



BURLINGTON
**PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT**

**Parks & Recreation and Harbor Commission Meeting
Minutes
April 5, 2016**

Commission Present: Bossange, Hanson, Hurley, Kaplan and Khadka

Staff Present: Bridges, Rogers, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:31 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Hanson to approve the agenda, second by Khadka, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2016 Meeting

*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

Approval of Commission Attendance Records for Fiscal Years 15/16

*waive the reading, accept the communication and place them on file

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Hanson, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Jeff Rockwood, Youth Coach of the Year Award

Rogers gave some background on the award for coach of the year and the stated that his committee picked Sarah Denton as the softball coach of the year. Said she had done fantastic work promoting softball in the City, program has been struggling to get participants and last year had combined with Colchester to create an all-star team. Explained had a lot of support from families and currently made another all-star team and went to finals. Looking at creating a skin field within the City and working on creating new facilities. Rogers presented the award to Sarah Denton and thanked her for all of her dedication and hard work.

Hanson thanked Denton personally and said she can see how excited the girls and community are about softball coming back into the neighborhood.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Kaplan.

Nobody came forward from the public to speak.

Public forum closed at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Request for Rental of E-bikes on the Burlington Bike Path

Kaplan explained that there was discussion previously on this item and opened up to the commission for questions and comments.



Bossange asked if there were any downsides or things to be aware of if asked any questions by the public regarding this activity on the bike path.

Hanson asked about the maximum speed and how compatible that would be with other users on the bike path and Sharp stated that California adopted state wide and that the bike itself weighs more than a regular bike, the maximum speed limit can be set lower than 20 miles an hour, this type of bike is suitable for the path. It is also the path most would like to use and can also get people connected to Colchester and other areas. Hanson was concerned with people using the bike at this speed on the bike path with strollers and around sharper corners.

Sharp stated that maintaining the appropriate speed on the bike path is more about changing the mentality and his company would be renter to an older population, and people that are using for an assisted use not for young adults wanting to go on a fast cruise. He stated that his company had showed this with the Segways that they take a lot of initiative and caution when operating on bike path and state rules clearly to customers and felt the rules should be posted as to what is not allowed on the path.

Bossange said he does a lot of road biking and 20 miles an hour is very fast and thought it would be good to post speeds on the path in general for the activities that are happening on the path and worries that people will go home quickly if running late and would like to have Sharp help educate.

Sharp said they have the technology to set a limit and that is up to the Commission as to what they would like to see the speed limit set at and he would comply with whatever decision is made. Hanson would like to see that happen.

Hurley asked what the cost of using an e-bike versus a regular bike is and was told by Sharp that it would be a significant difference but did not give a definitive number.

Hanson asked if Sharp had a suggested speed and was told that 12 miles an hour would be an appropriate starting place.

Kaplan asked if any other bike rental places had asked to use e-bikes and was told no by Bridges and she further asked if Bridges thought that others would ask if they saw an opportunity and Bridges stated he did not feel that would happen or be an issue and Kaplan had concerns with codifying within the ordinances to not run into problems with others using without permits in the future.

Bridges said he would be supportive of doing some type of code for fees for activities in parks and on parks property to generate monies to maintain.

Hanson made a motion to approve and limit maximum speed to 12 miles per hour and come back and give a report on how the operation is working a few months into the operation, second by Khadka, motion carried.



FY16 Parks Capital Project Update; introduction to DRAFT FY17 Parks Capital Project List

Bridges stated that Francis had sent out the information to all and started with FY16 current projects and asked if anyone had questions. Bossange asked what the staff position was and was told it was Jon Adams-Kollitz and then asked about the total \$4 on the FY16 update and explained long and short update and Bossange said he was concerned with the next category of others the TIF, Grants and donations and bridges explained it.

Hanson asked if Bridges would walk through the entire plan and Bridges agreed. He explained the three sections Penny for Parks (PFP), Park Impact Fees (PIF) and Other (TIF, Grants, Donations). He then went item by item from the list and explained each project.

Bridges then explained the Park Impact Fees section of the plan with more detail. He stated that the department was requesting to spend roughly half of the reserve to add parking kiosks at Oakledge park.

He then went into (TIF, Grants and Donations) stating they were fairly self-explanatory as frequently updated to the Commission, big deficit in terms of what is needed.

Hanson asked if the department was not doing maintenance on the Calahan courts and if it had information available to the public and Bridges said that he is open to suggestions and also open to receiving requests and also stated these documents are working documents but could be available and did not have a ranking on hand of all courts in the City.

Kaplan suggested having an input box on our website and bridges said do have an inquiry section on the site and would route to the correct staff.

Bridges explained the entire way that projects are ranked is available and also stated that it is part of the Master Plan but to go through the entire plan would be very cumbersome. Bridges encouraged the Commission to send people to click fix and to the PFP request form.

For FY17 plan Bridges explained many are to be determined after the winter months and is dependent of what the highest demands are for (PFP) section. Bridges stated that the department was holding \$100,000 for the Oakledge accessible playground. The (PIF) category doing a siting study on North Beach Campground, skinning field at Smalley Park and more work on the bike path. The final category (TIF, Grants and Donations) funding and staffing is to be determined, the ice system is being replaced at the Arena, overpass design (culverts) at North Beach, old north end multi-use community trail design, soil and site remediation and many unknowns.

Burlington College Update

Bridges gave an update of what is next for the property, currently doing development agreement next steps are to have the height change addressed, zoning changes to be approved through Planning Commission, Ordinance Committee and City Council, BCCH and CHT have formally executed option agreement for affordable housing and right to repurchase will be exhausted after these two criteria are satisfied.

Acquisition next steps are to VHC Board application for \$500,000 over two years and land and water conservation fund, new grant program considering a \$500,000 application in partnership with VLT and



State LWCF and private philanthropy component. Due to the State the beginning of May and will find out if granted in September/October. Bridges explained that a letter of support from the legislative delegation will also be included with the documentation for the grant.

Bridges explained how this project will connect to the waterfront and neighborhoods and public program areas, will be multi-use trail and public beach. Ecological restoration was explained by Dan Cahill from the Restoration Ecology, partnership with Rubenstein School and Intervale Conservation Nursery, State of Vermont ANR, American Chestnut Foundation and BPRW. The Land steward and City Arborist will be working with the class to develop a planting plan for the site. Cahill has developed a good relationship with the school to work collaboratively.

Bridges commended Cahill for his work on growing this relationship over many years and bringing the collaboration together.

Cahill said he will be focusing on the new park and approximately 500 trees to be planted, the trees will be smaller level of trees than what is normally planted in the City. Khadka asked if there would be the opportunity for community volunteers and Cahill said that the students were prepared to do the project but would welcome having some community volunteers as well.

St. Josephs School/O.N.E. Community Center Update

Bridges stated that he sent a handout and asked to have all check out some of the links, had a good presentation to ward 2/3 NPA, made very clear the City is not purchasing St. Joseph's but interested in making a reality to tenants and the big takeaway is that Champlain Senior Center has some big financial problems and we are not saying will take over but rather enhance programs and help to save the meals program site. Can move from McClure to St. Josephs center and having the programs in the same place are very enhancing and positive feedback about the department being involved, also looking for some anchor tenants.

Khadka stated that many community spaces are being used in that building and many classes happen in that location, would like to find a way to tap into that and not like to see the community taken away that already exists, would like to build more on what is currently in place particularly adult programs and create more culturally relevant opportunities.

Bridges stated the City has no intention of coming in and taking over and changing what is currently operational, the desire of the BPRW is to compliment what already exists; intention is to augment and enable ALL community members and stabilization for the future of the building and to leverage funding to maintain operation of the building. Bridges said that the City is asking the community if it wants help.

Director's Items

Bridges stated working on universal playground, Kids Day is May 7th and June 4th is the official naming and opening of the Skatepark.



Commissioner's Items

Khadka asked about the link on Bridges web site, wanted to know if it was an April fool's day prank and was told yes it was a joke by Bridges.

Khadka asked about summer employment and the process for hiring and Rogers said accepting applications currently, advertised in Seven Days for two weeks and on website and City website for local. Job fairs attended at UVM and if searching for information locally the process is to go through HR or Pine Street as a convenience.

Khadka stated he was holding a youth conference in May and inviting local youth non-profits. Will happen the same day as Kids Day and would like to have some presence from BPRW.

Bossange stated that PACC postponed March meeting moving to April 12th and will be dealing with the ordinance on smoking, feels someone from the Commission should be present to answer questions.

Hurley asked about the intersection coming down Depot Street and turning the corner, said it is very congested and not safe and was wondering if anything was planned and was told by Bridges it was a DPW issue.

Hanson stated that she had not done anything on sending a letter to the City Council and now feels it is too late. Would like to pass along to another Commissioner if they so choose, all agreed to let it go, time had passed and it was not necessary at this point.

Contract Information

Motion to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. by Bossange where premature disclosure would put the City at a substantial disadvantage second by Hurley.

Motion to come out of executive session by Bossange at 7:34p.m., second by Hurley, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. by Bossange, second by Hurley, motion carried.