

Parks Commission Meeting

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm

Kieslich Park's Stone Cottage & Zoom

Commissioners in attendance: Lantieri, Mobley, Davis, Bergmann & Boehm

Staff in attendance: Sauve, Cahill & O'Daniel

**1. Agenda**

**1.1 Motion to amend/adopt agenda**

Lantieri opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda. Boehm seconded.

All were in favor, none opposed.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**2.1 October Meeting Minutes**

Mobley moved to adopt the consent agenda. Davis seconded.

All were in favor, none opposed.

**3. Public Forum**

**3.1 Verbal Comments**

Public forum opened at 5:32pm.

Commissioners discussed having this be a time certain item later in the meeting moving forward.

With no one present for the public forum, it was closed at 5:34pm.

**4. Deliberative Items**

**4.1 Nature Based Climate Solutions – Legacy Fund Grant Review Team Request**

Cahill opened by sharing that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the grant program has been offered and that they are hoping to have 1-2 commissioners join the review committee to help with awarding the grants. He then went over the commitments, including one or two review meetings (which he noted would be 1.5 – 3 hours total) in January with ideally individual review of the applications ahead of time (which Lantieri noted took about 1 – 2 hours). Cahill then opened it up for questions about the grant program in general and/or the review committee.

Mobley asked if there was a rubric and asked how many applicants have been reviewed in the past.

Cahill shared that last year there were 6 applicants and the year before there were 5. He continued that he's been fielding a lot of questions from potential applicants and that even though no one has officially applied yet, he's expecting 3-6. He noted that this year's

funding pool is smaller than the last two years and that he was unsure if this would impact interest or not.

Lantieri asked Cahill to briefly talk through some of the projects that were awarded last year.

Cahill noted that the City web page was just updated and has information about that for future reference. He then touched on projects completed by Vermont Garden Network, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Intervale Center, and Burlington Wild Ways. He said that the final reports by these organizations will be available in January.

Davis asked how the Intervale was only partially funded.

Cahill answered that in the application there's a budgeting section where organizations break out costs of the different initiatives for review. He continued that this wasn't done the first year, but after review and feedback it was determined that it would be a good adaptation to allow for partial funding.

Lantieri offered that it was a really gratifying project to work on last year, especially being able to see those projects come to life like VYCC's project in Rock Point/Arms Forest.

Davis said that she was interested.

Mobley also said that she was interested.

Boehm made a motion for Davis and Mobley to be the Commission representatives for the NBCS Legacy Fund grand review team.

Bergmann seconded.

All were in favor, none were opposed.

#### **4.2 E-Bikes on the Greenway**

Lanteri opened the discussion by noting that he was hoping to have the new Director and the City Attorney here, but was open to having a broad discussion without them to get thoughts and/or questions from the group to start.

Mobley began by mentioning that there is a lot of community chatter about this and that she agreed that having legal guidance would be a helpful tool in this discussion.

Sauve explained that this topic is coming from all directions – members of the public via BPRW's general info line, City Council etc., noting that it is tricky because enforcement might need to be a piece of this among other things.

Davis asked about the ability to enforce and its role in these decisions.

Lantieri responded that this is the kind of stuff he's hoping to get guidance from the attorney on because it is tricky.

Davis noted that she has heard there is a speed limit and anything above it wasn't allowed.

Mobley chimed in that at a previous meeting Johnson had referenced the State's rule.

Davis continued that having state and City rules makes things convoluted.

Sauve shared that 20mph is the speed limit on the Greenway except for through Waterfront Park, which is slower because traffic is so heavy in that area. She continued that etiquette signs on the Greenway speak to this and were installed after complaints about speed in the past.

Davis mentioned that she knows people on both sides of the topic – in favor and against.

Boehm noted that the initiative to make Burlington a greener City encourages things like e-bikes but then people go too fast and then it could be complicated to not allow them in parts of the City like the Greenway.

Mobley brought up e-assist vs. not, which is also a complicating factor.

Lantieri thanked everyone and said that this would be on future agendas with the City Attorney present to help answer legal questions.

#### **4.3 Comprehensive Plan Update & Request for PAC Member**

Sauve started by giving a quick update on the process since the last meeting. She shared that they reviewed proposals through the RFP process and are in negotiations with the selected consultant team and they will be under contract soon. Sauve continued that they are a promising team, noting that they have a big project ahead of them but that the City team is also strong and there to support the work. She mentioned that visioning sessions have begun, but so far they have had low attendance so they are hoping to do another round in January with more participation.

Lantieri asked if they were looking for just 1 commissioner.

Sauve answered yes and that the sooner someone can jump in the better so that this body can be well represented and involved throughout the whole Plan BTV process. She shared her concern that with this larger process happening in tandem with updating the BPRW comprehensive plan, community consciousness might be pulled in too many directions to give it the attention it needs. Her hope is to avoid that with parks staff and commissioner involvement throughout the entire process and supporting efforts to get community input. Mobley shared that she was interested.

Davis moved that Mobley be the PAC member. Boehm seconded.

All were in favor, none were opposed.

### **5. Standing Items**

#### **5.1 Parks Foundation Update**

Lantieri shared that they are working through how to launch their current campaign and working through some back logged administrative work.

#### **5.2 Director's Report**

Lantieri noted that the new director would be starting next week and thanked the interim directors for all of their hard work and dedication.

Davis asked how the staff were feeling.

Sauve answered that some staff have met him and that people felt good putting a face with a name and that everyone seems to be feeling positive.

#### **5.3 Commissioners Items & Volunteer Hours**

Mobley had 1 hour to report.

Bergmann had 1 hour to report.

Boehm had no hours to report.

Davis had 4 hours to report, including attending the Leddy Bike Park opening.

Lantieri had 5 hours to report, including interviewing Sauve for a Public Administration class he's taking. He continued that he's hoping to have some visioning sessions for bigger picture things over the next meeting or two and asked everyone to bring any ideas they have for that.

Boehm suggested using parts of that for the report that the Commission gives to City Council.

Everyone agreed.

## **6. Adjournment**

### **6.1 Motion to adjourn**

Boehm made a motion to adjourn, Davis seconded.

All were in favor, none were opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.