

MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Monday, July 27, 2015

5:30 – 7:00 PM

City Hall, Room 12

Participants

Committee Members: Councilor Dave Hartnett, Chair, North District (DH)
Councilor Selene Colburn, East District (SC)
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6 (KP)

Staff: Kath Laing, Strategic Development, FFL (KL)
Rubi Simon, Director, FFL (RS)
Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO (KMS)
Nate Wildfire, Assistant Director, CEDO (NW)
Peter Owens, Director, CEDO (PO)
Sara Katz, Assistant Director, BCA (SK)
Doreen Kraft, Director, BCA (DK)
Richard W. Haesler, Esq., Assistant City Attorney (RH)
Brian Lowe, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office (BL)

Others: Councilor Jane Knodell, City Council President (JK)
James Lockridge
Mark Naud

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 7/21

- Meeting came to order at 5:35 pm.
- Motion to approve Agenda (DH/KP); approved.
- Approval of 7/21 minutes delayed to following meeting. Not all Committee Members had read the minutes.

2) Public Forum

- No comment.
- Councilor Colburn reminded meeting participants of Councilor Hartnett's invitation to members of the public present to speak up as items on the agenda are discussed.

3) Fletcher Free Library Update (Rubi Simon)

- Recruitment of Teen Librarian position. Posting is closed. Hiring committee being formed. 30-40 applications.

- Part-time youth staff moving to full-time has prompted a re-evaluation of scope and mission of the Youth Department, currently underway and part of the strategic planning process.
- New ILS catalog went live in June/July – big undertaking, relatively smooth process, and staff very supportive.
- Last week, Library awarded an Early Education Initiative grant (\$20k) by Agency of Education to provide outreach and programming to unregistered home-based day care providers in Burlington, implementing VELI (Vermont Early Learning Initiative) staff training and materials.
- Councilor Hartnett requested an overview from Rubi on PACC staffing transition from Jen Francis to Kath Laing. Jen Francis had staffed the PACC for 3 years. FFL and BPRW have been collaborating to share resources. Kath Laing has the skill set to manage the staffing. A good time for a transition of staffing to FFL.
- Councilor Colburn requested an update on Strategic Planning process at FFL. Community engagement phase is wrapping up, a few groups still to hear from. Community Engagement Report (CER) under development. Consultant, Maureen Sullivan, returning 2 days of sessions with staff, commission and strategic planning steering committee using feedback gleaned from community forums and survey. Strategic focus areas to be developed. Using CEDO's Civic Engagement Handbook as a basis for CER.

4) BCA Update (Doreen Kraft & Sara Katz)

- Currently in the 6th week of summer camps with a total of 600 campers. Extended day including pre and after camp care (8-9am and 4-5pm) has been successful. Increased diversity in the camps due to outreach to afterschool programs. Increased number of scholarships (\$35k).
- Adult classes also increasing in numbers. Addition of jewelry studio in collaboration with Generator. Waiting lists for use of darkroom.
- Community Arts Fund – BCA hopes to have the fund up and running by mid of fall. Launching the fund with \$35k (\$15k authorized by BCA Board), less than the desired \$100k but a good start. Selection process under development. Councilor Colburn asked if fund was for individuals or organizations – both, but organizations with smaller budgets only. Private sector interest in partnering the fund.
- Board recruitment – adopting the City Board process. Rolling applications open all year. To date 5 community member applications. Public interviews to be held in the fall (aiming for September). Board in executive session will review and make recommendations to the Mayor. Councilor Hartnett requested that one of the 3 councilors on PACC be included in the interview process, strengthening the connection to the PACC.
- Upcoming Festival of Fools expanded this year.
- Due to time constraints, Councilor Colburn requested that at a future meeting Doreen Kraft speak to the pending BCA strategic planning process and the timeline and key findings for the Listening Campaign. A brief update on Listening Campaign was provided – 8 more interviews to do and then ready to bring key findings to PACC in October. To date able to say that they have found that the community is in a dramatic period of change and have identified the need to engage with the arts community in the NNE.

5) Other items

- Councilor Hartnett shared that BPRW and the LCI Derby are collaborating to take 40-50 kids from the Boys & Girls Club fishing on Sunday. The kids will learn to fish, cook their catch and will get t-shirts.
- Councilor Hartnett gave an update on the dirt pile at Leddy Park. Jesse Bridges and the Mayor's Office have been on top of this issue from the start. They are confident the dirt is not hazardous to people or waterways. Waiting for final analysis results from the State. Hope to reuse the dirt as part of the bike path construction.

6) Confirmation of next meeting date

- Thursday, August 27 at 5:30 pm. Room to be announced. Futures meeting dates will be the 3rd Tuesday for the month, unless there is a conflict.

7) PIAP Update (Nathan Wildfire)

Good feedback from the July 21st meeting. Summary of situation of the four projects provided.

- ECHO – least developed to date. ECHO developing a master plan and including this development in their plan, also undergoing a financial assessment.
- New Moran – June 23rd progress report, CEDO gave feedback on report. CEDO has been meeting with developers weekly since June. August 10th an update will be presented to the City Council (no action required), including timelines, site plans, constructions estimates, operating proforma, capital fundraising plan, new market / historic tax credit timelines, business plans for 3 tiers of tenants, public trust analysis, philanthropic update and permitting schedule.
 - Councilor Hartnett has doubts the philanthropic fundraising goal of \$11M in 12 months is achievable. He expressed dismay at missed deadlines to date. Councilor Hartnett spoke of public patience with the Moran project waning.
 - Councilor Paul believes this is an iterative process. She believes it is possible that the original timelines in the MoU were unrealistic, and may need to be reestablished. Councilor Paul believes missed deadlines are the responsibility of both the City and the development team.
 - Mark Naud spoke to how patience is important in such a large project, how it takes a while to get it right.
- Marina – A due diligence report is due July 31st, including a master site plan and recommendations from Harbor Master and Director of DPW. CEDO response can be expected within 2 weeks of report submission. Due to concerns expressed by DPW regarding the proximity of the Marina to the City's water plant, an engineering firm – Dufresne Group – was hired to carry out an intensive analysis of conflicts and alternatives. The due diligence report will present solutions to the issues that have been raised. Some issues include:
 - Chemical deliveries for water treatment
 - Water plant infrastructure / pipe protection
 - Capacity for future development of water plant according to future federal regulations
 - With increased number of boats is 30" water intake from lake at risk
- Sailing Center –
 - Move to go into executive session to discuss City development agreement negotiations, premature disclosure of which would put the City at a disadvantage (DH/KP).
 - Motion to go into Executive Session (DH/KP)

Executive Session commenced at 7:02pm.

Public meeting resumed at 7:19pm.

8) Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.