell made a motion to approve the recommendation to remove section 22-21 of the ordinance, second by Johnson, motion carried.

City Bond Update

Wight said have \$2 mil on Parks bond; Cemetery expansion & landscaping design phase 1, marina dredging, NB entrance or pull through sites, system wide accessible surfacing for playgrounds over next 3 years, water distribution new & upgrades Starr Farm, Lakeside, Baird, TT and Calahan, BPRW comprehensive plan update (10 yr. mark) and more funding to park specific comp plans.

\$4 mil for Facility bond; Boathouse Feasibility study, general building improvements to 200 Church Street and 339 Pine, siding and paving at 645 Pine, Fire Station work, window rehab at Firehouse Gallery, office and chapel repairs at Lakeview Cemetery, RTU and roof replacement at Miller center, roof replacement and security at Police dept., heating system, HVAC and elevator at City Hall, fix window curtain at Library, permits and contingency.

Lantieri asked what the 1% for art was and was told that the Mayor had all put aside 1% of projects for art. Also asked about the Facility contingency fund and 645 paving and was told it is related to the Champlain Parkway and how to get in and out of the site.

Commission Bond Support

Traverse asked as a commission if want to formally express approval for the bond and ask voters to support. Said he is aware that voters are concerned of higher taxes and concerns with High School, federal money and with all said feels some vital items for Parks that have a very important impact on the City and access. Asked the extent commission would like to support in the coming days and weeks.

Hurley said she would support, Lantieri said he supported but asked what would happen if the vote did not pass and if ways to find money and was told no by Wight as there is no other money. Said if it doesn't pass in March might try again in November, bond includes money for matching of grants also.

Farrell said did express support for the bond last time around and felt remained consistent with that. Traverse said to the extent of park projects and now before the voters and the statement would be to ask voters to approve for vital elements of parks among other items.

Wight mentioned FPF is a good forum to get out the word and noted that gets to the community.

Traverse said that he would personally feel comfortable getting out to FPF and Hurley asked if the vote would require 2/3 approval and was told yes. All were in favor of supporting the bond and Traverse would put out such statement saying so.

Traverse said that he would put together a statement and asked Lantieri to follow up with posting through Front Porch Forum.

Bike Share Update

Wight explained she had attached the BOLT report also and stated rack at 645 Pine and one at Penny Lane, stated the TOUC committee just met to see if they wanted to continue program with BOLT, had some supply issues, Penny Lane was number one hub site, current status speaks to the contract. Wight said she would be coming back to commission with encumbrance vs lease and request a lease for use of



park space if continue as with any other concessionaire and would ask for 5% of revenue, for food concessions get a higher rate. Penny Lane has been controversial with other vendors and what are the goals and goal is not for tourism and this is a large use, because that is a use the question is does that preclude from having. Local Motion feels that impacts them as they feel people choose to use a bikeshare rather than rent a bike. Is a question of is there some resident use of the Penny Lane site, feels will be some public comment as to whether a lease is approved at Waterfront Park at Penny Lane.

Wight said she has reached out to all the shops and reminded them not about the bikeshare project but about what they would like to do/see at the Waterfront as a use. Traverse asked if one of the companies was interested in setting up a system like Bolt and Wight said she did not see that interest currently as they were not set up in that way and would likely have to subcontract with someone.

Lantieri said he heard the concern of the local bike shops, feels the data shows the locations are primary spots and wonders if a way to shift the location for bikeshare and unfortunate it does affect the local business and would like to see a way to modify or relocate the hubs.

Wight said Local Motion keeps beating numbers every year and wonders how much if any have they lost, and the fact that on line and very curious as to how much really if any has been lost.

March 2nd History of Burlington Parks

Wight reminded the commission to attend the March 2nd meeting, 2004 Muriel had done a lot of research, will be in person as well as on line, hybrid. Cahill has lined up CCTV as well to broadcast. 5:30pm will be the time.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Traverse has one additional hour.

Report on PACC Dog Force

Wight said had first meeting about a week ago and Jake Schuman, volunteer was selected to lead, had introductions, and will meet monthly working toward some of the goals in the resolution as passed by City Council.

Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said some discussion on FRAME, Brook Gilman connected with Samantha Dunn, and met to start that discussion, reported out on Redstone Cottage, applied for grant and will hear back in mid-March.

Director's Items

Wight said the Winter Lude was great at Schmanska Park and then on Sunday did some snowshoeing, Old East End group took lead on neighborhood group led and doing a presentation to show others, CEDO is also getting involved. Recreation facilities and buildings, parks side doing asset management system rolling out and looking to do demo in May and what it means and how it is used, conservation/grounds supporting recreation outdoors currently, maintaining trails, skating at sea caves, outdoor rinks great, Calahan and Perkins plans are wrapping up, BH and Waterfront new software coming along, Kaplan heading to training, Moreau submitted grant for Perkins Pier, Recreation school money will be coming in for Rec Nutrition program, looking at filling open positions for recreation. Get



bid out for Redstone cottage and hopeful will get a good bid as well as for housing conservation bid. Diana Wood agreed to look at the monthly reports and put together annual report in the future.

Commissioner's Items

Hurley asked about student representative and has someone in mind and asked the process before she recommended. Traverse said if someone interested they should apply, also talked about adding another second student and should follow-up with Lori Olberg on posting for the position as well as asking Seth our current student for his availability and commitment. Wight will follow-up with Pine as to how to move forward with reaching out to students and the process as well as Traverse and putting out to Trusted Voices program.

Traverse said at City Council meeting was a proposed ordinance change on camping in parks and city property and in December had Deryk and Lacey speak about the City current policy and City Council voiced approval of the policy last night. City Council is going to host discussion from now through mid-April to consider expanding camping and it is extensive and subject to lots of change, question to all is if commission wants to lean into the discussion. Feels will have some reaching out to commission, option 2 is having a broader discussion in March at Commission meeting, does not feel will have a role in but could provide feedback. Did feel a role for commission to play.

Farrell feels it would be valuable discussion, would not want to get out in front of department but would be good to have the conversation.

Lantieri agrees to have done in the group setting and the timeline.

Traverse also did not want to step on the toes of the department and will reach out and talk to others that are already working on and can either be a part of what is already happening and compliment. Traverse will reach out and get back to commission.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm