

Staff: Holli Bushnell, Office Assistant  
Lakeview Cemetery  
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## Minutes

### Parks, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 5:00 pm

**MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON AT 645 PINE ST FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM**

#### Attendance:

Committee Members: Chair Joan Shannon, Councilor Ali Dieng, Councilor Karen Paul

City Staff: Mary Danko – Fletcher Free Library, Cindi Wight – BPRW, Holli Bushnell – BPRW Staff

Public – Joanne Kalisz, Lori Kettler, Julia Ginorio, Ute Monsen, Maria Karunungan, Lori Davison, Jake Shulman

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Chair Shannon

#### Approval of agenda

Councilor Dieng moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Shannon Seconded, all were in favor.

#### Approval of draft minutes from July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dieng moved to approve the minutes. Shannon seconded. All were in favor

#### Public Forum

Public forum was postponed until the end of the meeting after dog task force applicants were given an opportunity to speak. There was no one present wishing to speak for public forum.

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Dog Task Force Interviews –

Individuals who applied to participate on the task force were invited to speak before the committee. Of the 11 individuals who applied, 6 were able attend the meeting.

Joanne Kalisz was the first to speak before the committee. She is a dog owner living in the New North End and has experience working with a rescue group in the past. She is working part time presently and will be able to commit quite a lot of her time and energy to the committee. Councilor Shannon complimented Kalisz on her thorough application. Dieng asked what her priorities would be as a member of the task force. Kalisz thought there were many issues of importance that the task force could tackle, and that the focus depends on the other members in the group. She also highlighted her experience with both dog ownership and behaviorism and social psychology as being

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strength she'd bring to the task force. She concluded by stating she is interested in doing more than just saying "no" to people, and hopes to work on coming up with creative solutions.

Lori Kettler detailed her experience as an animal law attorney, practicing for 20 years for largest animal rights group in country. Her area of focus is in regulatory law, which could be extremely beneficial to this task force. She feels that the approach of the task force needs to be a balance between education and regulation. In addition to her work experience, Kettler lives in the Old North End, walks her dog a lot, and has a lot of the same concerns that members of the public have in the city. Group that she works for does shelter work and knows a great deal about dog adoption and ownership. Shannon asked about the rescue work Kettler indicated she had been involved with in her application. Kettler explained that she works for an organization that does rescue work, and has a lot of knowledge of the issues because of the folks. Her official title is VP deputy general counsel for organization.

Theresa Gorman was not present, nor was Ilona Blanchard

Julia Ginorio was the only non-dog owner applicant present. She is a resident of the Old North End and is familiar with the issues with dogs in that area of the city. Ginorio is passionate about animal welfare and concerned about houseless folks having resources for dogs, stating that everyone should have access to all the same services. Ginorio also volunteers for animal organizations.

Nina Hurley also was not present.

Ute Monsen is a New North End resident and a new American/immigrant. She moved to Burlington 7 years ago and considers herself both an active and proactive dog owner. She's active in the sense that she's always out and about, hiking, running, walking and biking with her dogs. She's proactive in the sense that she pays attention to license fees, educates herself about dogs and dog ownership, and has even trained her dogs to be a certified therapy dog. She takes care of her dog waste and makes sure her dog regularly visits the vet. Monsen wants to be involved because she loves the community here, especially the dog people. She has seen issues for years with people who aren't being good dog owners which leads to frustration among dog owners as well as non-dog owners. In the last year, Monsen had to take her dog to the emergency vet because he was bitten by an off-leash, uncontrolled dog. When this happened, Monsen reached out to Councilors Dieng, Sarah Carpenter, and Mark Barlow to try to have someone take action. Ultimately, it was her interest that started this whole process.

Maria Karunungan expressed her excitement for the opportunity and also informed the committee that she has cochlear implants and may have some trouble understanding. Holli Bushnell typed questions from the committee to aid Karunungan in understanding.

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Karunungan is a professional dog trainer with a certificate in teaching and counseling from a professional dog trainer organization. She has been training dogs for 20 years and is a dog owner who lives in Old North End. Karunungan would be happy to offer her services as a resource as someone who is very experienced with behavior issues. She is an advocate for both animals and all people (dog owners and non-owners). Although Karunungan teaches 2 evenings a week she can be flexible and would love to be part of the task force. Councilor Karen Paul mentioned that, in the interest of full disclosure, she did visit Maria's business, Fetch the Leash and knows both Maria and her partner Megan.

Lori Davis was the last to speak. She is a recent retiree who has just returned to Burlington after living in New Hampshire for many years. Davis wants to be part of the force as a dog owner because it's a great intersection between being a dog owner and being of service to her community. Davis has participated on a planning committee before and is familiar with the need to build consensus and communicate.

The interviews were completed at 6:14pm

## **2. Deliberation**

Shannon suggested that the committee start with the position that has the most requirements and work towards the position with the least requirements. There were no applications for the veterinarian position.

Shannon called for recommendations for the Dog Trainer/Rescue group position. There were two applicants for the position – Joanne Kalisz and Maria Karunungan. Jake Shulman, the Starr Farms dog park volunteer, asked to advocate for Maria Karunungan, although he was not against Joanne Kalisz. Shulman stated that Karunungan is not only an expert in dog training, but she has also been working with owners for 20 years and is an expert educator for humans too. Paul stated that she appreciated Jake's insight and nominated Karunungan for the dog trainer position. No others were nominated. The committee voted and all were in favor of Karunungan's appointment (none opposed).

Maria Karunungan was appointed to the task force.

The applicants for the position of someone involved with an animal shelter or dog rescue group were Lori Kettler, Joanne Kalisz, and Nina Hurley. The committee reviewed Hurley's info mentioning that she is on board of Humane society, has worked on low cost spay/neuter clinic with that group, and places a strong emphasis on education. Her official title is chair of board for the Chittenden County Humane Society. All three applicants for this position are also applying for the role of at large dog owners.

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Dieng put Kettler forth for the position. Shannon loved hearing about Kettler's background in animal law, but also felt it might be important to have a representative from a humane society involved. Dieng mentioned that, without a veterinarian application, there may be a place for Nina in that role. The committee voted and in favor of having Lori Kettler in dog shelter/rescue position (none were opposed). Lori Kettler was appointed to the task force.

There were two applicants for the position of at large non-dog owner – Ilona Blanchard and Julia Ginorio. Of those two, Ilona Blanchard who was not present, so the committee reviewed her application. Blanchard lives in the downtown area/ward 5 area and has a planning and admin/policy background. Shannon nominated Ilona Blanchard for the position of at large non-dog owner. All in were in favor (none opposed). Ilona Blanchard was appointed to the task force.

The final position up for appointment was that of at large dog owner. There were multiple applicants for this position, and the committee reviewed each applicant. Paul felt that there was one candidate that made some great points – Ute Monson. Paul felt it would be good to include her as she's been pushing this forward from the beginning. Dieng agreed, adding that Monsen has been modeling what a good dog owner looks like as well as participating in the community forums at the beginning of this process. Dieng nominated Ute Monsen for the position and all were in favor (none opposed). Ute Monsen was appointed to the task force.

As there were no veterinarian applicants, Shannon suggested considering Nina Hurley in that position as she has had some professional experience with an animal welfare group. Shannon felt that she would add a unique perspective to the task force. Dieng agreed with the idea of nominating Hurley, Jake Shulman pointed out that the position is for either a vet or an animal health professional and that Hurley is an animal health professional sort of. Though a vet would still be very helpful, perhaps it would be better or easier to approach one as a consultant instead of a member of the task force.

Dieng suggested appointing Hurley to vet position and using some of Kettler's expertise to help find a vet if/when needed. Dieng nominated Nina Hurley for final task force position. All were in favor (none opposed), and Nina Hurley was the final member appointed to the task force by PACC.

The first task of the task force at their first meeting will be to elect a chair.

Bushnell will send folks appointment congratulations, thank you notes to those not appointed, and inform all that these are public meetings and everyone is welcome to attend, even if they weren't appointed. All applicants will be informed about future meetings of the task force.

### **3. Schedule next meeting**

The next PACC meeting will be scheduled via a doodle poll to be held both in person and via zoom.

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**4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

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