

MINUTES

**Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2015 – 5:30-7:00PM
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library**

Participants

Committee Members:

- Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6
- Selene Colburn, East District

Staff:

- Robert Coleburn, Interim Library Director, Fletcher Free Library
- Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
- Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO
- Gillian Nanton, SHED, Assistant Director, CEDO
- Doreen Kraft, Executive Director, BCA
- Sara Katz, Assistant Director, BCA
- Kath Laing, Strategic Development, FFL

Others:

- Karl Muller, Senior Project Engineer, The Johnson Company, Inc.
- Jill Nye-McKeown, Prevention Coordinator, BHS
- Hawa Adam, Balkisa Abdikadir, Andrew Ely – BHS students in START (Students Taking Actions and Risks Together) Prevention Group

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 11/17

Motion to approve agenda (SC/KP) and draft minutes (SC/KP); approved with following amendment to agenda: BCA update original item 6 on the agenda moves to be item 3 on the agenda.

2) Public Forum

No time was required for public forum.

3) BCA Update (Kraft)

- Burlington's 150th anniversary year chair campaign is coming to a successful close. New chairs have been purchased and many chairs been sponsored by donors. A dedication ceremony will be held on the 16th of February at 6:00pm in the Contois Auditorium.

- City Hall Park renovation fundraising campaign announces a \$30,000 donation from Northfield Savings Bank. A team is being convened to finalize the renovation design, after which bid documents will be produced and construction should start in the summer of 2017.
- The most recent art exhibition openings at BCA have attracted record attendance. Approximately 450-500 at each opening.
- The Listening Campaign conducted by BCA over past months has highlighted the art community's need for funding. BCA is administering a Community Arts Fund of \$35,000 in the first year (\$20,000 from the City of Burlington & \$15,000 raised by BCA Commission). Grant of \$250 to \$3,000 will be made. A community board will make the decisions. The deadline for applications is March 15. Grant announcements will be made in mid-April. In the long term, it is expected that the fund will reach \$100,000 annually. Councilor Paul congratulated the BCA Commission for raising the extra \$15,000 for this year's funding round. Councilor Colburn suggested a model such as the one used by the Flynn, where previous grantees can be members of the community decision making board.

4) Smoking Ban

- During the December 7th meeting of the City Council, the smoking ban enactment was delayed. City Council decided to postpone action on the ordinance on smoking prohibition in city parks and requested that the Burlington Parks Department work in conjunction with City Council and the PAC Committee to conduct a survey of users of the park system, including but not limited to users of the campgrounds during the next park season 2016 and report back to City Council with the results of the survey.
- Staff and students of the START Prevention Group of BHS spoke in favor of the smoking ban in parks and beaches. They spoke of the health and environmental concerns brought about by smoking in parks and beaches. A poem supporting the smoking ban was read by two BHS students. The BHS student group shared a smoking ban survey they will administer to over 90% of high school students. The poem and the survey are supporting documents to these minutes. The START Prevention Group has expressed willingness to work with the PACC, BPRW and the City Council to ensure the ban is enacted.
- Councilor Paul thanked the Ms. Nye-McKeown and her students for their candid comments, congratulating the students on their initiative and for lending their voice to this important issue.
- Councilor Colburn confirmed that the Public Safety Committee has referred the survey design to the PACC and confirmed that Councilor Hartnett is committed to working with BPRW, START and the Partnership for a Healthy Community on this project. Councilor Colburn suggests this subject get substantive time on an upcoming PACC meeting agenda.
- Director Bridges highlighted that BPRW have the professional capacity to move the survey forward.

5) CEDO / PIAP Update (Merriman-Shapiro)

- The RFP under development is for the Gateway Block, including Memorial Auditorium, the Main-So. Winooski parking lot, the Fire House, the Library, the Church and other private holding. RFP remains under development, will be issued in May.

- In an update on Waterfront Access North, Karl Muller made a presentation in an attempt to provide important knowledge around soil contamination management in Burlington's urban reserve. The presentation is a supporting document to these minutes.

6) Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Update (Bridges)

- Director Bridges shared an updated FY16 Parks Annual Capital Plan summary sheet. This sheet is a supporting document to these minutes.
- The bike path rehabilitation project will continue until just shy of North Bean this coming building season. Included will be removal of all concrete and tarmac to the north of WAN, fitness equipment donated by UVM Medical Center, improved conservations spaces, pause places and quiet reflective park spaces.
- Councilors Paul and Colburn urge BPRW to ensure the public is consulted at each step. Director Bridges states that the bike path project has been through many iterations of public input.

7) Library Update (Coleburn)

- Interim Director, Robert Coleburn, reported that Rubi Simon is recovering at home after a small set back in her medical situation.
- The strategic plan is currently being drilled down one more level in meetings with staff, developing measureable objectives that will become part of a detailed action plan. Once Director Simon has returned, the public document of the strategic plan will be finalized.
- The security guard is providing necessary support to library staff. Both intervening with and deterring inappropriate behavior in the library.
- The Teen Librarian, Lisa Buckton, has started employment with the City at the library.
- Annual appeal was launched in December, going well to date.

8) Confirmation of next meeting date

The next meeting date to be decided.

9) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.