



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
May 10, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Lantieri, Hurley, Farrell, Johnson and Duke

Staff Present: Wight, Rogers, Cotton, Madalinski and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:37 p.m. by Duke

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with two additions; Request for Amplified Music by Marathon and Approval of Peddlers License at ECHO after the current item number 10 by Hurley, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Duke asked if there was anyone from the consent agenda items that would like to comment and seeing nobody asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

Volunteer and Coach of the Year Awards

Cahill acknowledged Sharon Muellers of the Tower Keepers for all the hard work and dedication she has given over the years.

Muellers spoke of her two decades and being in the park and connected. It was her pleasure to be able to participate and engage in the program.

Jennifer Cotton recognized Frank Rosamilia, Volunteer Coach of the year and showed a video thanking and during Covid how he made time to run clinics and really appreciated the time and effort he put into running flag football, which is only three in the area. Another coach as well as players and his son spoke to their appreciation for all that Rosamilia had done.

Rosamilia thanked all for the nice words and for the honor. Cotton explained how he would also go on a plaque at the Miller Community Rec Center.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:00pm

Seeing nobody from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:01 pm

Main Street, Great Streets Developed Concept

Wheelock explained she included a link to the presentation for all to access and then began with the typical Main Street cross section and how it will vary particularly with right of way encumbrances. Changing road width down to 40' and reducing parking spaces, adding bike lanes, and other items.



Option one is called the “Artful Gateway”; planting strategy, singular approach to planting that is consistent across the six blocks, more streamlined and clean cut.

Option two is called “Lake, City, Mountain” approach, variety of trees and shrubs planted on water area then more polycultures of trees in street area, bike perspective could meander a bit more through the tree area and not such a straight street line but more organic.

The next steps are planning for preliminary plan and going back to City Council on May 23rd after meeting will all the other Commissions that have regulatory authority. Wheelock wanted to recognize it may not be one plan or the other but a combination of what could be best for Burlington.

Johnson asked if any consensus on a plan and Wheelock said that many are concerned with the loss of parking spots. Really all over the place, no one consensus at this point.

Duke liked the bike path separated out.

Hurley asked about the stretch between Pine and Battery, asked if parking would change to parallel and was told yes a loss of 67 spaces. Explained the no curbs will really help with accessibility.

Lantieri asked about the timeline and the committees that it goes to and asked about the next time the Commission would see in the design process and was told by Wheelock the next significant milestone would be in early fall.

Wheelock stated were hoping for action tonight as to support of revitalizing Main Street through this project.

Hurley asked what the Commission purview is and or if a blanket piece and Wight said somewhat of a blanket as BPRW maintains the greenbelt. Stating that is part of the project as it enhances Tree City and generally as another commission to see more park like and not just for cars.

Johnson asked as the City moves toward more plants and greenspaces if it would create more work and staff needs for the department and Wight said that it has been recognized by the administration and funds have been allocated to help with fully funding the dedicated funds to Parks.

Motion to formally support the direction of the Great Streets, Main Streets project as it relates to the work of the Parks Department by Lantieri, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Champlain Street Park Update

Madalinski stated he was going to show some design concepts, and how the location is a small pocket park located at 187 S Champlain Street. Madalinski said the park currently has wooden benches and some raised garden beds. There was some outreach to see what people wanted to see in the park, started in 2020, went to NPA’s and tabled in the parks, did online surveys, 89 surveys.

Majority of people wanted to relax in the park, then swinging, gardening, picnicking, climbing, walking, grilling, outdoor classes, throwing, running, spinning and exercising. Ultimately would like to add lighting, open view to the west, replace furnishings, replace playground, remove brush and replace fencing.



Came up with three design ideas; put playground in back and improve and make safe, central open lawn area and dedicated seating/gardens. Showed some amenities and structures that could be used in the park and would have to be mindful with prices and styles. Want to continue to provide for the 2-5 year age range. Looking at rubberized matting for base to make accessible and more colorful. Gentle curve hardscape with seating area, more plantings, rocks on street side entrance.

Gave another view of a wandering walk hardscape style, walkway is a bit more curvy, garden space on northern edge, seating and bike racks, planters, shade tolerant shrubs book end the open lawn.

Madalinski asked what the Commission would like to prioritize; playground, fencing and landscaping, seating area or lighting to implement first. Going to start on cleaning up brush and vines, tour NPA's to present design concept, post concepts online along with web based survey and incorporate what is heard into final concept.

Farrell said it sounded like people wanted to interact more in this park and any love and improvement would be great, just cleaning up will go very far with the patrons.

Hurley loved it and said it looked amazing and very well thought out, asked if they would have trash and recycling can included and was told yes, use tote style or Victor Stanley receptacle.

Duke felt both designs look great and in terms of priority, landscaping and lighting to make safe and inviting and add playground later.

Lantieri said there are quite a few volunteers that are consistent and felt there would be more once clean and safe and active. Stated CVOEO recently had conversations about wellness and equity to partner and also give some money toward the project. Would work toward sponsorship and all recognize the need and been great working with Madalinski on the project, very supportive and enthusiastic.

Wight gave Madalinski kudos in all his work on the project and taking on.

BTV Stat Presentation

Rogers explained there were two pieces to the presentation and he was presenting on just Recreation, introduced himself stated that he oversees all programming, youth, licensed childcare and adult. Presents twice a year and find to be very worthwhile, use data to see how well doing. Looked at pandemic and programming through challenges.

Program participation was the first topic, in 2019/20 lost programming and a lot of recreation programs did not do programming that year and were tasked with continuing, stated it was challenging, decreased in size, rely on schools for programming and not able to use. Provided on a smaller scale, doing cleaning and temp checks, everyone had own basketballs, everyone had to be 6 feet apart, but was glad the team persevered. Rogers explained could not be in schools for majority of year also, numbers down. Had no adult programming in 19/20 as concentrated on youth programming in the summer and making safe for kids in camps, per State could not do any adult programming. 20/21 school year provided youth basketball program when no others did and used Boys and Girls Club and Miller Community Rec Center and did clinics and every half hour had two baskets set up. It was difficult to do winter 2020 programming inside, even though down still continued to provide when others could not.



Summer 20-21, better for participation, offered fewer programs but higher participation. When things started to get better families wanted kids in programs, strive for 75% range ideally, past summer at 88%, outdoor programming was very successful, more quickly than other indoor programming. Rec Nutrition program in 2018 had 6,017 served, up to 11,033 in 2020 and down to 7,795 in 2021. Delivered meals for school department in 2020 and when started back up 3 days a week delivered food to children at home. Financial assistance for camps, 2019 was 22,384.62, 2020 was 33,223 and then down in 2021. Summer youth program funding, VT/Fed grants were very large for 2020 and 2021, which allows for more programming. Hired new Rec Program Manager, and hired new Event Planner. Kirsten Santor and KJ. Last slide was a GIS of where the participants were located across the City. Recreation Staffing was at 98% in FY20, then 72% in FY21 and 66% in FY22.

Duke said willingness to adapt and make work was really appreciated and noticed. Seeing more of a trend of youth outdoor activities.

Approval of Peddler License outside ECHO

Wight explained that ECHO has a lease with City and that land includes a ROW (right of way) and is in front of building which is City land, ECHO would like to have a cremee truck in front of the building. In the City Ordinance it states anything west of Battery on College must get a license and with all complexities realize it flagged an ordinance. Wight shared that businesses in parks that have close proximity have revenue sharing and gave Beansies Bus as an example, and recommend a 5% of profits typically to the City, stated that the vendor asked if the City would entertain a non-profit rate. What is being asked is for authorization of a cremee truck to operate in front of ECHO.

Phelan Fretz, Executive Director of ECHO introduced himself and stated he was requesting peddlers license, and said purposefully actively add to frontage area, added science exhibits and seating, added solar and rainwater gardens, this is to add the final piece to the 3 acre site and full activation of this site. Have very robust open door program, have a lot of partnerships in the community, 35,000 people gain free admission. Programs like the cremee stand are pivotal and fundamentally earned revenues with the grand help to support others for free admission, give away over 1000 memberships. Cremee's are seasonal and can gain some revenues and can enliven the area and this is final step to activate, estimates are nearly a million people access the waterfront. Approximately 80-90 seats available to provide for the service.

Hurley asked about the other ice cream person and if still working and was told by Wight not as far as she is aware, that person is still retired. That structure is still located on the waterfront however.

Fretz stated that they signed with Kingdom Creamery, a Vermont based company.

Lantieri asked if the previous cremee stand had an arrangement with Parks and was told no, they were on Railroad property. Feels it makes sense to continue precedence and look at the non-profit piece and Wight said the only piece that comes to Commission is west of Battery on College and need to approve peddler license and anything else is not the purview of parks.

Johnson asked if 5% is the general fee when less or no infrastructure and felt that would be appropriate for this situation and Wight said the same situation is Beansie's and they pay 5%. ECHO asked since they are the first non-profit and knowing that ECHO gives back to the community would like to look at and maybe could do 10% reduction, more precedent than binding.



Motion to approve peddler license with 4.5% gross sales by Hurley, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

FY23 Budget Revenue Expectations

Wight sent worksheet and chart that she had presented, shows FY23, 3% growth from cumulative results of past. Steep line to get to FY23 revenue, parking is low, recreation is low, can't get to, reached with everything but a very hard stretch, optimistic with recreation and hiring of new employees. City has set aside \$2M with idea may not be feasible with exception of recreation BPRW feels it will try and can make it. Working on parking campaign.

Duke stated that she could look at specific businesses and programs from a different perspective to take a look at pricing and strategies and how to help with revenue generating. She stated the importance of continuing to communicate how important the revenue is and what it supports.

FY22 Commission Report

Wight said she sent a template out to look at and if commissioners are good with it or have questions can reach out to Cindi or Abby. Duke asked all to review and get feedback to Duke and Wight and then will draft another, update and sign at the June meeting.

June Meeting Location

Wight asked if all wanted to do June meeting at the Boathouse, it would have to be everyone in person if that was the case. Duke, Farrell, Lantieri was somewhat certain he could make it as well as Johnson. Wight would confirm with Kaplan and Jen from the Boathouse.

Request for Amplified Sound

Duke explained that the Marathon needed a permit to start 15 minutes earlier, beginning at 6:45am instead of 7am.

Motion to approve Sound Waiver 6:45am start time by Johnson, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Lantieri had 40 extra hours, Duke had 5 additional hours

Report on PACC Dog Force

Duke said missed meeting and Wight stated she was on the off leash sub-committee.

Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said still getting information of FRAME and if it will support, meeting in June will be finale for several members that will be going off. Duke will be leading meeting with Foundation new incoming Chair.

Director's Items

Wight said selected new Urban Rangers, Moreau wandered around with the new hats. Encouraged to look at the Stuck in Vermont segment on the Trees/Arborist group. Kids Weekend coming up this weekend and encouraged all to get out and see, will have ice cream at all sites.



Commissioner's Items

Lantieri reminded Wight to meet regarding Student Commissioners.

Duke stated down two members and now is time to put in for new members, asked Lantieri to post in Front Porch Forum and what is missing from the Commission, look for new members and great energy.

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 Lantieri, motion carried.

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

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:08pm

DR