



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
August 9, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Present: Farrell, Hurley, Lantieri and Wiseberg

Staff Present: Wight, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Hurley

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Cameron Lauf, Executive Director at Turning Point, explained a bit about the event, did last year as a trial and hope to blend recovery community with those recovering. Hope to have a strong collective event. Free Henna tattoo's.

Vermont Maple Creemee Company looking for access to parks, specifically Oakledge and Perkins as well as the ADog Skatepark, not permanent.

Spokesperson from Love, Kelly stated the objective of the event is building community, would work with an in kind music company and spoke with Jolley who will sponsor free drinks. Performance will be from a former Burlington High School student that signed to a label. City Hall Park, Love Concert.

Hannah Hartman, organizer of Car Free Day, will host event at City Hall Park to celebrate Burlington as a walk, bike City and promoted for shared students, lots of tabling from non-profits and Ben & Jerry's will sponsor and give a free ice cream.

Kelly Butts, also with City Hall Park Love event, has done several music events, great opportunity to have kids in High School have a voice that might not have a voice otherwise. A lot of underlying segregation that happens and love to have support on this for changing lives and particularly in the middle of town.

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

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:00pm

Seeing nobody from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:00 pm

Community Garden History

Cahill explained his background and how celebrating 50 years of gardening and planning all kinds of events associated with that. Taking further than just Burlington but a very broad history. Sept. 11, Garden Harvest event at Ethan Allen Homestead at WVPD, Sharon Bushor and Bonnie Acker were helping with the event and also helped to create the poster Cahill was using as a backdrop. Did a documentary, may not be just one, trying to decipher best way to use the footage and documents collected to date. Lots of very interesting story telling from that. Jim Flint was and has been very



instrumental in the State as well as Burlington and has been doing a lot of deep research on the topic and history. Very dynamic and wants to share some context.

Been doing programming with others and wanted to share the efforts and invite to the event, 4-7pm on Sept. 11th. Programs and activities and music closer to sunset, Jenny Johnson will be doing much of the music for the event.

Lantieri asked if found anything in particular that has really stuck with him and Cahill said one of the interviews would like to do is with Bernie Sanders, as he was part of the gardens from the first inception. Also said that he was instrumental in getting funding in the school systems, long time in the making to get to happen. He supported from administrative and programmatic to find a home for the gardens.

Wight asked if Cahill would like to share the website address information with all and was told yes.

Brave Little State or Vermont Public was suggested by Hurley to reach out to and get more information and the word out and featured.

FY22 Commission Report

Hurley asked if all had a chance to look over the report and Wight said could use digital signatures on the report.

Farrell said it was a great report for all to look back and see what has been done in the past year all in one place.

Hurley noted that every year on the Commission the challenges seem to be the same but it is a good problem to have. Would prefer to have that rather than a bad budget or real critical issues.

Motion to approve the annual report by Lantieri, second by Wiseberg, motion carried.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Johnson had 1 hour, Lantieri had 10 hours for Champlain Street, Hurley had 1 hour additional, Wiseberg 1 additional hour

Report on PACC Dog Force

Wight said met at Oakledge in person for the first time, have off-leash sub-committee Wight is on and continue to make progress, working on survey and coming along.

Wight explained Dog Task Force was created and it was not just in parks and that is why several sub-committees. This is a recent committee and some of the pieces that are being worked on are part of the past park issues.

Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said new members are all starting as originals termed out and Brooke Gilman is the new Chair, has a strategy meeting coming up at the end of August, Brian Lowe and Brooke are meeting with Mayor ahead of time to discuss the different issues.



Director's Items

Wight said main item is to recognize the issues going on in the parks, incredibly challenging, from Mayor's office down, very hard, press release of 35 windows smashed on houses on specific streets, city trying to figure out how to deal with. How to handle parks and heard it is the worst it has ever been. City is trying to figure out, major societal issues and not just Burlington.

Did a lot of cut back of brush to try and limit by wastewater to alleviate usage of public spaces. Sarah Russell is working on prioritization of moving people that are camping and it is continual and very hard and complicated. Policing is very difficult and last time had to commission community officers and working on.

Amazing Champ Camp season, every week was full with a waiting list, had some free sports camps with additional funding from kids matter and school district, last two weeks of the summer started doing special program PAL camp. Last Beach Bites event is tomorrow, Wednesday, August 10th. Enterprise funds to discuss with CAO about the waterfront for marina and beach, which runs more like a business.

Commissioner's Items

Lantieri said he had been working on the Champlain Street Park and BPRW had been working on doing a master plan on the park, very small with playground and some community garden boxes that have fallen into disrepair. Said got a bit stuck during Covid and Lantieri moved to the area and helped to volunteer and leverage the funding and been slow going but got SPARK grant and CVOEO funds and some hard labor and cleaning. Full of pollinators and others currently now.

Lantieri wanted to speak about the Bike share, Wight said currently the bikes belong to BOLT and after 30 days the City could take over and would have to find out a way to deprogram the bikes and see if any interest in a bike share from others.

Wiseberg said he posted in public forum (south end) for input as a commissioner and said he used the app to report graffiti and was not sure what the process was and how it works. Wight said gets reported to Parks and a work order would get done and it would be by prioritization. Said very good to have in c-click-fix as it is in the system and will get done eventually. A lot of upkeep issues with poison ivy and keeping the park clean, care of the Oakledge beach, dogs and glass in particular, add pickleball courts and better upkeep of the tennis court.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:41pm