



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**

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

**Staff Present:** Wight, Madalinski, Sauve, O'Daniel and Putzier

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

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

**Penny for Parks Community Requests**

Madalinski, Parks Project Coordinator went into discussion on the part of the requests, shared the request attachment and how the ranking of requests is handled and the entire process as a whole. Once staff come up with a list, recommendation is brought to the Commission for approval. \$25,000 allocated for the year, usually higher, had 6 projects submitted and in order of ranking along with summary and recommendation;

1. Schifilliti Park Accessibility Improvement and Planning, big need and also talked through request to reskin the fields, \$16,000 of \$25,000 to look at what can look like and what is needed to get good pathways
2. VT Association Blind and impaired  
Accessible sign at Waterfront, first of kind and felt good idea and important and first to see what installation issues might be, if vandalism is an issue and eventually incorporate more throughout the City. Allocate \$7,900 toward additional for contingency.

Lantieri felt great and asked if tactile was best and Duke stated that John who requested was present and able to give more information.

John stated the design is a tactile design called touch design, and different parts would be textures and feel the different delineations and color coding depending on what type of vision impairment. Would also have QR code to help upload so that it could be read to a person and several other functionality parts. The dimensions are ADA compliant for wheelchairs and can get more information on other specifics to design. Spoke of putting possible by restrooms as other signs and information are in that area currently. Would send the link of the company that creates the signs.

Johnson felt a great idea and after issues with Calahan and accessibility, happy to see working on more accessibility being looked at. Madalinski asked Johnson if he would like to be more involved and that he would connect with him further on the specific project if interested and Johnson stated he would be interested.



3. New Infields at Schifilliti and Rosenberg Fields, reskinning, ranked 3, over what funding is available and could be added to long-term capital and can look at a bit in what would be needed.

Chuck wanted to know if one field could be done at a time and was told yes but that it is still very costly and will look at how to phase in and also use other opportunities for grants and funding.

4. Pomeroy Park Tether Ball would like to fund for \$500 and still have an outstanding request and the dollar value was too small for that and would not do at that time and looked at project closer and a lot of accessibility issues and the importance of this with replacement and moving toward working with other funding sources to get a broader better plan for the park and not being exclusionary with playground replacements and will include with other playground amenities.
5. Permanent Greening of Dewey Park was a traffic island and then a mural was painting and traffic calming that transformed into plaza and currently not recommending proposal as have funding from other resources from the city to refresh and turn into a park and the street right of way would have to be given over as a permanent park. Lots of pieces to round out and have other initiatives happening, not funding at this time with PFP funding.
6. Miller/Schifilliti Park Ice Rink estimated \$3-5,000 and not recommending for funding due to the maintenance needs and not having adequate staff or infrastructure, already have 6 rinks that are operated and already capped as well as lots of volunteers not possible to bring on another rink at this time, fewer and fewer skating days with global warming.

Lantieri asked for clarification of what is being moved forward for funding, and confirmed that numbers 1, 2 and 4 full funding and number 3 looking for other funding.

Madalinski stated some of the variables to the initial needs that could be accomplished in item 1 and how it could filter out and how much could be achieved, once through the design process. Will know more once through the design process of needs and cost to do what is necessary.

Motion for approval the request per Madalinski request by Lantieri, second by Johnson, motion carried.

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

Nobody came forward to speak at the public forum.

#### **Field Fee Approvals**

Wight stated trying to come before the commission for approval of field fees if changed, only have two currently looking at for hourly field rates and court rates. Need to approve the field rate not the court rates. Stated staff had sent a spreadsheet out stating what commission is responsible for approving under jurisdiction. Looking to update those two hourly rates due to the increase in costs of upkeep and maintenance.

Lantieri asked when the last time an increase was done and was told in November 2021.

Motion to approve from \$40-\$50 Hurley, second by Lantieri, motion carried.



### **Commercial Uses of Parks**

Wight explained that O'Daniel was also present to speak, Wight said she had sent out a memo explaining all uses in parks and what requires approval. Tried to capture all uses that might be missing. Most concessionaires are paying commission and have exclusive use and not included.

O'Daniel explained a few of the groups she had worked with in the past that have gotten permits to use the parks and went very well, very communicative with and appreciative and feels willing to do similar in the coming year and will get more participants in the future. Wight felt geared toward 20 participants.

Wight also stated that the Urban Rangers have a good idea of who is out in the parks and hope to get a good sense in the coming season. Spoke of how to get Park Rangers the information of what is scheduled in the parks on a weekly basis to see and check in to make sure all is going well.

Duke asked others to brainstorm what uses would be considered commercial and Lantieri said hard to know what types of things that are off the cuff and happen rarely and would be good to see what the Park Rangers have for input. Wight said in the ordinance that have to come to commission for permission but would definitely do all moving forward if that is what is decided and if splitting hairs if a hike is happening at Oakledge from a Company and technically it would be an outside event and permit able.

Spoke about weddings and if they are having reception they rent a shelter, some just want ceremony outside and reception at another location, this type of permit would apply to the later. Duke said a personal trainer that uses the park on a regular basis and should get a permit, if commercial activity under 20 people or paid officiant should be a small fee. Wight also added anything private, can't be exclusive but private would have to have a permit/permission.

### **Standing Item:**

#### **Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours**

Duke had 2 additional hours

#### **Report on PACC Dog Force**

Duke stated no meeting at the end of December but one coming up at the end of January and Wight said off leash group is working on a map and the areas being talked about. Also said talking with Cemetery Commission and dogs in the cemetery and while not allowed they are in and should there be some controlled use of that area and if the commission would like to have a representative on the group. Hoping to get survey out in February.

#### **Report on Parks Foundation**

Wight said no meetings, a few folks interested in fundraising playgrounds around the City and looking forward to starting to discuss what that would look like and the thought of a campaign.

### **Director's Items**

Wight said had a few items; first BIPOC community day Saturday, by Andrew Ramono, focused on outdoor sports, using Zamboni snow, trying to be very creative, Wight in charge of games, sent out letter to interact in the space and how to be careful about use in space with others and assumptions. Redstone Cottage moving forward, little more work on annex, coming along, had to stop painting due to



Covid but coming back soon. Writing on the national registration, hopeful, UVM students already started. New Staff, Kenroy, caretaker of the Pods, end of February supposed to do presentation at BTV stat, but told staff to keep going and hope to come to commission March or April from Recreation side, hopeful to get data from Waterfront to make case about big growth on the harbor and any support for oversight would be helpful, need data and information to accomplish.

**Commissioner's Items**

Duke worked on support letter, hoping for some snow and wants to see the winter programs.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Duke at 6:50 pm.

DR