

DRAFT MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 11th, 2017 at 4:00pm
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library

Participants

Committee Members:

Councilor Dave Hartnett, North District (Chair)
Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3
Councilor Joan Shannon, South District

Staff:

Jesse Bridges, Director, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
Mary Danko, Library Director, Fletcher Free Library
Kath Laing, Development Manager, Fletcher Free Library

Public Forum:

James Lockridge
David Burrell

- 1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 01/17/17 – minutes approved without changes, the agenda was approved switching the order of items 3 & 4 of the agenda.
- 2) Public Forum:
 - David Burrell, a Burlington at 230 Lakewood Parkway, expressed his frustration with a tree that is growing in front of his home on public green space. The tree is too big for the location, it blocks the light from the street pole and is leaning toward the pole, the root system is causing the sidewalk slabs to pop up. Mr. Burrell also expressed his frustration getting this dealt with by the City Arborist.
 - James Lockridge, Executive Director of Big Heavy World and supporter of 242 Main, requested the members of the PACC advocate that the City Council seek improvement of the quality of governance of the City's arts office. Mr. Lockridge claims there are voting board positions that have been help by the same person for more than three 3-year terms. Later this month the City Council will be voting on a budget that will allocated \$1M+ to BCA. Mr. Lockridge also used public forum to advocate for sustaining 242 Main in Memorial Auditorium.
- 3) Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront update – PACC congratulated Jesse Bridges on his appointment with the United Way. Jesse gave the PACC an update on a number of

BPRW initiatives and the BPRW leadership transition. Operationally, BPRW is prepared for the summer – a strong leadership team together for over a year. His current concentration is on budget approval and contract signing for next phase of the bike path. A summary of updates provided:

- Season has started, campground open, marina soon. Marina manager on board. Seasonal employee hiring. Recreation and nutrition programming at South Meadow, Franklin Sq, Riverside and Roosevelt Park.
 - FY18 capital projects starting up. Bike path, courts and field upgrades.
 - Designated smoking areas in Parks will be mapped out over the summer, signage made. Oakledge, Waterfront, Battery, North Beach, Leddy.
 - 2nd floor St. Josephs, 20 Allen Street – lease being finalized with Champlain Housing Trust. BPRW an anchor tenant of a community center along with AALV, Hindu Center, VMT, Robin’s Nest, Family Room.
- 4) Meet Mary Danko, Fletcher Free Library director & library update – Mary introduced herself as the new Library Director for the Fletcher Free, having been on the job for 3 months. Mary mentioned the Exploring Human Origins Smithsonian Exhibit as being a great way to get to know the library, the community and library staff. Mary gave the following updates:
- Leadership transition: meeting with stakeholders, other department heads and Commissioners; goal setting and ensuring appropriate metrics are tracked, connecting with library patrons of all ages; coordinating programming across all audiences; and working to ensure the library is a safe place for the community.
 - Staffing changes: the Library is currently hiring 1.5 FTE computer center monitors (approved FY17 budget); Robert Coleburn has been promoted to Assistant Director (approved FY17 budget); the Circulation Chief is being upgraded to Circulation Manager (in FY18 budget).
 - Impacts: The Library is working to measure impacts of our services and programming in the community through an ALA initiative called Project Outcome. Summer reading program is being transformed into a summer learning program, and an expanded partnership with the Burlington School District is our goal for FY18.
 - Publicity: the library is redesigning the website and focusing on ensuring our publicity reaches its intended audiences in the community.
 - Exciting developments: recently the 118 teens from all over the state descended on the library as part of Vermont’s first teen literary festival – Teen Lit Mob, organized by FFL, Essex and Champlain Valley High School. The event was highly successful. Additionally, the library was recently awarded a NASA @ My Library grant through an ALA / NASA partnership.
- 5) Confirmation of next meeting dates – Councilors agreed that the last Monday of each month at 3:00pm would be the standard meeting day for the PACC, should a meeting be necessary. The next meeting is June 26, 2017 from 3:00pm – 4:30.
- 6) Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.