



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
January 14, 2025
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Present: Bergmann, Boehm, Johnson, Keech, Lantieri and Morrigan

Not Present: Etter

Staff Present: Wight and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Keech, second by Lantieri, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Keech, second by Bergmann, motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum

Public forum opened at 5:33 pm.

Nobody came forward to speak and so the forum was closed.

Public forum was closed at 5:34 pm.

Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

Morrigan began with passing the gavel to vice chair Lantieri, and explained that he would not be taking comments after speaking but departing the meeting upon resignation. He read his departure into the record along with a poem.

Lantieri thanked staff for winter warming shelters and also to the grounds crew. Also stated the Route 127 Path Design Advisory group has had one meeting so far and public meeting is coming up on January 30th from 4-7:30 at ONE Community Center. If anyone would like to attend he encouraged and also stated they could give any questions to him to pass on. Lantieri had an extra 8 hours.

Boehm, no extra hours.

Keech asked for clarity if Parks is managing the Urban Reserve and Wight said the day to day but beyond that it is City Planning. Keech explained that the sailing center would like to make the wetlands near that into a storage area and wondered how that is possible and what Parks role would be in that. Wight said not a park and don't have the jurisdiction on managing but suggested contacting Planning department and if approved at any level to operate then BPRW would ensure that the parks and paths are not impacted. BPRW is in charge of the bike path and managing the area but not in charge of the Urban Reserve. Keech engaged in more discussion about what the role could be and Lantieri suggested looking into further to see if there is a role and Wight suggested contacting Planning and/or Conservation for further discussion, but does not mean that the commission could not make a statement. Wight also stated that a buffer was included in the distance from the water and significant public input and other



process for any changes. It was also stated since the Urban Reserve was set aside for future generations that it would require significant community input.

Keech also asked about the last community meeting dinner in which there was a presentation about Roosevelt and Little Rosie parks, said he had personally spoken to Fire Commissioners and felt there was no issues as well as Chapin Spencer, DPW Director, Keech added there was supposed to be a study, and felt nothing has happened and was told by others that nothing could be done because of Fire and DPW and felt that either Parks had not been notified or some other reason and would like an answer. Wight stated that a presentation was going to happen at the February Commission meeting. Wight also said met with Fire and DPW and will be a follow up letter that has all of the information and will be coming out soon with feedback from both departments, and whomever had given any previous information was not authorized to give any information regarding the parks. Keech said in his conversations with Fire it was his understanding that DPW makes the final determination and Fire does not have final say in the matter and nobody could clarify.

Bergmann Said spent time at Calahan ice rink working and thought great to see a lot of children have the opportunity to come and participate but on Sunday the building was locked and it was not available for use. Wight said the operation is all volunteer based and would connect him with the correct person so that he would be able to utilize the facility.

Johnson had no extra hours but spent few weeks in Springfield, Oregon at Doris Ranch, very historical buildings, wet lands and an amazing place to visit.

Standing Items:

Park Foundation Update

Lantieri said there was a meeting not long ago and had an Advisory Group meeting today, spoke about communication for the branding of the playgrounds for all for every year. They are trying to hit a benchmark before publicly announcing to the public and very close currently. 5 parks in five years with the last one being at Leddy.

Off-Leash Dog Sub-Committee

Johnson said no major updates, he and Morrigan had been traveling and with Morrigan stepping down he would take over. Discussed the need for a new commissioner to step into the role to be on the task force and asked if anyone on the commission would be interested in sitting in on, would like to have worked out very soon. Johnson stated he would have a brief update with Morrigan and get up to date with all previous information to keep on track and moving forward with the task force.

Keech asked if it would be a conflict to have someone from the previous Dog Park Task Force committee on this particular task force and Lantieri and Wight gave a brief explanation of what the past process was and what was required of the Parks Commission. The charge of the Commission is with off leash dog areas in parks. Johnson said the conversation with the two public persons was to get feedback and then would bring back for one month to the commission for discussion to decide what would recommend and to get additional feedback and then decide how to move forward with recommendation to the City Council.

Commission Goals



Lantieri said a new year and changes and would like to have the meetings be meaningful as would all, said from his experience felt one of the few citizen levers that exist for having community involvement and things that must be done and items that can be done and would like to focus on the items that the commission can do beyond the things that are mandated to be done.

Boehm felt needs to learn more about the permitting and consent agenda process, and if there was anything more she could do to be more helpful on the front end or if it is something that she does not need to be concerned with.

Lantieri asked if anyone had questions about the role of the permitting process, and felt that it did say something a bit different than what was interpreting on a previous request. Wight felt a great goal to work on, and discussed the appendix D getting updated, which would help in the process for clarity.

Lantieri asked about the process for community parks versus neighborhood parks and was told it's all in the Appendix D section and when going through the updating processing it will be addressed.

Keech would like to work more on the public engagement process and said it was with City Attorney who had some pros and cons and was working with Morrigan and he needs to do some more reviews on it and hopefully can bring back at the February meeting.

Lantieri said the legislature is reviewing public meeting rules, they were changed slightly due to pandemic and some bodies are affected more than others, so expect some changes coming soon and will adapt to changes when and if it occurs.

Johnson said at one point had potentially done meetings at other locations, specifically parks and don't know how much of a barrier the open meeting rules would be with regards to that but will keep in mind.

Lantieri would also like to focus on Roberts Rules in the future more.

Hayley McClenahan, Attorney, introduced herself and said if the commission has any creative ideas but also want to make sure complying and providing the proper hybrid meetings that she would be happy to make sure complying with the law.

Boehm thought a goal could be a few critical times BPRW may need help as a volunteer and need to be in the community to help and support Parks and Recreation Commission and Lantieri stated possibly creating more structure in how to be more involved. Wight stated don't have a specific Volunteer coordinator but rather different areas have specific events or opportunities for volunteers and could reach out.

Johnson said wrote up the code of conduct and felt it might be something to revisit along with parliamentary procedure for better understanding and take a look at in the next few months as new commissioners come on board and have the opportunity to make changes if or as necessary. It was agreed to have more onboarding information to bring everyone up to speed.

Lantieri would like to suggest doing a commission retreat at some point also, as it is found to be very helpful to go through learning sessions and working time as well. Wight felt typically done in the Fall time of year.



Lantieri would like to explore formally adopting a universal design perspective.

Vendors in Parks was also added and agreed to by the Commission, as it is ongoing and constantly evolving.

Lantieri wanted to add what Parks relationship is with Conservation Board

Director's Items

Wight reminded that commissioners can get a pass for parking at Perkins, two new staff members in Recreation, One at Sr. center with adult programming, encouraged to see programs, were emergency shelter and will continue when needed, will get outside contractor to clean at the end in the future and will receive pricing. Wight did some of the volunteering for some of the slots and it was all very appreciative persons and very kind and happy to get a warm place to stay. Will forward information on upcoming bond, one that pertains to parks is the general obligation bond, important for facilities, Department staff can only talk about factual parts but commissioners can speak in there circles. Commissioner seat will be open and available and asked to spread the word to perspective interested people. City received grant from Lake Champlain Basin grant for zero North Avenue land, owned by Larkin family, they had originally had hopes over the years to develop but can't as it is a wetland. The grant has a zero match, will go to Conservation Board for an update in February and MOU with Wildways.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bergmann, second by Johson at 6:59 p.m., motion carried unanimously.