

Staff: Holli Bushnell, Office Assistant  
Lakeview Cemetery  
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## Minutes

### Parks, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 5:00 pm

**MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON AT 645 PINE ST FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM**

#### Attendance:

Committee Members: Chair Joan Shannon, Councilor Ali Dieng, Councilor Karen Paul

City Staff: Emer Feeney – Fletcher Free Library, Doreen Kraft – BCA, Cindi Wight – BPRW, Holli Bushnell – BPRW Staff

Public – Ben Traverse – Chair, Parks Commission

Meeting called to order at 5:09pm by Chair Shannon

#### Approval of agenda

Councilor Paul moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Dieng Seconded, all were in favor.

#### Approval of draft minutes from May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Paul moved to approve the minutes. Dieng seconded. All were in favor

#### Public Forum

Public forum opened at 5:10pm. As there were no members of the public present the public forum was closed at 5:10pm

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Dog Task Force –

Cindi Wight provided the committee with a review of the work completed by the previous task force. The first off-leash pilot program was initiated in 1998 and led to the creation of the Starr Farm and Waterfront dog parks. Initially this was an 18 month pilot and the organization committee was supposed to provide a report to the council at the end of the time period. There is no evidence that this report was generated or presented.

In 2011 Councilor Shannon requested that a task force revisit off leash areas and fenced dog runs. This task force spent 2 years working with the community and looking at off leash areas and fenced dog parks. The project lasted from 2011 to 2013 and the task force provided a final report with recommendations related to both areas. When masterplan for parks was started the project was temporarily shelved and did not return to discussions until 2019 when Wight

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pulled report and presented to PACC and Parks Commission. Both committees expressed concern that the 2013 report were outdated. Wight developed a new survey to gage the needs and desires of the community.

Ben Traverse provided the committee with a perspective from the Parks Commission. The commission feels the previous task force did a great job and is confident that the information is still accurate and applicable. That said, parks have changed a lot in the last decade since that task force was initiated. The Commission would like to survey the public again to insure the information is as accurate as possible. He stated that, while his commission doesn't often have public commenters the comments they do get concern off leash dogs. The commission would be prepared to survey the public and look at ordinance/policy OR provide a representative to task force. They want to be part of discussion on this issue.

At this time the committee reviewed the resolution draft provided by Dieng. The resolution charges PACC with the creation of a new task force and details who the proposed members should be as well as the goals of the project. The main roll of PACC is to appoint members to the new task force. The composition of the task force was amended as follows to reflect that PACC will appoint 5 members to the task force based on an application that Wight will generate and post on the city website. Applicants will have from the date the resolution is approved by the city council until August 31, 2021 to submit applications for positions 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8. The clerk's office will collect the applications. Position 5 will be designated by the Chief of Police, position 6 will be designated by the BPRW director, and position 9 will be appointed by the Parks Commission Chair. BPRW will also provide a staff member to act as admin for the task force meetings. The task force will report to PACC quarterly and will provide a report to the full city council by April 29, 2022.

Dieng moved to recommend the resolution as discussed to council. Paul seconded. All were in favor.

## **2. North End Studios Update**

Wight reports that BPRW has signed an agreement with Champlain Housing Trust to manage the recently vacated space at the Old North End Community Center starting 7/1/2021. They are now managing the downstairs space.

Doreen Kraft stated that she has been working with David Shein and others to find temporary spaces for those displaced by the NES closure this summer. She is also in the process of putting together a long term plan to develop a searchable database for performing arts use. They have

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started gathering information, but the project is much larger than anticipated. Kraft has asked Shein to contact former NES staffers to see if any of them might be able to assist in developing this database. BCA will coordinate with all culture groups in the city and the information will be available on both the city website and hello Burlington. At the moment the most pressing issue is a lack of staff availability to work on the project. Kraft hopes that things will slow down in August and she and her staff can pick the project back up in the fall. In the meantime, they have been able to answer a lot of need by finding alternative spaces with the assistance of Shein.

**3. 1% for Public Art**

The city council approved the 1% for Public Art ordinance. While Kraft wasn't available for the council meeting, City Attorney Eileen Blackwood was present and able to answer councilor's questions. There will be a lot of administrative work to set the program up as well as to see what projects will be eligible for the 1%. This was a project 20 years in the making and Kraft believes it will be hugely impactful moving forward. She specifically highlighted the upcoming large scale art project at the airport, stating that this large project and others like it will be better supported with the ordinance in place.

**4. Schedule next meeting**

The next PACC meeting will be held on September 9, 2021 at 5:30pm in the front conference room at 645 Pine St.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.