



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
November 10, 2020**

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

Staff Present: Wight, Roach, Comai, Beaudry, Cahill and Putzier

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Traverse read the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval, Todd asked to remove item IIB. Approval of Open Space Addendum and place on Deliberative agenda for further discussion.

Approval of consent agenda as amended by Farrell, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Todd stated she appreciated the detail in information along with background and explained when the addendum was originally presented she had asked where the Lake water issue factors into the Open Space addendum and was curious as to where that fit into the plan and how to protect the Lake specific.

Gustin said the Lake front was originally in the plan and the 250 wide buffer intended to preserve natural shoreline and enhance where opportunity to improve, 2014 plan identifies 4 priority areas for action and 3 of the 4 have had action and the 4th is the natural area and had not been addressed. In that had identified several areas.

Gustin stated there could be public process moving forward but need to have a plan first, then present to the public, in the beginning stages and was confirmed that discussion will continue.

Motion to approve funding for the addendum with Conservation Legacy Fund by Todd, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Bike Park Update

Weber introduced himself and Sean Melin from Burlington Bike Park Coalition. Melin said very happy to be partnering with BPRW to build a bike park, met on 10/24 with community members present, many came out to look at what was getting planned. Continue to meet once a week and energy keeps growing and moving forward, waiting to get final balance on account but raised just under \$10,000, which is about 10% of total budget, this amount essentially will get the design portion of the project complete. In addition to the money raised and the outreach, have applied for PFP funds and a grant through a foundation in Stowe called Ranch Camp. Identified approximately 10-12 grants nationally and statewide to request, ongoing. Working with Fellowship of the Wheel, and have a bank account with NCFU. Thanked BPRW for coming to site visit on the weekend to help along with Molly from Vermont Adaptive, who came with adaptive bike they use with wounded warrior program, allowed to use at the site to realize and talk to and explain how to accommodate on the trails.



Barlow asked if there was a place people could go to find out more about fundraising and was given two different location, Facebook under BurlingtonBikePark and on the web at www.bikeparkbtv.org. Also asked once built what type of maintenance will be required and who will handle. Melin said developed a volunteer system and can coordinate with builder in terms of maintenance and then use volunteers and work with BPRW to manage the volunteers. Ensures a quality facility to have the people who use it will help maintain. Weber added they may also need to bring in professionals to help maintain at a higher level and also hoped to have BPRW take on as another facility like other Parks and Rec facilities currently managing.

Lantieri spoke to the idea of having different ways to engage youth and having multiple skill levels and asked if there had been engagement with other groups around programming building and basic outreach and what that would look like. Melin said working loosely with Old Spokes and had conversations with them regarding programming, in terms of the build and accommodating build, working with builder on progressions that you can work up to and that is done through the building process.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM)

Public forum opened at 6:04 p.m. by Traverse.

Sarah Carpenter asked to confirm the closing of the access road for the bikepath and was told not currently at that point but taking public comment when in design phase. Wanted to get updated on the portion that backs up to Leddy and said sounds nice and thanked.

Public forum closed at 6:08p.m.

Parks Division Update

Roach introduced himself, Beaudry, Cahill, Comai, Morris (not present) and Shedd also not present and with Cemetery and that Commission is part of Parks also, but would give an explanation of how it fits with all other parks. Roach shared a video link, explained preventing COVID currently, a big focus on pollinators, more focus on data and analytics with no good program to work with and climate change. Spoke to all of the increasing changes and then went into the various sections within the parks realm. Started with the Park Admin section, which is one person with help from O'Daniel, Putzier and many others and continual. Some current areas are; Oakledge Park Drainage Improvements, City Wide Waste Receptacle Replacement, COVID/Volunteer Management Protocols Winter/Spring, Downtown CHP Seasonal Maintenance work plan, Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan, Asset Management Software Committee Member and Stormwater Damage Battery Park/One Main.

Todd asked what the asset software management is, if related to blue green algae and Roach said will integrate a number of systems already in place such as Cclickfix. It is a way to enter the system to become a request and then validated in sequential manner and will show what BPRW owns and what is private, have GIS backup to confirm if City property, will help with buildings, utilities, infrastructure, electrical lines and will be integrated and see what is where and place maintenance personnel in the correct location.

Facility Maintenance largest area and includes; Police, Library, Miller locations and employs electrician, HVAC, 16 person program and showed a list of all the programs to be completed in 20-21; Schmanska Barn Renovations, Mechanical Gate Installation, Appletree Walkway Lights, Leddy Softball Field



Scoreboard, Calahan Park Basketball Court Light Removal, Gangway Installation of Boathouse, Leddy Maintenance Facility/North Beach Barn Demo, City Hall Renovations, Capital Equipment Upgrades and Reconciliation of Equipment Inventories, Training and Support for Facility and Employee Safety and COVID protocols, Efficiency Upgrades for 645 Pine and Cemetery Chapel Lighting Enhancements.

Traverse thanked and said as a Commissioner, he supports all they do and would love to engage more. Asked if in touch with group in the South end that puts up a rink and if in touch with regarding lighting and Beaudry said believes the group has been in touch with Roach and will have some type of poles to help with setup for lighting. Roach added that Parks is committed to supporting outdoor lighting at Calahan and Leddy and not losing lighting due to lack of money, will look at extending the season. Supports reinstalling lighting to extend the season.

Cahill explained the Conservation & Trails Program which is a 2 person program with some help from others. Some items working on are the Grow Wild, regenerating landscaped areas, lawns, forests and open space with native plants. Community Wide Trail Stewards to leverage partnerships and volunteers to help monitor and manage various trail networks. Invasive Species Management Pilot with our partners developing a more robust invasive species management program. Pilot focus on 600 acres within Burlington's Intervale. Climate Adaptation Addendum working towards climate goals through implementation of alternative management techniques and civic engagement. Lastly Community Tree Canopy Enhancement Program recovering and reusing trees and vegetation from 311 North Ave to replant in open canopy areas.

Trees and Greenways, Comai stated had a lot going on this year and understaffed, spoke about some of the items working on; Urban Forest Master Plan, Ordinance Updates, propose plan for updating 2021. BED Contract and pruning schedule, execute 20-21. Planting Plan 2021 with execute 20-21. Removing Ash in poor or fail condition City Wide to execute 20-21 and add capacity to the UVM nursery to be executed 2021. Wards 2 and 3 had the lowest canopy and confident between spring and fall will be able to replace the spaces vacant. Now Ash borer in Chittenden county, about 9.5 percent ash been proactively planting new trees over last two years before need to remove, will stretch over years. Have had about a 20 year relationship with Branch our Burlington, have nursery with UVM started 15 years ago, purchase and have a planting day.

Barlow asked about 50 chestnut trees at Ethan Allen Park and if planted as part of restoration or replacement, said every tree planted are all to enhance canopy currently not at the percentage would like to be at, Cahill received the Chestnuts and decided it was a good place to put them. Barlow asked to leave some sledding space.

Todd thanked for taking care of Wards 2 and 3 and stated she was on Rose Street and was hopeful that the neighborhood would take good care of the new trees and appreciate how special they were to receive new trees.

Roach explained the Grounds Maintenance had a 4 person program and explained several areas working on and that Morris is a very big organizer and digitizing all functions of the division. Morris has been working on controlled plans and telling the story of what doing and getting all in order to be more proficient. Items include SDS & Safety, Establish Park Division Materials and Products List for Import. Develop User Group MOU, establish MOU's with base user groups in Burlington. Volunteer Coordination, increase online presence and scheduling of regular occurring volunteer park maintenance



opportunities 20-21. Develop Playground Use Policies and Standard Operational Procedures, improve Maintenance and compliance by establish maintenance and inspection protocols and GIS 20-21 and lastly Establish and expand athletic and event Ground Turf use policies and standard operational procedures for turf maintenance and care

Johnson and Todd thanked the division for all the hard work and particularly during COVID year and the detail work as well. Roach also added that many of the essential workers have not missed a day of work since March.

Lantieri thanked and stated his support of all the work.

Roach said there are not many requests that do not get answered or responded to and takes great pride in that.

Park Foundation Liaison

Wight stated that she asked every once in a while if anyone was interested and felt benefit to sitting in on the Foundation meetings and if interested she is happy to get commission connected. Been meeting at 4pm same day as commission and the next meeting would be December.

Traverse said would only be connection/conduit between the two to confirm and asked if anyone was interested. Farrell said that he would connect offline with Wight.

FY21 Meeting Schedule and Formats

Wight said that time to look at the schedule, just take a look at don't have to take action. Did not think would be meeting in person in January but could discuss other formats as well. Would be virtual for a while.

Todd liked the idea of switching times, also thinking of maybe being in a location to do from another location maybe to facilitate. Maybe have someone host from a location at the beginning. Can bring back at the December meeting.

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Traverse asked the Commission if they had any additional hours for the month of October, Barlow had 3, Traverse and Johnson had 1 each and all had an additional 2 hours for the retreat except Farrell.

Director's Items

Wight had a few highlights; rinks will be up and running, doing disc golf popup at Leddy, popup events with fire pit in various neighborhoods, snowshoes at North Beach, Old North End Center will have some events and BCA is working on also. Open Streets, Recreation and Custodian positions are going to be filled and some staff are out. Basketball will be able to happen and the ski program will also be able to run with a significantly fewer number as well as the windows open. Add to calendars 12/2 will be bikepath opening in the south end, during the day, time to be determined. Landwater Conservation grant is open and hoping to get for Universal playground and the beach access and bathrooms. Future meeting topics are pretty full, speaking on Capital and Projects, Oakledge playground and will also look at the PFP individual requests and send those to all to look at. Spoke with St. James about the breakout rooms and asked how that fits with the open meeting law and was told can't really do for public feedback but could do a 5-5:30 work session before the actual meeting. Also spoke about concept of



public meetings for projects and felt better to be a secondary, instead could do as a work session and people can also attend that for input as well. December meeting is rather full currently.

Commissioner's Items

Todd said she had been talking with neighbors regarding Battery Park and cars parked awkwardly or in the park and was a lot going on and was concerned with COVID and asked it possible to put up a barricade and Wight said she would pass on and had several violations at the time of the protest but no parking is allowed and was a contingent of people hanging around the park and will address. Also said that Waterfront Park was so beautiful today and experienced walking up College Street, the space to get to Echo and the waterfront that is fenced is very narrow, not six feet and was not sure if BPRW, DPW or who was in charge but if it could be widened by whomever is in charge. Wight said it is VT Rail and VTrans project and needs to be narrow, at some level people need to choose another route as it is a very big work zone and needs to get done as quickly as possible. Todd asked for more signage to inform of the narrow walkway and detour. Wight said ultimately might have to move from bikepath and put on Lake Street, not sure of a perfect answer. Should be done by mid-November.

Traverse said he also went to dedication of City Hall Park and it was quite the process to get done, learned the Mayor decided to dedicate to COVID pandemic and thanked for that.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:31p.m. by Traverse.

