



**BURLINGTON
PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT**

**Parks & Recreation and Harbor Commission Meeting
Minutes
June 7, 2016**

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

Staff Present: Bridges, Rogers, Holbrook, Allen, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:38 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2016 Meeting

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

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

Recreation Division Update

Bridges introduced Rogers, Recreation Superintendent and stated that this was a continuation of the rotation of division update reports that would be presented to the Commission.

Rogers began by showing different event pictures of some of the offerings, updated on numbers of participants and additions of Itty Bitty programming (3-6 year olds) increased dramatically for this particular age group. School age program exceeded revenues and continue to add programs. The City will continue to be the license holder with the after school program. Still working on additional programming for teen and young adults, partnered with Fletcher Free Library and will expand offerings of the 242 Main Teen Club, also added a community room to the Fletcher Free Library. Plan to offer music centers in three different areas of the City to have open mic and the like.

Khadka encouraged empowering the youth to make decisions as opposed to adults making rules and setting the precedence.

Hanson also added including the Very Merry Theatre into this as well as a feeder to this program in the future. Bridges reiterated that the department would like to help partner with other community organizations and it is not the desire to take over but help enable other organizations.

Rogers explained what a great job Susan Carter is doing with the adult programming and commended for her work at the Miller Community Center as well as Cate for her help with the programming. Doing a better job of finding the programs and classes that are doing very well, particularly the self-defense and fitness classes. Athletics are provided also which include; basketball, volleyball, tennis, indoor soccer and the very popular pickle ball program. Adult senior trips are very popular, Yvette Mason, Programmer really mixed up the trips and they are very different and exciting. She is working on initiatives to reach all seniors.



Rogers went on to list all of the annual events that are still very popular; July 3rd, Senior Picnic, Super Hero Parade, Open Streets, Pomerleau Holiday Party, Senior Holiday Party, Kids Day and Wintervale.

Commended Emma Allen, Internal Events Coordinator for all the work with new events and how successful they have been such as the Halloween Howl, Tower Keyers 5K Race, Burlington Winter Bash, Leddy Beach Bites as well as the Andy A Dog Williams Skatepark Dedication. All residents were very receptive to the Beach Bites event and would like to do once a week.

Recreation Initiatives are the Champlain Senior Center taking on the Meals program and the current programs at the center with the goal of bringing both organizations into one, two staff will be committed to this programming and will also oversee the Burlington Seniors Collaboration with the goal of bringing all Burlington Senior servings organizations together on a monthly basis to communicate about activities, needs, health care and more.

Undertaking the management of the Burlington Youth Football League, organizing and implementing the program, will focus on safety and a safe experience, also working with Boys and Girls Club to welcome the New England Patriots to Roosevelt Park on July 8th for a FREE football clinic.

Great year for Rec and Nutrition program, previous worker did a great job running the program and secured a \$20,000 grant. Staff will be at Roosevelt Park every day to provide a presence and keep the park in a positive position.

Working on a feedback survey, first one was sent out after April Vacation camps, will send link to the Commission to view.

Bridges explained the decrease in staff time to the after school programming and the restructuring of staff to free up and make more efficient use of time to focus on the new initiatives that the Recreation team is taking on.

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

Public forum opened at 6:02 p.m. by Kaplan.

Nobody came forward to speak and the public forum and was closed.

Oakledge Park Accessible Playground Conceptual Design

Bridges explain the proposal, stated the playground design has advanced at two public forums, several accessible ways to get to, explained where swings and others would be located and much of the general layout as well as features for auditory, visual and other uses. Need to reconfigure parking and pathways, looking at a way to get individuals out to the rocks near the water, which would be confined in a general space.

Kaplan felt the need for more signage to let users of the bike path know when a specific area is coming up on the path.

Fitness Equipment Design on the Bike Path

Bridges explained that the bike path will soon be called a green way and explained that a form was created to explain the fitness equipment and locations, all body weight equipment rather than exercise equipment, for the general public and to focus on body weight work. Hoping to have public come out to



hear more about the design, equipment will be out in next July. Will have signs stating that equipment will be coming in and who has helped with funding and making possible.

Kaplan suggested having a strong policy and permit process in place for fitness organization who would like to do classes that charge others.

Public Forum Regarding Fitness Equipment Design on the Bike Path (3 min. per person time limit)

Nobody came forward to speak at the public forum.

Request for Waiver, Battery Park

Allen stated that the Burlington Concert Band would be performing at Battery Park on July 3rd and had shortened the length of time they were originally planning to perform and technically may not need an extension but would like to have the permit in place. Will play just before fireworks, will start around 6:30pm and end shortly after 9 p.m.

Bossange made a motion to extend the performance by two hours and extend the end time to 9:30 p.m., second by Khadka, motion carried.

Approval of Use of Conservation Funds

Bridges stated looking for initial reimbursement of funds related to original acquisition of the former Burlington College property, further stated that this is only for the closing costs of the initial land purchase and that a solid funding source is also in place. The reimbursement of closing cost is \$37,857.

Motion to authorize Burlington Parks Recreation and Waterfront to use Conservation funds to pay back Vermont Land Trust not to exceed \$38,000 by Hurley, second by Khadka, motion carried.

Recommendation for Stormwater Easement at Calahan Park

Bridges stated that he was looking for guidance from the Commission as to their desire to grant an easement. Permission had already been given to realign corner of Pine and Lakeside Avenue. Pomerleau Properties has requested an easement, stating the runoff from Calahan Park is causing the roadway to heave and cause problems because it is not maintained and additionally receives some water from Cherry Lane. Granting this easement would give permission to use the City property of about 100 square feet over a long wooded area.

The Commission would like more information from the land owner to explain what is being requested, the impact and mitigation. Invited them to present this to the Commission and also would like some clarification from the City Attorney on the legalities.

Director's Items

Bikepath starts construction tomorrow, summer camps start next week, started Park Planner interviews, have two local and two out of town applicants, interviews were very encouraging, Amy Paradis is leaving the department and her last day will be Friday, will be working for State Police, position is posted trying to fill and have increased seasonal staffing at the Boathouse currently to not rush the process, busy time of year. Governor signed the bill HH82 regarding expansion of the commission to 7 members and will advertise and hopes to fill by the August meeting. At September meeting could discuss having sub-committee's and help work with department and overall and allow to be more diverse.



Commissioner's Items

Khadka stated that he is opening a restaurant in Essex Junction and may be moving as well, he would have to resign if he moved out of Burlington and the remainder of his term would be filled.

Kaplan asked how other Commission's run the Chair ship and said she would check into as would Bridges.

Bossange gave an update on the Park Foundation; signature project is the bike path and closing in on finishing that campaign and doing the final phase, will have annual meeting next week and will pass on to group.

Bossange met with Bridges regarding end of the year report and finished draft and will send out to all to look at and then will finalize before the August meeting and sign at that meeting. Been in touch with Karen Paul regarding the no smoking in parks, Bridges said they are planning a meeting soon and Bossange asked where the Commission is with this issue. Would like to continue to work with the Parks Arts and Culture Committee and would like to know what other members of the Commission would like to do regarding this issue.

Kaplan said she is respecting the process that this needs to go through and is happy to see results at the end of the summer and felt prudent to let the topic calm down and go through the public process.

Hurley asked if the item could be put back on the next Ordinance cycle for approval and was told it could only be on once per cycle to be presented again.

Kaplan asked if due to the recent crash of air show pilots if that would affect the Air Show coming to Burlington and was told had not heard of any such notice of any type to cancel.

Kaplan explained the Health Departments had its big kickoff introducing the impact of chronic disease in Vermont, three behaviors; lack of physical activity, poor diet and tobacco use with four chronic diseases; cancer, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes and lung diseases.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. by Khadka, second by Hurley, motion carried.