



AMENDED
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
February 11, 2025
Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Not Present:

Staff Present: Wight, Roach and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Lantieri.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Etter, second by Johnson, motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum

Public forum opened at 5:34 pm.

Nobody came forward to speak and the forum was closed.

Public forum was closed at 5:35 pm.

Election of Commission Chair

Wight explained opening to elect and asked if anyone had a nomination, Boehm nominated Lantieri for Chair, second by Keech, no other nominations were announced for position.

Vote for Lantieri for Chair, all were in favor and Lantieri was nominated as Chair of the Parks Commission.

Lantieri asked if anyone wanted to nominate someone for Vice Chair and Boehm said that she would be happy to run as Vice Chair and was seconded by Lantieri. No other nominations were made.

Vote for Boehm for Vice Chair, all were in favor and Boehm was nominated as Vice Chair of the Parks Commission.

Conservation Legacy Fund Nature Based Solutions Grant Recommendations

Scott Gustin introduced himself and said that he works closely with Conservation Legacy program, it is the second year working with the grant, had \$180,000 to award to the community, received 5 applications, went to Conservation Board earlier this month and was approved unanimously and currently bringing to this Commission and then City Council. Had larger discussion on how the funds were split and decided to go with 2 full funded and 2 partially funded.



Etter asked if multi-year projects and was told all one year projects.

Lantieri said he felt a good discussion occurred on the decision and was feeling good about the decision.

Motion by Boehm, to recommend the slate approval and to move forward with the process to the City Council for approval, second by Bergmann, motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Legacy Fund

Wight explained that she had a recommendation for legacy fund project and staff had advised to the board that it did not feel it was eligible and would ask for a variance, attorney opinion was that the way the language was written for the voters, could theoretically get approved, but the way the current resolution states how funds would get distributed is not accurate. The application was pulled and will continue to look at options, would be based off of the open space plan.

Keech said that he was on the WVPD and felt conservation legacy program has already been fragmented and the Nature Based program is going to continue to take from the program. Keech felt they should reapply next year, felt a pathway for it, a nature based program and should go to that area.

Etter asked what the vote was on and for clarification Wight said stewardship, education and acquisition and by percentages for each of those areas.

Lantieri asked about how the legacy fund grows and was told by Wight that it is growing as long as a big acquisition does not happen, it grows significantly yearly and voted to spend money on other things beside the actual cost to bring to certain standard, but always been tied to an acquisition.

Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan

Sauve gave update on final plan said went through fall 2023-24 process and will wrap up with consultant soon but making sure get all that is wanted. Next step is to get design documents. Showed existing conditions and amenities, some things have been maintained in final plan, tennis courts, basketball courts. Three big ideas, the main buildings stay in the footprint but differently located, biggest change is the little league field is rotated but not moved. Will allow for sidewalks to be put around the perimeter of the park on all sides of the park with a ban of trees around the perimeter of the park. Community would like to improve the access to the park, space to gather, more shade, space can be multi-use and dedicated spaces to play soccer, skateboarding and roller skating. Making entrances more open and accessible and adding crosswalks to the two other entrances to the Little park. Would like to add concrete padding and benches, looking to order for this season. Met preliminarily with DPW to locate parking and



others to get help with art work and diversity, also looking to deal with declining trees but waiting for sidewalks as don't want to have to put new ones in and then have to remove

Keech said hard to tell exactly how everything is and asked if the roller skating rink was located as part of the basketball courts and was told yes if folks wanted it to be. Also had questions about the water element and was under the impression it was more of a trough type system that was turned on as wanted and asked what it would cost the City and who would clean it out and wanted to know how maintained. Sauve said at the beginning conceptual, not designed at this point, where it would be but what exactly it would be is not going to be done until 2031 but will be keeping track of as moving forward, said have high level costs but would be integrated into the capital plan through time and could be a penny for parks cost or the Foundation could also have part of a match, always looking for grant opportunities. Said it would also provide some cooling and won't be necessarily big buckets that you see at splash pads. Keech asked if the plan is that the city would just turn on a tap and Wight said nothing has been finalized and said for ones like that would be a flow, you generally push a button and it goes for a specific amount of time, there are many that very and would be a one-time use that flows out, otherwise you have to use chemicals and other expensive means to recirculate the water.

Etter asked if the current playground at Roosevelt would be moved and was told no, when due for replacement it would be moved and redone, has similar span currently and also adding other structures that are intergenerational. Also asked if about to present or start doing the planning and was told constantly doing and Sauve said the new projects and constantly being added as it moves forward, said currently have funding for playground from foundation. Was asked if when planning if maintenance is included and was told she focuses on replacing of courts and the like but does not deal with that part of the capital budget. Wight stated that when doing large generational projects very mindful of how move forward and maintain as the though the process. Roach said always advocates for maintenance to be included and the price, specs and the project cost and what can be done in house. Always try to get to a certain standard and make sure included. Also asked if something had to be cut what would be willing to let go and Wight said already have all funding for playground, and that the comp plan started around the flex field and donors but went out to all community and don't know if donors will still want to fund or support and dependent of grants and other funding and what funds can be achieved.

Lantieri asked if usually see the capital plan and was told yes, usually around March, reflection was once see the plan will be a bit more clear as to how much funding is available.

General Obligation Bond and Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Wight said that Roach and Sauve will also be sharing information, Roach will speak to central facilities as Parks is the one that does the work on all the facilities.

Roach introduced himself and explained Parks is made up of several divisions and public buildings that are generally funded.



Bleakley managed the program, 15 FTE positions assigned to program, comprising 9 custodial positions, working foreman, HVAC maintenance specialist and capital project coordinator, several salaries within the program are assigned to the capital budget. Total of 500,000 square feet, gave the average cost per square foot of indoor space. \$1.5 million associated with the maintenance of buildings. In the past from 2014-2018 was \$60 mil to maintain the major facilities. Said each bond cycle varies, last one was \$4.04m, and looking for the same this year and in the midst of putting together two drafts, one if were to receive the bond and the other without the bond. Working on energy sources, the goals and objectives for the city as a whole is to get to a net zero energy by 2030 and challenges are majority of systems are fueled by natural gas, which is currently the cheapest option in terms of cost. Stated that have always dealt with critical needs only, never been able to do more than that. Stated that the staff had identified \$28m of critical investment over 5 years, if bond vote does not pass in March, looking at an estimated budget of \$900,000.

Etter said no doubt the bond will pass, taxes are already driving people out and felt priorities should be looked at and hope to have less reliance on bonds in the future. Wight added that not the best way to go about funding, should come from regular capital plan.

Lantieri asked if there was a bond that happened recently that did not pass and was told yes.

Sauve explained Capital Planning for parks and the design and construction in 37 parks, 8 miles of greenway and 3 cemeteries and rely heavily on other parks staff for day to day information on what is failing or in need of. Explained the park playgrounds and corresponding age of play equipment and the need to communicate with Roach and his team to identify and get ahead of capital needs and to prioritize projects. Also explained they look at the city population and areas and needs in those areas which are very community driven at times. Also have staff driven initiatives when they see them. Explained have several discussions with others in terms of eminent needs, safety and breaking down each area and how much can be allotted to each in the most equitable fashion. Explained the ability to adjust to external impacts and demands as they come along and the difficulties getting contractors and work done when wanted. Sauve identified current bond funded projects as well as identifying projects without funding sources. Stated the FY26-28 Anticipated use of Penny for Parks funding, the needs for projects that are currently unfunded but needed.

Keech asked if PFP was supposed to be community driven, requests by the City and Sauve said every year \$40,000 is set aside for community requests and then requests above that that are integrated or further down the list. Wight explained get approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000, look at plans and then get some community requests that are over and some are determined that a family playground needs to be replaced. Roach explained that the resolution does not explain how the funds are to be dispersed and then BPRW decided how to disperse and brings to the commission for final approval, and also if someone asks for funds and can leverage funds that is something that is looked at.



Standing Items:

Park Foundation Update

Lantieri said meeting on February 20th and will have a full update at the next meeting, focused on Playgrounds for all.

Off-Leash Dog Sub-Committee

Johnson said in the progress of scheduling first kickoff meeting, has committee members and all have the materials and will make recommendations, worked out rough time frame and what aiming to do, will come back once reviewed and asked if the member that Wight knew was on the previous committee would like to attend and or draft some feedback to move forward. Has enough material to get an initial meeting and agenda together.

Lantieri asked if it was viable to have a discussion item on the March meeting and Johnson said he did not think a final discussion would be ready in March, could at least have the initial review discussion but depends on the cadence of the conversation. Said could do an initial discussion of what has happened thus far and Johnson agreed with that.

Keech informed the commission that there was a meeting at City Hall about cat control. He felt it was important for the commission to know that both cats and dogs are invasive species, that people have biases, and that he does not own a dog or a cat. He stated that the meeting brought four specialist on the topic of cat control and noticed a bias. He later wrote to the specialists and asked three questions to them; 1) if they were provided the full scope of the report in terms of the proposal to allow dogs to be off-leash and unfenced within city parks, 2) had they been invited back to speak about dogs, and 3) is it good policy to have dogs off-leash and unfenced in city parks. All answers provided were “no”.

Director's Items

Wight reminded if anyone has or knows anyone interested in joining the vacant commission spot, exciting to look at social media for department, video at the sea caves got a lot of looks, great ice season, program registrations season kicked off, very active with extreme cold weather shelters, on alert for Monday night, provide facility that CEDO can walk in and it is ready for them to take in folks, lastly note the estimates for the path that runs through Kieslich park to the greenway and the developer is up to \$525,000 and it is \$1.2m, looking for additional funding.

Lantieri gave kudos for the creativity for creating a way to pick up garbage safer and easier using recycled items.

Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

Johnson had additional 2 hours for outreach regarding the dog task force committee



Keech said he had an additional 2 hours of work on dog task force

Lantieri had an additional 3 hours

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Etter, second by Keech at 7:39 p.m., motion carried unanimously.

DR