

## MINUTES

**Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015 – 5:30-7:00PM  
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library**

### Participants

#### Committee Members:

- Councilor Dave Hartnett, Chair, North District
- Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6
- Selene Colburn, East District

#### Staff:

- Rubi Simon, Library Director, Fletcher Free Library
- Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
- Peter Owens, Director CEDO
- Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO
- Doreen Kraft, Executive Director, BCA
- Sara Katz, Assistant Director, BCA
- Kath Laing, Strategic Development, FFL

#### Others:

- Ibnar Avilix, Charlie Tipper, Erick Crockenberg, Bill Truex, Amir Jusufagic and two associates from AS Concessions LLC

### 1. Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 8/27 (5 min)

*Motion to approve agenda (SC/DH) and draft minutes (SC/DH); approved.*

### 2. Public Forum (5 min) –

- Mr. Ibnar Avilix commented on a building for sale in the Old North End, which is currently being considered for an arts cooperative. The owner is willing to wait on the sale of the building for a fundraising campaign to take place. Mr. Avilix requests that the PACC discuss this with BCA.

### 3. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Update –

- Soil pile removal will begin on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- BPRW Masterplan available in print and online.
- Fall / winter projects are on track. Ongoing planning for spring projects.
- Councilor Colburn inquired as to the smoking ban in parks. Currently being considered by Ordinance Committee. Director Bridges indicated over 300 cities nationally who have adopted smoking bans.

#### **4. Fletcher Free Library Update –**

- Finalizing Strategic Plan public document. Available in December 2015. Internal implementation plan to be developed.
- Teen Librarian position has been accepted by Lisa Buckton. Starting in December or January.
- Facilities projects – carpeting in Main Reading Room finished, electrical work ongoing.
- New Commissioner – Charles Winkleman.
- Security – Good feedback from staff and patrons since guard started working 2-6PM on weekdays and during opening hours on weekends.
- Councilor Hartnett inquired about services for new Americans at the library. ESL and conversation classes, digital literacy and workforce development in various languages, in partnership with RISPNet, participating in language access plan under development by City (looking at how people engage with City services and provide access in various languages).

#### **5. CEDO Update –**

- New Moran development – The New Moran team presented a fundraising update. The team has transitioned into formal charitable campaign in the last two months. \$11M to raise by closing in September. \$4M donated, pledged verbally or in writing to date.
- Councilor Paul inquired about term of the pledges. Pledges run to 2019. She inquired the amount of funds in cash vs pledges. Cash received is \$700,000. She asked how much of the cash was in accounts presently, meaning ‘in the bank.’ Cash on hand is \$50,000. Councilor Paul asked about bridge financing for pledges and fundraising with members of Champions Council. It would be very helpful to have 100% participation so as to encourage further fundraising. Bridge funding currently being sought until pledges are paid off. Estimated need for \$8M in bridging funds. Potential to find a local entity to aggregate a number of bridge funding sources. Champions Council of 58 people, the understanding that all will contribute meaningfully.
- Soon will be launching a crowdfunding campaign to develop a network of support in the community and beyond. Timeline – project completed 2 years from closing in September 2016. Contingency plan – uncertainties exist for this reason an aggressive timeline.
- Memorial Auditorium and Gateway Parking Lot RFP. In light of the City’s 10 year Capital Plan, Memorial Auditorium has become an urgent issue. The RFP should elicit a broad response in order to engage in a community conversation. The block is located in the downtown TIF district and is also discussed in planBTV.
  - Summary of comments from Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization provided by Peter Owens: housing is too emphasized, need to open the scope of the RFP; importance of indoor space; importance of public component; boys and girls club; City has not invested adequately in property upkeep.
  - Public input – Charlie Tipper – need to consider the City’s pending investment in a 1,500 person event space, suggestion to demolish Memorial Auditorium and reuse the site.
  - Councilor Colburn commented on the importance of ensuring adequate ‘active use’ of the Gateway corner, a balance of public and private.
  - The Mayor is looking for a range of proposals – public, private/public and private.

#### **6. BCA Update –**

- Board recruitment process update. Councilor Colburn has been part of this process. Outreach inviting people to apply. Interview process is public. The Board has developed a matrix of skills and expertise necessary, highlighting current gaps. Diversity and equity taken into consideration in the development of matrix. Nominating committee passes recommendation to full board, full board votes, makes final recommendation to Mayor. November 17<sup>th</sup> 4 new Board members

joined BCA board, representing South End, Old North End and New North End. Second round interviews being scheduled.

- Councilor Colburn complimented BCA on an open process. Recommended BCA pay attention to fine tuning the process in future rounds, making it less arbitrary the number of slots to fill. The BCA Board has up to 21 slots, not all must be filled. Doreen Kraft referred to the skills and expertise matrix, commenting that they will always keep seats open until diversity and equity issues are addressed.
- City Hall Park development. Councilor Paul asked 3 questions posed by a constituent, who was not able to be present at the meeting.
  - Cutting down of mature trees. Director Kraft commented on the need for a balance between active / open green space and quiet / shaded space.
  - Performance space over existing fountain. Director Kraft shared that the design is based on a larger meandering path through the City.
  - How many public meetings were held to develop the design? More than 10, closer to 20.

#### **7. Other items –**

- Proposal from North Beach vendors, AS Concessions LLC. They have been selling snacks at North Beach for the last 3 years. They propose the sale of beer / wine and wood-fired pizza (and other menu item), as well as building a deck for outdoor dining for 10-12 tables or 40-50 people. They present this proposal as a win-win-win for vendors, City and clientele at North Beach. PACC members and Jess Bridges to follow up with AS Concessions LLC.

**8. Next meeting** – January 26, 2016 at 5:30pm in the Local History Room of the Library.

#### **9. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn (DH/SC); approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.