

MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

5:30 – 6:45 PM

645 Pine Street, Parks Table

Participants

Committee Members: Councilor Dave Hartnett, Chair, North District (DH)
Councilor Selene Colburn, East District (SC)
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6 (KP)

Staff: Jen Francis, Parks Comprehensive Planner, BPRW (JF)
Jesse Bridges, Director, BPRW (JB)
Kath Laing, Fletcher Free Library (KL)
Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO (KMS)
Nate Wildfire, Assistant Director, CEDO (NW)

Others: James Lockridge, Big Heavy World

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 2/17

- Meeting came to order at 5:35 pm.
- Motion to approve February minutes on behalf of previous committee members and May agenda (SC/DH); approved.

2) Public Forum

- Dave states that while public forum will continue to appear as an agenda item at the beginning of each meeting, public comment opportunities may extend through the duration of meetings: everyone is welcome to speak if they are willing to wait.
- James Lockridge
 - Jim has concerns with both the lack of transparency in BCA governance and the lack of an avenue to address this issue; he has been speaking out on this topic for more than a year now without clear response from leadership.
 - Jim has offered to facilitate conversations between leadership and artists.
 - Jim does not feel that the BCA board provides opportunities for members of the public to enter the conversation; he is looking for inclusion and participatory governance from BCA.
 - Jim expresses concern with the City's consideration of the PAC committee meeting as needed rather than monthly, leaving the Council and the Mayor as the only leadership bodies that the public can regularly go to.

3) PIAP Update (Wildfire)

- ECHO
 - PIAP project in which the least happened so far, in part because Executive Director Phelan Fretz has been on sabbatical.
 - ECHO trying to determine how to spend the TIF funding; working with new challenges.
- Community Sailing Center
 - MOU is in place and site prep has begun.
 - CEDO is advancing a new lease: looking for a mechanism to recover the costs that the city has already expended on the site, determining long-term relationship terms, and looking to the SC to inform the City of their schedule.
 - (DH) What's the project time frame?
(NW) The MOU was signed last November, prep for the building pad has started, and the development agreement and long-term lease are the next steps slated for completion by the end of summer. The building construction schedule will be determined by the SC's capital campaign (TIF covers roughly a tenth of their funding).
(KP) Sailing Center fund raising is getting very close to their goal.
- New Moran
 - NM team submitted a report in November that started to detail:
 - Funding: how will the project be funded? (Building construction is a \$30 million dollar endeavor, of which funding pieces will come in at different times.)
 - Operating pro forma: what is the functional business plan?
 - Program: what is the use of the space?
 - Organization: are they set up to be a non-profit that runs a building?
 - The Council's future guidance on metrics and schedule will ultimately inform the development agreement.
 - The NM team is in an estimating process that will bring a better understanding of costs.
 - (KP) Concerns with financial viability of New Moran and that is absolutely sustainable.
 - (SC) If New Moran doesn't move forward, would demo be paid for out of TIF funding?
(NW) Yes, TIF would cover demo costs.
 - (KP) Council would like NM team to attend a council meeting. \$6.3 million of a \$9 million dollar TIF funds are, at this point, going to this project. Councilors should have oversight of this and a presentation from the NM team in June.
 - (DH) The NM team should present to PACC before they present to the full Council; the NM team should plan to visit PACC in June and then plan to visit Council later in June or at the first meeting in July; Councilor Jane Knodell will be joining PACC for some of these conversations in the upcoming months.
 - (NW) I need input from the three PACC Councilor's on the development agreement before it reaches the Council.
 - (DH) PACC will continue to meet monthly throughout the entire summer given all that is underway with PIAP project development.
- Waterfront Park
 - The project scope includes new, energy efficient light fixture replacement that matches the parks lighting standard, electrical upgrades, and potable water upgrades.
 - Design will take place over the summer with construction slated for the fall.
- Marina
 - There are questions about design, access, and communication to the public.
 - Due diligence period ends July 31; public outreach slated to take place after this time.
 - Upcoming letters of approval needed from Jesse Bridges & Chapin Spencer.

- (DH) There has not been a lot of public dialogue with respect to this project. Most of the public is not aware. When do we see the site design? This should have happened before the MOU was approved.
- (NW) We cannot do this project without the support of the Water Department.
- (DH) This item should be on the agenda for June. Planning to hold the July PACC meeting at the Fishing Pier; marina plans should be enlarged and displayed at the Fishing Pier for this meeting.

4) WAN Update (Shapiro)

- Working fast and furious coordinating for the upcoming marathon.
- Construction has included a lot of underground improvement: wetlands, stormwater management, undergrounding utilities, and dewatering.
- Impact displacement piers (foundation) for skatepark have been installed.
- After marathon new Bike Path alignment construction will begin.
- The project remains within budget.
- BED is wrapping up underground conduit work.
- This improvement will help people envision the potential that lies within this area.

5) Fletcher Free Library (Laing)

- Upcoming Smithsonian traveling exhibition will establish a conversation between evolution and creation; FFL is working with partners to develop programming related to the exhibition.
 - (SC) Request for update on the strategic planning process and programming budget at June PACC meeting.
 - (DH) Would like to see the library and BCA on the agenda at every PACC meeting.

6) Parks Update (Bridges)

- Upcoming “Join our Jam” fundraiser in partnership with schools and library.
- Jesse will provide an update on summer program at the June PACC meeting.
- There has been a catastrophic failure of the cooling tower at Leddy Arena; insurance may help cover repair costs but repair will not be complete until sometime in July.
- Several parks capital projects nearing completion: Waterfront Boardwalk, Boathouse Customer Service Renovations, Oakledge Upper Pavilion Restroom Renovations (including the development of Parks restroom standard materials), and Bike Path Phase 1a.
- Underway/upcoming parks capital construction projects: Starr Farm playground replacement, Bike Path Phase 1b (Urban Reserve), and the temporary Bike Path connection between WFP and WAN.
- Complications with project urban background soils have cause come project delays, particularly with respect to the Bike Path Phase 1b (secured soils temporarily being stock piled in the Leddy Arena parking lot) and the Perkins Pier sea wall repair (secured soils temporarily being stockpiled in the Perkins parking lot). The City is working closely with DEC to identify disposal strategies.
- Future parks capital projects: Leddy playground replacement (FY16), Oakledge accessible playground (FY17); the Oakledge playground replacement will eliminate the last outdated wooden playground equipment from the entire parks system.
- Maggie Leugers (Recreation Superintendent) retired in April and with that will come some department reorganization.

7) PACC Reorg

- Jen will continue to be staff person through the next couple months.

8) Other items

- (SC) Request for a BCA budget presentation update from Doreen.

- (DH) Request for North beach and July 3 updates from BPRW on June agenda.

9) Confirmation of next meeting date

- Wednesday, June 17, 5:30 pm.
- Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 pm (at Fishing Pier Pavilion – check in with May)

10) Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.

DRAFT