



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
March 8, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Lantieri, Hurley, Farrell and Duke

Staff Present: Wight, Sauve and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:40 p.m. by Wight

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Farrell, second by Duke, motion carried.

Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission

Farrell nominated Duke as Chair, and Duke nominated Hurley as Vice Chair. All in favor of Duke as Chair and Hurley as Vice Chair, all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Duke asked if anyone would like to speak to the consent agenda and several individuals from the public that had items replied.

Wilda White of MadFreedom, Inc. said they would be at Battery Park and hoped the Commission would support the request and was willing to answer any questions.

Tim Harger said he was available to answer any questions regarding the VT Commons School, said they were having a Field Day event.

Melissa Cain spoke to the neighborhood block party and that it was also a non-profit.

Zack Williamson also stated present and available for questions regarding the City Hall Park, will have a host of events through summer.

Natania Carter from Hope Works, regarding sexual awareness month and was available for questions.

Duke thanked all for coming out and offering events in the parks.

Duke asked to waive the reading of the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval.

Approval of consent agenda by Farrell, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Penny for Parks FY23 Projects

Wight updated that the Community requests had been approved but the whole slate for the year as well needed to be approved also. Have FY23 projects, based on comprehensive plan, 10 year plan from 2015, and other items that come up from year to year. Wight explained that the first column was funds going through PFP lines but not all PFP tax dollars, just run through that line.



Arms Forest Trails- FY21 started, most money spent about \$26,000 left, just because it says zero does not mean has no money but rather the funds were allocated in a previous year.

Battery Park/Cain Overlook – repair mortar, had no bids, looking into to change RFP

Battery Park/Chief Greylock – was a community request in FY21

Battery Park Comprehensive Plan - in City bond, separate budget

Calahan Park - based on plan, changes to courts, design work, storm water and playground, money is budgeted, selected company and working on final pieces

Champlain Park/Pocket Park - construction

Kieslich Park/Natural Trail - natural park pushed off until fall and aligned with, Stone house to award April 25th, relook at as project came in much higher than originally, ACT 250 permit came in.

Lakeside Park - FY23 shows zero dollars but put amount in to plan when have the money to spend and get community input ahead of time.

Leddy Bike Park/design - approved 2021 and was pulled into Leddy Park plan and can use those dollars to design when started, Leddy plan has additional bond money.

Calahan- out to bid soon

Perkins Pier - will not possibly do that playground depending on how it fits the comprehensive plan

Roosevelt Comprehensive Plan - started survey work this spring, with focus on circulation, resurfacing courts

Smalley Park Playground - natural playground and continue to use natural materials, working on

System wide projects:

Bike racks, some replacements, but making sure all parks have first

Lighting improvements

Comprehensive salaries

Community requests

Pomeroy Park Tot Lot FY23

Comprehensive Planner

Playground equipment and wood fiber

Signage and wayfinding

Standard equipment replacement

Walkway improvements

Lantieri asked if the numbers include full project or certain items, Wight said labor if contracting but if standard equipment replacement it is just the equipment, currently not billing services within department but will be doing in the future.

Wight also said budgeted based on the full Penny for Parks, getting back to the full penny, not big change from what was planned originally.

Lantieri asked how much, was told \$381,000 and after last year Mayor was not ready to assess, was still not at full penny and now based on Commission work promoting, based on understanding could.

Duke asked how far out budgeting PFP and was told about 5 years, about one year off currently.

Lantieri asked how compares to other years and Wight said the funds had been building up and good for a few years but Kieslich Park was a big project, FY23 taking some of monies toward next year saving for FY24 as needed to continue for project ending of others.



Motion to approve the PFP expenditures Hurley, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:02pm

Rick Sharp, owner of Burlington Bike and Segway, stated that after lobbying he started with 4 ebikes, added 4 more in 2018 and 6 more in 2021, many downtown places rent ebikes. Bikeshare came to Burlington and competed with bike shops, only peddle bikes originally then BOLT took over with ebikes, ¾ of BOLT revenue was received by the Waterfront location. Sharp said one hub on waterfront provides the most income and most use. Half of all ebikes come from Penny Lane hub, in 2021. Sharp said the City is aware that point to point hub and DPW admits but feels more important to have bikeshare that it's willing to support and Sharp feels he has \$20,000 in lost revenues to them. Feels unfair competition and loss of income, will not buy more ebikes this year due to uncertainty. Would like Bolt hub removed from Penny Lane and put at Battery Park in a true neighborhood. Feels the City should direct users to local bike shops. Complimented Wight for getting together with bike shops and putting a sign together to help local businesses and also to have less racks/bikes placed on Penny Lane, feels more work to be done.

Seeing nobody further from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:11 pm

Bike Share, Lease Space at Waterfront Hub

Wight explained that she gave a memo from DPW and herself and why looking at lease, in 2019 approved rack and used encumbrance but is actually a lease, similar to that of Maven and would do a lease per the City that was passed by City Council, get 5% gross sales for any bike that starts from that rack and go to UVM. City would receive 5% of what that trip costs. Bolt said checked with technical team and can track that information. Still proposing to keep rack at that location, is clear, strong tourist attraction, does have Amtrak and lots of UVM students that go to the park and they would need a place to put there bike, otherwise penalized for having bike outside of the system. Trying to work hard with shops to help, working on signage, some popup areas and the like. Would have to be put out publicly as an RFP. If permanent would have to be RFP.

Duke asked if concerns about competition and Wight said yes some, if someone came to town they will plan ahead, but if in town and go past the rack, hard to know if there would be people that would say I want to rent a bike and then say they are physically there, they might not call and would just go to the location. Local Motion used to have bikes outside and then moved to an on-line system and have gotten stronger and stronger by online rather than outside on the path.

Sharp said when this was proposed years ago, it was stated it would not take money out of the tourist part of the economy and now City is taking 5% of the cut and admitting the reason to have the rack in place is to promote income, otherwise it would not work without that rack there. Feels in direct competition with him as it is ebikes and not regular bikes. Feels not fair as it is on the bike path and feels people can use smartphone. Otherwise feels customers can use smartphone and find a bike rental. Urged the City to stay local.

Lantieri said feels staying in tact with local shops and contingent upon and for bikeshare to stay is contingent on being in that spot. Asked what the actual action is and was told to approve lease for bike rack on Penny Lane, Lease of space.



City Council approved 2 year lease extension and City Council is aware of there being a Waterfront bike rack, no concern to move or that they did not want a rack at the waterfront, but did work toward improving.

Farrell said feels two different markets, different than the person that happens upon one, great location to have the rack and is in favor. Duke agreed, feels room for a lot of business and a big market.

Lantieri asked if they had authority to open another space for another vendor and Wight said interesting and if a vendor decides it would like to have a spot leased, if the commission was interested and approved now, would not have to come back at a later time. Could approve one for bike share rack and the other location as determined by department as temporary bike lease Rental shop to be managed by local shop.

Lantieri would like to give approval to work on another space moving forward and all agreed with that.

Motion to approve bike share lease by, Lantieri, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Motion to approve a lease of a space to be determined for a non-permanent bike rental at a location to be determined, by Lantieri, second by Hurley, motion carried

Final Report on Calahan Park and Perkins Pier

Sauve stated she would share the final report for both Perkins Pier and Calahan Park but would go through the big pieces first.

Started with Calahan Park and updated on project; received final report from consultant, everything in the report was already conveyed but outline the full process as the public process, message is clearly communicated, heard from public that it is a great park but why doing anything. Sauve stated not looking to blank slate, just looking at what is working what is not and who are we missing in the park and moving forward as doing playground, are we putting in the right place? Want to make sure beneficial and lasting to community. West to East things familiar, ballfields are in the same place, the community says not regulation size but not a quick fix to make large but rather what the need is, and currently they can't have tournaments. Connections to Pine Street more gradual path into the ballfield and around the ballfield, also ravine near bagel shop a boardwalk potentially going in for educational area, informal now but could be much improved. Pine and Locust formal connection and proposed new location of building, move to more beneficial location but still central to other activities and visibility. West of building will be the playground area, taking out some of the space, future phase. More paths around soccer fields, better surface, more seating also and benches in parks. Upper terrace area, basketball more to the east and new pavilion to the west, multi-use ice rink and shelter in the summer similar to North Beach. Rain garden and storm water feature to alleviate water issues.

Perkins Pier, robust public process, popup in park in December and what priorities are, north is up, currently come and eliminate asphalt and see tree line promenade, vehicular traffic comes around and through greenway pulling into site but can still be by the lake and not have biker riding in front of them. Concern with temporary detour has a lot of crossing of traffic and would reduce dramatically, would have floating dock. Promenade leads down to play area and have fun pieces could be nautical or water oriented, plaza to watch fireworks and sunset lawn, extension for public to walk on boardwalk for all, shade structures and seating, could use non-motorized. Ramps go into the water if carrying



paddleboards and helps to protect from being tossed around helps to extenuate from waves. Concerns with climate change thinking of splash pad or something without getting into the lake. Parking lot to water area have storm water infiltration and Water department could expand and any investment would need to be north of that area. Adding slips and removing boat access, acknowledging another options for launching, this space more for boating and docking not launching.

Farrell asked how to get to work yard and Sauve said connection not meant to be obvious as not meant for everyone.

Hurley asked about Pine Street access to Calahan and the gradual slope and asked about the unofficial one if it would stay and if better signage and was told yes it would be improved and better signage and more than one sign.

\$12-\$124 million, the not appealing things are the things needed most.

Lantieri asked the proposed fee for material for promenade and also the Pine Street corner of Calahan would be. Sauve said more about conceptual and boardwalk plan for Calahan and would let out onto Pine Street.

Duke said she felt the design was beautiful and Hurley asked what the commission could do to help elevate and excite people about the projects and Sauve said to just get people aware of and the more they can promote the process and include as well as ask people to be a part of and embrace.

Leddy Park Comprehensive Study

Sauve explained the plan kicked off internally last month and kicked off with consulting team 3 years ago, understand projects coming up and came from different place and different priorities coming up. Led by SE Group and others to just walk the site with BPRW larger team of what works and what doesn't, in two weeks identified specific stake holders to understand needs as users to engage from the start. In May have public meeting and look at options for planning and going forward and have open house then hit summer and have tabling and more interaction personally. Intercept surveys during summer and then in fall final public meeting with final plan, doing outreach and every voice is important. Heard a desire from the public for a public pavilion and playground.

Hurley asked if there was an initial date for public forum and was told only end of May but not definite and would let know and send. On April 28 stakeholders meeting, could come at 4:30 or 5:30 to hear specific groups, this would be for commission to attend not the public as it is specifically for stakeholders.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Lantieri had an additional hour, Farrell had an additional hour, Hurley had an additional hour and Duke had an additional 3 hours.

Report on PACC Dog Force

Duke said moving along got several sub committees formed, off leash, ordinance, had a public service announcement on April 1st PSA April Stools Day, still information gathering.



Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said looking for Friends of Frame came to talk to foundation around ideas and had communication and Mayor is getting feelers to see if behind, fundraising not committed as of yet.

Director's Items

Wight said rec team down 3 full time positions, filled 2, Kirsten Santor, Recreation Manager and KJ Doyle accepted Event Manager and need to fill one more. Kids Weekend, May, ONE Center event space open, campground \$290,000 on first day, open two months later than usual for opening day. Received couple grants VHCB and another for Red Stone Cottage. Tough budget year, had to show two rounds of cuts. Unions are currently negotiating and will depend on COLA decision.

Commissioner's Items

Lantieri reminded all about FPF to post as much as can or want it is free if using government profile. Also asked about student representative and Wight said sent to Rice and BHS and has not heard anything yet. Maybe rely on social media and the extra boost as commissioners might be more helpful. Hurley also suggested promoting through Ward NPA's.

Lantieri trying to find ways to do community engagement and get gardens going again. Would like to have the green area reinvigorating.

Wight said did outreach before COVID and after and need to get done and keep opening again and will get a lot of same people showing up and was not a lot of draw to that space and could check in with Max to see what the latest drawings are for that area. Wight said Meghan O'Daniel is the person to reach out to for permits for doing something in the park for gathering and also talk to Max to share designs with all. Asked if reported and as a neighbor of the area to use the plots and Wight said if using would need to know they would go be temporary and go away.

Duke said two open commission positions and need to recruit, particularly from different demographics and areas, do outreach and get diverse group to apply.

Wright Avenue Stairs EXPECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hurley made a motion to go into executive session where pre-mature disclosure would put the city at a significant disadvantage, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Motion to go out of executive session by Farrell, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:49pm