



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**January 7, 2020**

**Commission Present:** Barlow, Hurley, Todd, Pierce and Harris

**Staff Present:** Moreau, Adams-Kollitz and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Pierce

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda by Todd, second by Barlow, motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Barlow read aloud the consent agenda into the record, motion was made to approve the consent agenda with the included motions, Todd added to the Minutes under the Penny for Parks conversation, “the schools would be a good place to do outreach for more engagement into the PFP process”, by Todd second by Hurley, motion carried.

**Bike Path Update**

Adams-Kollitz updated on Phase 3 which is divided into several portions. Phase 3a kicked off at the beginning of segment zero, converted Proctor Avenue, recently been working at Perkins Pier, will be master planned in the next year, repairing dangerous pathways and limiting pavement, weather conditions stopped at barge canal and will remain closed for next season, started construction in mid-October and then after full six weeks later had to stop due to flooding. Explained revetment with rougher rocks will eliminate amount of splash on the bike path. Likely not be able to get back to the area work until late August. At 50 percent drawings on phase 3b up to the barge canal. Trying to get access through private property without having to go through barge canal. Will finish design work through winter and start spring work will not have to cause disturbance in the entire park.

Todd asked about the spring work and where it would happen and was told contingent on the ability to acquire access from 2-3 private property owners. Todd was excited about working with Pine Street and keeping active and vibrant and looks forward to working with CEDO on the project as well.

Barlow asked if the raise in the water level delaying the construction also increased the cost of the project as well and was told yes inevitably. Will be doing best to negotiate and make a best compromise.

Todd asked what the anticipated time the path would be open and Adams-Kollitz said Perkins would open by the end of May and from Perkins South would remain closed until water goes down, would reopen after the end of construction season, typically end of December, can't say for certain. If low snow and level of lake keeps going down will get out and working on as soon as possible and will ask for permission to do as early as possible.



### **Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM)**

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

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed.

Public forum closed at 6:00 p.m.

### **Waterfront Division Update with BTV Stat Presentation**

Moreau explained she had done a presentation that gives all revenue sources and began slide show, stated second year of keeping a comparison and discussion in a broader form. Showing what reinvestment fees are. Only four staff in the division, have one opening, Marina Manager, small division. Marina brings in the most revenue, Perkins Pier is 100 percent seasonal and would like to invest in brings just under \$1 mil. Year, North Beach is all campground revenue, parking is a huge amount of revenue, events are the number one thing the community wanted to have more of, specifically more events at Waterfront park.

Todd asked about charging more and how to maneuver that and Moreau explained the balance of local producers and does not make lots of profit, covers turf and employees fees.

Barlow asked what the City provided for ticketed events and Moreau said anything hired out is an expense of the producer, City provides, water, electricity, monitor sound, directing setup and does fencing, not for tenting, does onsite supervision, sound during event and help breakdown.

Campground occupancy, included group site and lean to sites skewed the numbers a bit as they just came on line this year. All sites have had almost full occupancy all season. Looking how to move forward with capital plan and would like more money for master plan on the design.

Transient marina occupancy was very up and down, July through August and attributed to the new marina and expansion of LCF, private marina was part way open and definitely saw a drop.

Pierce asked how the prices compare to the private Marina and Moreau said the City dictated that the private marina had to be 15 percent higher, LCT tends to be closer to the City fees, within .25 cents. Both facilities have much better amenities. The Boathouse is still a barge and is good but is definitely rotting and very constrained in size, not much to do with that other than what have, can't host any more boaters.

Adams-Kollitz explained all the possibilities and the PIAP process and the funds that were given from the City and one of the proposals was a new facility for Perkins Pier that did not get funded. Still have some materials available to view if anyone is interested.

Hurley asked if still talking to Vermont Adaptive and Moreau stated absolutely and would like to be the stewards of public access of an accessible and equitable waterfront. Wants to have community discussions on spaces and look at changing waterfront and look at opportunities moving forward.

Future waterfront plans to kick off the Waterfront and Harbor master plan to begin January led by City Planning department, focus on Perkins Pier and the next steps on the North Beach master plan . Gave some statistics on events and the impacts of each event individually.



Todd asked about ongoing pollution of State water and also asked about solutions to beach closures to have a backup plan and the broader question of in long term is water health a part of plan to remediate and stay open. Asked if there a conversation for the broader Lake and Moreau said it is a much bigger question. Moreau said never used to close the beach, about 5 years ago it began and often feels powerless. Topic is huge, beyond municipality, left to deal with effects. Follows Legislators, Representatives and Congressman to do cleanups, have a partnership with UVM, have them test as much as possible and very open to, having UVM here helps, they have hung inhibitors to see if it would help, rely on scientific institutes and State Legislators, if any questions regarding safety, we close the beach and err on the side of safety. Systems are better, learned more and seeing the negative effects, if any question at all close and then when tested and sure will reopen. Safety is priority. Need robust funding, beyond wastewater treatment plants.

Hurley asked if went to State House and Moreau said no, information is combined with others and the power is in that for overall are active participants. Harris asked what NY does and was told that they are completely different in what they are practicing.

Todd feels that Burlington can be an innovator, and as a citizen likes hearing the picture of and explanation of the waterfront. Moreau said raises awareness to have the closures and not necessarily good but helps to tell the story. Helps to get the information out more.

Barlow said recently bonded water department to help avoid beach closures and was curious if it was due to more issues with natural reasons rather than sewage dumping. Moreau said closed for two reasons; E.coli that is from raw sewage but also seeing a rise in bacteria which is the other reason now having to close. Todd would like to see more of the ecological air flow restorers in place on Lake Champlain, her uncle developed a system and also worked at UVM several years ago.

Moreau does want to see investment in waterfront but does not want to see at the detriment of other areas of the department or other projects.

Adams-Kollitz, explained that City projects are not at that level of John Todd innovation, however he has worked on better ecological impacts on all projects and roadways that he personally worked on and gave numerous projects that have crucial ecological conscious savings and processes that have been incorporated. From innovation standpoint playing catch up but in a few years have really pushed forward.

### **2020 Meeting Schedule**

Putzier asked the Commission if anyone had any issues with the proposed schedule and all were fine with the proposed schedule.

### **Volunteer Appreciation Date**

Putzier explained that at a previous meeting Wight had proposed the Commission host a volunteer appreciation day. Wight would like to suggest the date be Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 at North Beach and the Commission could scoop ice cream to the volunteers and could also award the Volunteer of the Year award at the celebration as well as the Coach of the Year award.



The commission was in favor of either date and Putzier said she would get back to the commission with the finalized information.

**Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours**

Putzier asked the Commission if they had any additional hours for the month of December in addition to the commission meeting. Pierce and Todd had an additional hour each.

**Director's Items**

Moreau explained the updates were sent via email attachment to the commission.

**Commissioner's Items**

The commissioner's had nothing additional to add.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. by Hurley, second by Todd, motion carried.

DR