

DRAFT MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5:30pm
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library

Participants

Committee Members:

Councilor Dave Hartnett, North District (Chair)
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Staff:

Noelle MacKay, Director, CEDO
Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
Robert Coleburn, Interim Director, Fletcher Free Library
Kath Laing, Development Manager, Fletcher Free Library

Others:

1. Agenda approval.

The agenda was unanimously approved by the Committee unanimously, with one change moving agenda item #5 Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront update to #4, and CEDO update has been moved to #5.

2. Public forum.

No time was taken for public forum.

3. Smoking ban in parks update.

An ordinance prohibiting smoking in all City Parks has been drafted and will be presented to the City Council. The ordinance will state that it is within the discretion of the Director of Parks and Recreation to designate specific areas within Oakledge, Waterfront, Battery, North Beach and Leddy parks where smoking shall be permitted. Parks is currently working to identify these smoking areas. Councilors and staff discussed banning smoking at events in parks such as July 3rd, Kids Day, etc. Councilors and staff also discussed no smoking on docks. *Councilor Paul moved that the draft of ordinance to put on the February 6th City Council agenda. Motion approved unanimously.*

4. Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront update.

Director Bridges reports:

- The Champlain Senior Center transition to 20 Allen Street (St. Joseph's School) is going well. Data collection has been streamlined. The number of people receiving services is up and growing, and staff is seeing more consistency of participation. Seniors express feeling happy with services. Other building tenants say the vibe in building is upbeat. Champlain Housing Trust is installing an elevator installation in the building. Rental of other space is moving ahead. The Family Room is organizing to become its own entity.
- Parks has hired a project coordinator for capital projects, to manage improvements and projects in capital plan. Projects include: Penny for Parks, Smalley Park softball field, repair of 3rd bocce court at Oakledge, FY18 plans for court replacement (tennis and basketball).
- Cambrian Rise, first Development Review Board hearing 1/17. The park is currently under Parks control.

5. CEDO update.

Director MacKay reported:

- ECHO update – A development agreement has been drafted. Will be presented to ECHO board on January 25 and the Board of Finance on February 6 and City Council on February 27th. The agreement includes key milestones, site plan review, and ensures the project is in line with Great Streets and Waterfront design standards. Projected to be finished the fall of 2018. \$1m project, \$500,000 from ECHO and \$500,000 from the City from TIF funds that have been voter approved.
- Sailing Center update – \$5m of \$5.8m goal has been raised. They have broken ground. Projected to be completed between mid-May and end of June. Sailing Center not planning to not move in until the end of 2017 season. Will be using existing docks and moorings for 2017. Noelle MacKay recognized the invaluable support of Kirsten Merriman Shapiro in this project.
- Update on Burlington Harbor Marina – CEDO working with Water Department, Department of Public Works and Parks and Rec to finalize parking and lease agreements. Expecting to break ground 2017.
- Moran Plant and Associated Lands update –
 - CEDO has received one application in response to the RFP, from the New Moran team. An intercity team had been pulled together to review the application based on RFP criteria. Team is comprised of: Noelle MacKay, Richard Hassler, Ken Braverman, David White, Jesse Bridges, Gillian Nanton, Kirsten Merriman Shapiro and Bob Rusten. The aim is to present an evaluation of the application and a recommendation to the City Council.
 - New Moran is proposing to work with Hemisphere, a development company out of Ohio. Councilor Paul asked if this due diligence has been done with this out-of-state group. Director MacKay indicated this is being taken into account by the intercity group reviewing the application. Hemisphere have managed massive brownfield development projects nation-wide. Councilor Paul asks the following questions be considered during the application evaluation: Who is on their team locally? What

- financing do they have? How complex is the financing situation? Is this an investment anyone can understand?
- With the aim of having all necessary information for decision making by the City Council, simultaneously CEDO is working to develop a demolition report, which will pull together history of the building, what the City has tried to do, what the City needs to do, issues of historic preservation, any state and federal funding already invested and environmental concerns. Kurt Mueller of the Johnson Company will lay out the environmental steps to update the Corrective Action Plan. CEDO is paying for a demolition estimate.
 - Both the review and assessment of the proposal and the demolition report will be ready by the end of March, 2017.
 - Councilor Paul expressed her desire for this not to be on the last meeting of this City Council. It would be good to take this issue to the City Council on March 13.
 - Councilor Hartnett requested Noelle MacKay send him an email summarizing all the points she has made during the meeting.
 - Director MacKay indicated that CEDO is prioritizing its time across different ongoing development projects. She would like to present everything to the PACC prior to going to the City Council. Councilors and Director MacKay agreed that best to have all the information necessary before going to the City Council. If this means presenting the application evaluation and intercity team recommendation, and the demolition report to the new City Council in April, this is preferable than not having all the information together.

6. Fletcher Free Library

Interim Director Coleburn reports:

- Mayor Weinberger has appointed Mary Danko to be the next Director of the Fletcher Free Library. Mary Danko is a seasoned Library Director and the President elect of the New England Library Association. The appointment is pending City Council approval at their January 23rd meeting. A press conference was held at the Library January 12th. Mary's start date has been preliminarily set for February 6th.
- Preparations for the Smithsonian Exploring Human Origins exhibit and associated programming are well underway. The exhibit will be in Burlington for 28 days from February 18 to March 17, 2017. We are expecting 10,000 visitors to come through the Library's doors to view the exhibit and engage in associated programming. It is expected that 30% of these visitors will be students and teachers from the Burlington School District and surrounding school districts. We are working with a range of community partners to develop high quality programming that engages patrons of all ages. We expect to be offering 50-60 different programs and events to the community during the month the exhibit is in town. An exhibit website and a social media campaign designed to engage students and teachers in the exhibit have been developed by the Emergent Media Center at Champlain College, and a series of teacher workshops have been delivered by UVM and St. Michael's College professors.
- Library's rebranding is being rolled out in the library and the community. We are very happy with it.

7. Burlington City Arts.

No update was made.

8. Confirmation of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting is to be determined based on New Moran application evaluation and recommendation and demolition report.

9. Executive Session.

No executive session was scheduled.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.