



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

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

Not Present: Johnson

Staff Present: Wight, Doyle, Rogers, Sauve, O'Daniel and Putzier

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda and add Discussion Item before 4.1 on the deliberative agenda, Introduction of Members by Boehm, second by Keech, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended by Keech, second by Boehm, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to amend consent agenda with corrections to the minutes, page 5, paragraph 3, under Off-Leash Dog Sub-Committee topic by Keech, second by Bergmann, motion carried unanimously.

Keech requested to clarify paragraph 3 on the third line make specialist plural, on the fourth line add the word "new" in front of the word scope and finally at the end of the paragraph add, Keech reported that all specialists had replied no to all of the above questions.

Motion to adopt the minutes as amended by Bergmann, second by Mobley, motion passed.

Public Forum

Public forum opened at 5:36 pm.

Colin Storrs, Public Arts & Grants Program Manager, maintains and administers art collection for the City, gave an update on two projects that will be coming into parks. Stated he had been in contact with BPRW and beginning public acceptance process currently, taking down the Chief Greylock piece in Battery Park after condition assessment, was likely a threat to public safety and put a fence around to keep people away. Initiated conversations with Missisquoi Abenaki and would like to continue to have a presence in Burlington, in next week will start acceptance process and de sectioning and taking donation of a replacement piece. Will assess if can use the same base.

Another gift donation from Nancy Katzer on the exterior wall of the little league dugouts in Calahan Park, five figures silhouetted in the background. Looking to initiate a public dialogue, fairly low cost for the project if public support is in favor.

For more information on any of the art projects, you can contact Colin at cstorrs@burlingtoncityarts.org



Keech asked for a description of the piece that would replace the current Greylock piece and was told it would be made of red oak, put together in two different parts currently 16 ½ feet tall, reaching up to 20 ½ feet and looking through the bandstand and in background has a bear, deer and a beaver. Brandon Wilson was commissioned by the Abenaki to create the structure.

Public forum was closed at 5:47 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Katie Mobley introduced herself, resident since 2000, parent of children in the school system, has coached and is excited to be joining the commission.

Lantieri introduced himself, joined in 2020, day job is research and shared what he enjoys working toward.

Boehm introduced herself, two boys and avid user of parks and park programs, joined commission in August 2024, moved to Burlington in 2014, and hopes to have children come back to Burlington someday.

Bergmann, 2023 joined, Ward 5 resident, excited that his street has become mostly a one way street, avid user of parks.

Keech lives in Old North End, 3 children, very busy.

Etter 2020, south end, works as product engineer.

Lantieri said there is one more commissioner on the board Harley Johnson and he is very involved in the Community Gardens program.

BPRW Events in Parks

KJ Doyle, Events Manager said she was present for annual request for amplified sound and waivers, nothing new from last year, asked if anyone had any questions.

All are in favor of the events and will put on the April commission meeting for approval.

KJ explained doing a grownup book fair will be 80's and 90's themed, Phoenix book sellers and Friends of FFL will bring used books to sell that are themed and other selections and games, food and drinks, 5 tickets away from sold out for evening session and about 100 for daytime session. Will be April 5th with two sessions.

Etter asked if there would be any cuts on events due to budget cuts and was told currently have not. Etter also asked if had to cut what events would be cut and Doyle said already making cuts within events in general without cutting entire event, also adding events that are 90% revenue generating.



Appendix D, Section 1 Updates

Wight explained that she and O'Daniel also present, stated that rules and regulations of City Parks, has not been updated since 1988 and very outdated. Looking to have clarity and goal is clear and easy to understand and staff to interpret. Had many conversations over the years and had to interpret meaning, also want to protect parks and uses.

Wight stated that part of the process was to get input from commission tonight, send to attorney to review and then to PACC to review and then back to BPRW commission. Want to also make sure that the community has opportunity to give input, eventually PACC is the last to review and approve and they would sponsor and send to City Council.

Significant changes, struck section 13, "busking", added parks and clarified the classifications of parks, added the need for amplified sound approval for any use of amplified sound in a park where it is not referenced. The goal is to encourage groups to use regional parks with pre-set amplified sound rules and discourage the use at our neighborhood, non-regional parks. Standardized the level of sound, length of sound and timing of sound checks for multiple regional parks and broadened the use of City Hall Park to better match current use. Add more types of permits unofficially added over time. Changed from a special use permit to receiving special use. Added an appeals section and added a line about sound from personal devices to help with amplified sound for personal use, not related to events.

Etter asked for some guidelines for commissioners to be within the document, in some place to make clear to the commission so they can make informed decisions. Mobley suggested that there are procedures also listed in a certain place to access, would also have to be updated as they can change. Boehm felt staff is looking at items that come to commission and then commission has to agree and has not necessarily gone to the ordinance to confirm accuracy and wants to make sure that items that require commission approval, would have specifics on what the commission would need to do. Wight added it could also be part of the onboarding process when a commissioner begins their term.

Wight went through the document and stated what the changes were and gave explanations as to why verbiage was changed/added/deleted. Wight continued through the entire Section 1 with explanation and received comments and input from the commission. Wight ended with (G) Park Special Use Approval Authorization and will need to continue through the end of the section at another time, will come back to commission at next meeting for approval.

Public Engagement

Keech stated that rarely have people been coming for public forum but the Commission is not able to interact with them due to the way the standards are currently set, recently large group had come to discuss Pomeroy and unfortunately he was not present. He explained how the proposal for public engagement had gone to the City Attorney and had gotten feedback twice. This time around he stated the Attorney had 3 points and suggested discussing with the group to get input.



Keech explained how commissioners might feel awkward when they don't know the answer and stated he personally did not and looks at it as an opportunity to learn, second issue was the timeline to respond and felt it could be changed to the next meeting. In answer to the question of the forum being open or limited, he felt it should be open as the commission serves the people and should be open to all. Disagreed with having to state all the rules of behavior to the public before starting the forum.

Etter said felt not that common but in Burlington politics, the rules are likely around for a reason, felt good to have some standards and would like to know what would be discriminatory, in terms of response, could lead to escalation and not optimal and feel a reason other commissions do not do, feels should have some time frame for commission business so that there is a position of relevance.

Bergmann asked if "any topic" meant any item related to parks or any topic, felt too broad if it just states any topic.

Keech stated should say parks related in the document, also stated rules could be listed on the sign in sheet instead of having to state them at the beginning of the forum.

Boehm liked attorney recommendation for number 1 for the response being at the discrimination of the Chair.

Lantieri asked if there was a standard process for commissions as to what the forum procedure states or is listed as the process for Boards and Commissions for public forum for the City as a whole. Wight said could possibly add to the City Web page for Boards/Commissions.

Mobley liked the idea of having the process for speaking and code of conduct on the sign-in sheet, felt it would be very helpful and not uncommon.

Keech will have an updated version for the next meeting.

Review Goals from January Commission Meeting

Lantieri reminded all of any volunteering opportunities, pursuing conservation joint meeting, vendors and licensing, pursuing longer commission retreat as some of the items for future meetings. Also stated many items that will come up and will slot in where feeling most useful to take on and Wight said Erin and Rob from Waterfront are working on several sections of the appendix as well and will come in the future.

Standing Items:

Park Foundation Update



Lantieri said they had meeting last month and hired an administrative person that will take to the next level, very excited. Working on playground campaign, working group with himself, Brian and a new member and Sauve to consider universal policy and will meet next week.

Off-Leash Dog Sub-Committee

Johnson was not present at the meeting, this item will be discussed at another meeting.

Keech stated that he wrote to FPF and Seven Days and handed out the letter that he sent and the responses that he received. Stated as commission have no power or authority, while still have sub-committee that has lost a member and has a member of the previous task force. Asked when this report goes to City Council and tells commission and department what to do and feels this body should be able to discuss and form an opinion because ultimately will need to make a decision on and asked if this falls under the role of the commission.

Lantieri said need to move forward and this is the body and it will be discussed and will have the opportunity and felt expediency on moving forward.

Director's Items

Wight gave a few highlights; was teaching at Director's school last week, was able to get ski trailer out with lots of snow, emergency shelter is getting to be well run now, provide transportation for period of time and responsibility of the building being ready, Police entrance replacement almost wrapped up, will share the data on number of days with ice rinks, Moran notice for removal will start in April 15th for campers, police academy was 6 Wednesday nights and was very informative and good experience, done once a year, lastly had break in at Miller and will be doing community justice process with teens and hopefully will help make a difference.

Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

Boehm had an additional 2 hours going over appendix D and meeting with Chair.

Lantieri has another 127 meeting coming up, did not get to the Sea Caves this year. had an additional 5 hours.

Keech had an additional 2 hours of outreach on off leash dog areas.

Mobley said she went to sea caves three times and once went with several high school children.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Keech, second by Bergmann at 7:27 p.m., motion carried unanimously.