



BURLINGTON
**PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT**

To: City Council
From: Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission
Re: Annual Report for 2021-22
Date: July 18, 2022

Overview of Commission

See Appendix A for the list of Commissioners, meetings, and attendance records.

Mission and Vision of Parks Commission

To support and move forward the BPRW department mission and be the liaison between the City and the public

Issues/Projects Discussed and Outcomes

1. Issue – Capital Bonds

Capital Project Manager, Martha Keenan, presented at two meetings

Outcome – The Commission wrote a public letter of support for the bond for the March 2022 election.

2. Issue – Bike Share

The Commission discussed the bikeshare program and continuing a location for the racks at Waterfront Park.

Outcome - The Commission voted to support a waterfront park location and the recommended 5% revenue sharing.

3. Issue – Accessibility at Leddy beach

The community shared concerns about the accessibility of the beach at Leddy Beach.

Outcome - Staff improved the access and ensured access to all areas of the park is part of the Leddy Park Comprehensive plan.

4. E-devices on Greenway and speed limits

Discussion on the merits of a posted speed limit on the Greenway and improved signage.

Outcome – The Commission voted to support signage promoting “safe speeds” rather than stating a set speed limit. The Department hopes to roll out the new signs along with an etiquette campaign by the end of FY22. Funding for the signage came in part through a community Penny for Parks application requesting signage on the path.

5. Lake Health

Chair Traverse led a discussion around lake health. Attending to present were Megan Moir (DPW Water Division) and Kris Stepenuck (UVM).

Outcome – Commissioners would like further discussion about a pool in Burlington, additional splash pads and ensuring beach closed signs have additional languages

6. Project – Fees for marina, parking, field use and permits

Staff presented proposed fees for the marina, parking, field use and permits over several meetings.

Outcome – After the additional conversation, more parking rates went up to help meet city revenue needs. The Commission approved all fees as required by City ordinance.

7. Project – Park specific comprehensive plans

- a. Calahan and Perkins Pier - Park Comprehensive Planner, Sophie Sauve, presented twice to the Parks Commission on the Perkins Pier and Calahan Park Comprehensive Plans and encouraged the Commission to attend public meetings.
- b. Sauve attended April, 2022 meeting to outline the process for the Leddy Comprehensive Plan and encouraged Commissioners to attend public meetings and share the dates of them through their social channels.

Outcome – Final plans presented to Commission for Perkins Pier and Calahan Park

8. Issue/Project – Penny for Parks

a. Parks Funding Sources – full funding

CAO Schad presented at the November meeting on the background of each of the park special funds and the current funding level. The Commission advocated funding at the full penny for FY23

b. Community Requests

Staff provided recommendations for the awarding of the 2021 community requests at the December meeting.

c. FY23 projects

Staff presented the FY23 projects at the April meeting.

Outcome – The CAO brought forth full funding for FY23 all Park’s special funds; the Commission supported the awarding of PFP community requests funds for the repairing/resealing Roosevelt courts, increased signage on Greenway, and a replacement tot lot at Pomeroy Park; Commission approved the FY23 PFP projects

9. Project – Kieslich Park

a. Red Stone Cottage Restoration

Staff presented on the proposed restoration of the Red Stone Cottage at Kieslich Park to allow for public use of the building.

b. Park Naming

Outcome – The Commission voted to approve the use of the Conservation Legacy Fund for the work and voted to support the name of Kieslich Park for the City’s newest park at 311 North Avenue.

10. Additional Presentations

a. BPRW - BTV Stat

i. May – Recreation

ii. June – Recreation Facilities

b. DPW - Main Street/Great Streets (2 presentations)

c. BPRW & BPD - Encampments in Parks – Policy and process

d. Save Open Space – Barge Canal

e. Councilor Magee and Bergman - Camping ordinance Change

f. FY23 Budgets

Challenges/Difficulties and Best Approach to Resolve

1. **Challenge** – Reaching underserved community members for input on projects and programs

Best Approach to Resolve – Commissioners engaging outside of meeting times with community through a variety of methods, such as tabling at parks, social media, PFP and more.

Ongoing Work FY22 to FY23

1. **Project – Grow department revenue**

2. **Project – Leddy Comprehensive Plan**
3. **Project – Student Commissioners**
4. **Project – Expand water resources in parks such as splash pads, cooling features and a public swimming pool.**
5. **Project – Increase diverse participation in recreation programs: explore barriers and solutions (communication? Transportation? Etc.)**

Abbey Duke, Chair

Fauna Hurley, Vice-Chair

Nathan Lantieri

Harley Johnson

Alex Farrell

* Ben Traverse was chair through the March meeting but then shifted to the Burlington City Council after a successful bid for the Ward 5 seat. Andrea Todd resigned her three year term in March due to personal obligations.

Appendix A

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD JULY – JUNE 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Commissioners Present</u>
July 2021	No Meeting
August 01	Duke, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri, Todd, Traverse and Harte (student)
September 14	Duke, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri, Todd, Traverse and Harte (student)
October 12	Duke, Farrell, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri and Traverse
November 9	Duke, Farrell, Hurley, Lantieri and Traverse
December 14	Duke, Farrell, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri and Traverse
January 11, 2022	Duke, Farrell, Johnson, Todd and Traverse
February 8	Farrell, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri and Traverse
March 8	Duke, Hurley, Johnson, Lantieri and Traverse
April 12	Duke, Farrell, Hurley and Lantieri
May 10	Duke, Farrell, Hurley, Johnson and Lantieri
June 14	Duke, Farrell, Hurley, Johnson, Keech and Lantieri