



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
October 6, 2020

Commission Present: Barlow, Traverse, Hurley, Johnson, Farrell and Lantieri

Staff Present: Wight, Adams-Kollitz, Madalinski and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:35 p.m. by Traverse

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Traverse, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Traverse read the consent agenda and motions into the record and the items were moved for approval by Farrell, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Old East End Neighborhood Coalition

Wight introduced Jason Stuffle, who volunteers with the coalition and explained how the group is very engaged. Stuffle showed some slides of the painted benches and how they are promoting. The area in which they are focused on is anything east of East Avenue. Explained Schmanska Park, donated in 1942, and showed pictures of the grounds as it is today. Put up little library, cleaned out the sumac trees, put up trash receptacles. Stated that Schmanska previously had one single fixed bench for all courts, playgrounds and open area and thus decided to create benches. Began with looking for funding, got volunteers to donate time, built 5 benches and will be building 5 more. Neighbors and community members painted the benches and took ownership. Had three works days to get all ready for use. Benches also convert from benches to tables, easily moved around. Thanked all the volunteers and donators of funds for their participation in the project.

Lantieri asked what the cost per bench was and was told \$1500 covered all materials, approximately \$150 per bench and also asked what the name of the unit was called that turned from bench to table and Stuffle said he was not sure but could find out. Asked what kind of relationship the group had with the Ward One NPA and was told very good mix of people and would likely present to that group soon.

Traverse asked if people wanted to get in touch with the group what would be the best way and Stuffle gave their email as well as a site to go to. oldeastendvtv@gmail.com or neighborhoodcoalition

Johnson liked that all was portable and flexible and asked what the average weight was and was told approximately 60 pounds, very manageable.

Wight stated the group did 5 in the spring to see what the department felt and will do 5 in the fall, just to make sure that it was spaced out good and all worked well.

Bike Path Update

Adams-Kollitz began by saying since last spoke from one to three construction and concurrently designing.



Construction in south end just started on northern part of Oakledge Park, will reopen by end of year, small section added in the last week to short segment of bridge going into Lakeside and Proctor, path on Harrison and then closed from Harrison to side of the HULA property, hope to pave by mid-November and open by end of year. Final paving went down yesterday and today in barge canal section, hope to open late October early November, currently between wastewater and barge canal bridge. On either end of projects one is realignment project spurred by Amtrak and from King to College, current detour but will be working on modifications, finishing final design to southern part of Oakledge near gateway and by Austin Drive.

Lantieri asked if other than the railway section, when will full connectivity be reached, and Adams-Kollitz said due to King to College that will be a bit but all others will be done by end of calendar year, southern part of Oakledge and realignment from King to College will need to get finished.

Barlow asked if the path was re-routed on Battery and was told yes currently and not ideal but end up with improvements as was with Pine Street detours.

Adams-Kollitz showed the commission some photos of paving near barge canal and some other project photos.

Traverse asked if Adams-Kollitz expected any potential delays and said currently not anywhere as vulnerable as were last year to bad weather.

Lantieri asked with the changes in the railway, if will still be there and Adams-Kollitz said will likely get an alignment that stays west of the tracks and working on final details of plaza extension at College Street intersection.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM)

Public forum opened at 6:07 p.m. by Traverse.

Seeing no one from the public, public forum was closed.

Public forum closed at 6:07p.m.

GIS Update

Madalinski explained how park uses GIS and what the initials stand for, Geographic Information Systems, turns into coordinates and maps. The City uses the system called ESRY and anyone can use the website to look up the maps and information, City contracts with them and then can use in various ways. Amenities inventory maps such as bathrooms, benches, bikerack inventory, etc. Have interns typically go to various spaces and take pictures and upload data. Main purpose is to create work plans for crews. Explained that staff are at different levels of technology use so it is a work in progress getting everything entered and using the system on a regular basis, but it is coming along. Used for work scopes and bidding out projects. Can use for trails master planning to show all trails closed, not owned, etc. also use for public construction projects to get out to the public.

Lantieri asked about how used specifically and said for stats to BTV, mainly network analysis and also asked what the next place to see it used and Madalinski said to crowd source more things, would be nice to have lights to talk to the GIS and alert our technician, but feels that is a way off, only slightly have that with Big Belly that is contracted out. This does have an app that is called Survey123 and it takes a point and you can use a form to submit something to go directly to a facility or item, similar to C click fix.



Finalize Commission Retreat

Wight stated that she did the doodle poll and the date that worked for everyone was, Friday, November 6th from 1-3pm on line. Wight asked all to contact her if they had any thoughts or questions to add to the meeting.

Fees and Rates

Wight stated the overview is the role of the Commission, some fees need to be approved by Commission, some by City Council and some by Cemetery Commission. Some are charter changes, some ordinance, Leddy fees are in ordinance with set fees, unique need to send to ordinance committee, need to update and change to have set up not to say how much. Appendix D is the rules for the field uses, parking. The last time fees were changed was in 2014. She showed the excel sheet with commission/council approval necessary for what types of fees, went through the various fees and who needs to approve from Commission and Council and then showed the breakout by Parks, Waterfront, Gardens, Cemetery, Admin, and Rec Facilities. Really wanted to start the discussion at this point and then the next steps would be to come back with a memo and would have a full slate to be approved. Leddy would be separate as it would go before the ordinance committee.

Barlow asked if in this effort and in an effort to understand what the fee structure should be, would the department go out and see what other similar places charge and what the market prices were. Wight said most of that work had happened and other comparisons had been done with comparable.

Off-Leash Dog Area, Survey Questions and Continued Policy and Rules

Wight explained that this subject had gone to the public in 2011 and 13 and put a substantial amount of work into and did not feel should put a lot more into but rather a do a survey. Realizing what was put through, recognizing many people weren't here at that time. Wight then went through the layout of the survey, stating at the beginning of the survey have where do you live, then some demographics, ages, do you own, and went on through the various questions under the following categories; Demographics, Location preferences and then Open ended comments to end with.

Johnson asked about the scale of 1-5 where 1 is not needed and 5 is got to have it and questioned the wording of the not needed versus preferring not to have. Would prefer to have say leashed and Barlow suggested saying strongly support. Thinking of using a scale that would capture the correct sentiment with the correct wording and Wight said she would work on those changes.

Lantieri asked if the question of should it be a priority to have off leash areas was a yes or no and Wight said it would be a yes or no, or that was the intention. Lantieri asked also if the off-leash areas would be fenced in or if just open. Wight explained working with Holly from South Burlington to collaborate with a location as it is a problem for them also and another spot is the Elmwood Cemetery and Pomeroy as they are fenced areas and would we allow in the cemetery. Stated if can't come up with anything in Old North End. Asked if it would be beneficial to add something about a fenced area in the south end at this time. Lantieri suggested just saying in the South end.

Traverse said he likes the areas that are identified in the plan currently as the group did a lot of work and is ok with adding an open ended space, would be some benefit to having a map to the areas in the



survey. The working group proposed a change to the ordinance committee and would be up to the commission to establish and then left to commission. If don't do something to name areas then it may present some hurdles to the areas but like some flexibility to establish some of the boundaries down the line, would like to explore just listing Leddy, Oakledge and Roosevelt and not the specific boundaries within those parks.

Farrell felt if ok with the City Attorney he did not have a problem with the proposal.

Lantieri also was comfortable having flexibility while having something in the ordinances that is broader to specific parks. Wight suggested putting in the ones that are fenced to keep them as they currently are.

Traverse proposed working on with Wight and Attorney St. James and come back to the commission with a proposal.

All agreed to have Wight make the necessary edits to the survey and get it out.

Upcoming Scheduled Topics

Wight said one item in November, Parks team is going to do update, which will include Conservation, Grounds, Facilities and Trees divisions and will be an opportunity for commission to learn more and ask questions. December meeting will include the 5 year capital plan and FY20 projects and based on November both GIS and Bikepath came from last retreat, a few still out there such as the City Hall Park tour. Wight asked all to let her know when interested in a topic for the agenda.

Special Commission Meeting – City Hall Park Tour

Wight originally put out for the 12th and then had a business meeting, can do special meeting need 24 hour notice, don't want a lot of community as it is really intended for the commission and a deeper description of all of the facets of the park including the costs and more specific details.

Wight asked if an early morning meeting could work for all, around 7:30-8:30am, all said yes and Wight said she would confirm a date and send out to all and warn the meeting.

Commission Annual Report Approval

Traverse asked if anyone had any comments or questions regarding the report and all approved and it would be sent around for signatures by Putzier. Farrell made a motion to approve, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Traverse asked the Commission if they had any additional hours for the month of September, Traverse 1 hour.

Director's Items

Wight said kudo to Recreation team, asked to be aware they have multiple positions vacant and not filling, waiting until mid-October to see how City financing is doing, department is just shy of 2 mil. this year. Down several positions and asked for all to be aware of that when you are out and about, not as many people signing up for programs at Arena, Special Events person will be helping at Leddy, will advocate when able. Wight asked if anyone had any questions for her.



Hurley stated she signed up for the Halloween Howl and was very excited it was happening. Also asked about Battery clean-up and if it is being done now and Wight said you would never know there was anyone even there it is totally clean by staff and some of the protesters came back to help.

Johnson asked if there is a link to sign up for Halloween Howl to volunteer and Wight said they would love to have him and she will send him the email.

Traverse asked when the opening would be and if a notice would be sent and Wight said an invite would go out for the opening ceremony of City Hall Park, which will be October 16 at noon and similarly on Saturday through the evening with events. Would be more like a come, walk through, and go type of event with music.

Commissioner's Items

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. by Traverse.

