MINUTES

Park, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2014
7:00-8:30 PM
Contois Auditorium, City Hall

Participants

Committee Members: Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6 (KP) (absent)
Councilor Bryan Aubin, Ward 4 (BA)

Staff: Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO
Nate Wildfire, Assistant Director, CEDO (NW)
Peter Owens, Director, CEDO
Jesse Bridges, DPR

Others: Jim Lockridge, Resident

1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 9/11/13
   • Meeting came to order at 7:08 PM
   • No vote on draft minutes as no members were at the last meeting
   • Agenda approved with changes: discard item 5 (Memorial Auditorium discussion) and replace with City Hall Park

2) Public Forum
   • No public comment

3) Waterfront Access North (Merriman-Shapiro)
   • The project is over budget – there are many reasons, some of which being design changes, continued litigation, estimates now being a bit old and low since labor costs have now rebounded post-recession
   • We do not want to delay any longer since the resources of our partners have time sensitivity; doing everything in our power to advance the projects as much as possible
   • The estimate is over enough that we can’t value engineer our way out of it; will need to find ways to bring new resources to the table
   • Staff will continue to keep the committee updated

4) PIAP Update (Wildfire)
   • 9 final proposals have been presented to TEUC and PACC, as well as Council
• The Mayor will hold a press conference on Monday the 13th at 2:00 PM at ECHO to announce his project slate and the project allocations
• This has been an amazing experience with input from so many different people, organizations – and a real learning experience, as this is the first time this has happened this way in the state of Vermont – very humbled by the energy and creativity

5) City Hall Park (Kraft)
• Proposal to support resolution to go before City Council on Jan 27 with presentation from Parks and Rec, BCA, and architects
• Will review history and preview next steps (fundraising, design, etc.)
• Draft resolution has already gone to legal and final draft will be done in about a week
• Changes – less importance placed on vending, added the support of the police department, will be doing a new report back in May – very similar to prior resolution drafts
• Really want to refresh for new council, with new mayor and staff at parks – get everyone up to speed again
• Most on-the-ground decisions are really up for public discussion – not very much set in stone at all right now – but there are big concepts that have been there for a while
• Construction season unknown for now, which will be based on budget
• Note: Page 2 of the resolution was missing from the presentation – it will be sent by BCA to attendees

6) Parks Lighting Standard (Bridges)
• Process led by Jen Francis to get a consistent lighting standard for parks – aesthetics, energy efficiency, maintenance, and creating a cohesive identity for the parks
• A number projects make this a bit time sensitive
• Worked with various consultants, including the parks master plan design group
• See MEMO for details on the proposal
• Looking for PACC review and endorsement before adopting as the standard
• Unanimous vote to endorse the proposal

7) Parks Project Update (Bridges)
• Penny for Parks - have now done 60 projects and expended over $1M; have eliminated the backlog, and now moving forward with what we have
• Will continue to replace playground equipment (Star Farm and Oakledge probably next); a fundraising group exists to look at Oakledge as a regional park
• Court resurfacing continues to be a focus and priority – but under the lens of evaluating priorities, etc.
• Building challenges are starting to crop up – will be addressed over time
• We will really have another year of knocking off the smaller low-hanging fruit projects
• Bigger projects are coming down the pike
• Safety, signage, lighting remain priorities in the near future
• April and May will be the Parks Commission discussions about the next Penny for Parks budget
• Bike Path project is in full swing – hoping to hit the ground in September in the Urban Reserve
• Tuesday Park Commission meeting – will have a presentation on the bike path progress
• Will be taking the Parks Master Plan draft to different groups for review and comment in late February/March
• Working on a stormwater chapter that looks at the hydrology of the parks – will give advice on how to place park elements and program based on hydrology – higher level of discussion and thinking that hasn’t really been done anywhere
  • Roosevelt Park Pavilion
    o Currently does all signage and repair there
    o It is a currently underutilized space
    o Has two restrooms that are not maintained since we don’t resources to place someone there
    o The concept now is to convert the space to a teen center/Boys and Girls Club – multifunctional space
    o There’s a need for evening space, especially for older kids
    o Will get consistent eyes on the park; will leverage private dollars to go to the park; and will add new lighting and storage for little league and their programs
    o The restrooms will be publicly accessible when the building is staffed – adding new restrooms to the park
    o Really great to add some teen centers in collaboration with partners
    o This would be a lease of City space
    o NOTE – Jesse Bridges brought a plan set to review
    o Will be looking to renovate the Schmanska barn as a temporary place to relocate the shop
    o This will go to BOF in early February

8) **Confirmation of next meeting date**
   • Thursday, February 13, 6:00-7:30 PM

9) **Adjournment**
   • Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM