SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – December, 2020

Disc Golf Stories

“I play the course with my wife and dog, we call it going for a disc walk. I normally drive half an hour or more to play, it’s so special having working in my neighborhood. Perfect sport for our community! Low entry cost, accessible to people of all abilities, and there’s already an established group of disc golfers to be good stewards of the course.”

“I am so grateful to finally see a course in Burlington and couldn’t believe how many people were out playing already. There were so many people using the space and it was folks of all ages. Disc golf is a perfect activity for young people and the park’s proximity to two schools would provide an excellent place for students to be introduced to an amazing, inclusive, adaptive sport.”

“This is a great activity for all ages. I appreciate the easier layout as it will encourage people to try it for the first time”

What are the top issues on your mind?

- Recreation facilities – public access with current restrictions
- LWCF restrictions related to the Amtrak and Bike Path realignment area

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- Our 9-hole “pop-up” disc golf launched quietly at Schifilliti Park on 11/19/20. We will promote via social media and have alerted the nearby schools that it is available for use.
- Due to the Governor’s recreational sport restrictions, Josh Cumming, Leddy Maintenance Worker is supporting the Grounds Division and Scott Yaros, Building and Events Maintenance Worker, will continue with the Facilities team. We are working on offering the facilities for household use and 1:1 coaching.
- Our Recreation and Recreation Facilities team had a slight reorganization to put CORE (2nd floor of Old North End Community Center) under the responsibility of Melissa Cate as the newly classified Superintendent of Recreation Facilities and the Leddy program supervisor was reclassified as a Recreation Specialist and will report the Recreation Program Manager. The change will provide more consistency in the operation of our community centers and more flexibility of programming with our Recreation team.
- We continue to communicate with Public Works and the Mayor’s office on the restructuring of Public Buildings which currently falls under Parks.

COVID-19

- The updated Governor’s Executive order released in mid-November impacted us in the following ways:
  - Leddy Ice Arena was temporarily closed and some staff redeployed for other work. We will start providing household rentals and 1:1 coaching in early December.
  - Miller Community Center gym rentals were canceled but the Center is still open for the Sarah Holbrook Center, Frog and Toad and a minor number of compliant rentals. We will start providing household rentals and 1:1 coaching late November/early December.
  - CORE continues to serve our sub-leases but the Champlain Senior Center went on-line with personal meal deliveries.

Major upcoming events: [http://enjoyburlington.com/events/](http://enjoyburlington.com/events/)

Stay tuned for upcoming events!

Recreation Division Update

- The Annual Pomerleau Holiday Party held at the Burlington Hilton has been canceled due to the Pandemic. However, our Events Manager, Emma Allen, is working closely with the Pomerleau Family and youth and family serving organizations in Burlington to coordinate mailing $30 grocery gift cards to Burlington families most in need of assistance.
- Staff are moving forward with planning our Second Annual Holiday Lights Competition. We expect some fantastic entries. Many residents will have extra time on their hands during this holiday season.
- Staff are coming up with creative ways to provide programming that adheres to Governor Scott’s latest COVID restrictions. We are looking at different strategies to offer Basketball Clinics and our Bolton Ski and Ride Program.
- At the CORE Community Center we have extended our agreements with BHS City Lake Semester Program & BSD After School Program to provide space for student learning. We are happy to help BHS students and staff while BSD figures out challenging indoor space issues at BHS.

Recreation Facilities Division Update

- Administrative staff worked quickly to implement building closures and notify all facility users of cancelled gym and rink time within one afternoon. Administrative staff continue to work on updating schedules, resending invoices and processing refunds for program participants and facility user groups impacting by the shutdown. Administrative staff are now working remotely.
- Miller Center continues to operate in limited fashion, providing site for childcare programs through Burlington School Department, Sara Holbrook Teen Center and Frog & Toad Childcare Center.
- Working with Director and Recreation staff to determine appropriate Covid-safe offerings during winter shutdown, which is challenging without knowing how long shutdown will continue and whether high school winter sports will take place. Potential opportunities may be for family rentals and one on one sports clinics.
• Miller Center served as a Covid testing site on three dates in November. Jon Sumner received kudos from the Mayor for his support and flexibility during these testing sessions.
• New circulator fan installed at Leddy Arena to serve the public restrooms. New hvac unit installed at Miller Center to serve the Art Room.
• Two remaining Arena Maintenance staff are working on reviewing and prioritizing a list of potential capital projects at the arena.

Park Division Update

Park Administration

• Park Admin review of draft Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Manual for City’s recreational bridges and City Hall Park Fountain (Pomerleau Fountain).
• Park Admin RFP review and scheduling for Computerized Maintenance Management System/Enterprise Asset Management software program
• Participated in SeeClickFix review process for internal super users
• Continued preparation for Big Belly/Victor Stanley receptacle change out

Facilities Program

• Continuation of winterization processes including removing, winterizing and cleaning of our boats and motors.
• Installed bench and plaque donation at Waterfront Park
• Graffiti Removal
• Support of City Hall Renovation with capital
• Assisted capital replacement of a Rooftop Unit at Miller.
• Assisted in the exhaust fan replacements at Leddy Arena.
• Completed Appletree Park Walkway Lighting
• Collected pricing and technical info for RFP for pole replacement lighting at 645 Pine St.
• Worked with Nichole on developing additional training for custodians and facility workers including process development and additional PPE protocols

Conservation Program

• Conservation Winter Activities Preparation – winter grooming, winter ice access, maps
• Participate in MLK Day Planning Initiative
• Bike Path Construction to Maintenance transition plan, developing pilot workplan for winter services
• Preparation for returning gardener registration

Grounds Maintenance Program

• Leaf Removal at Parks
• Playground Maintenance
• Winter vehicle/equipment preparation
• Paul/Deryk Attended the Turf Academy Nov 4.
• Reduced mowing areas mowed and serviced in Nov.

Trees and Greenways Program

• Initiated BED line trimming contract
• Submitted request to apply for Arbor Day grant for additional tree plantings in Ward 2/3
Planning Division Update

- Projects completed
  - Appletree Park walkway lighting improvements

- Projects nearing completion (before 2021):
  - Bike Path rehabilitation from Perkins Pier to just north of Flynn Avenue
  - Harbor Watch will likely be paved in spring 2021
  - Schmanska Park Renovations – waiting for occupancy permit, and permanent securement of the barn doors
  - Leddy Park Softball Field Scoring Installation: Scoreboard was delivered damaged in Oct. We just received the new one and will install likely end of Nov/Dec.

- Project progressing
  - 311 North Avenue trail coordination
  - Arms Forest Trail Improvements
  - Bike Path Realignment: Maple to College Street – including improvements to the College Street Intersection
  - Bike Path Design for the rest of Oakledge
  - Leddy Park Tennis Court Lighting
  - North Beach Pump Out and Turnaround
  - Oakledge for all – Construction Documents and application to grant in progress

- Projects starting soon
  - Leddy Park Stair Replacement
  - North Beach Maintenance Building Demolition – Asbestos Window removal
  - Perkins Pier Siting Study

Waterfront Division Update

- The Waterfront staff has moved into winter operations and will focus on the following projects over the winter:
  - Streamlining parking systems throughout our waterfront parking lots. This may include a partnership with DPW.
  - Revamping the Seasonal Boater Waitlist and bringing the option to renew annually online.
  - In partnership with the Planning Division, continue to improve North Beach Campground, according to the Master Plan. This includes the removal of the Maintenance Barn, and addition of a new Dump Station on the Exit row.
    - In coordination with the Planning Division, the Dump Station project is moving forward with design approvals this month.
  - Catalog all of our mooring systems utilizing GIS mapping techniques.
    - With the unexpected mild weather in November, we were able to keep the boat in a week longer and start cataloging our seasonal and transient mooring fields’ GIS locations. This gives us a head start for the Spring work on this project.
- Improve the Perkins Pier Seasonal mooring field by removing the old equipment and updating it with the safer Hazelett mooring systems, to better allow us to adapt to our changing climate, which has produced far more powerful and destructive storm events.
  - We are currently collecting 3 bids for the diving portion of this project. We have received sole-source approval for the equipment purchase.
- Work on a local and statewide level to strategize how events may take shape in Summer 2021.
  - Each Waterfront Park producer was invited to participate in a BPRW strategy session led by Richard Bailey that outlined what the current State and local restrictions are, in an effort to aid producers to re-imagine what their event could be in 2021.
- Issue an RFP for North Beach Concessions and select a concessionaire to serve food items at North Beach from the Bathhouse.

**Future Commission topics**

- Master/Site Plans
  - Perkins
  - Calahan
  - Leddy