

**CITY OF BURLINGTON
PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

**Councilor Joan Shannon, Chair, South District
Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6**

Staff: Holli Bushnell, Office Assistant
Lakeview Cemetery
hbushnell@burlingtonvt.gov

AGENDA

**Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting
Sharon Bushor Conference Room, City Hall, 149 Church St
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 5:30pm**

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Sharon Bushor Conference Room, City Hall, 149 Church St
OR

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83785300192>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +19292056099,,83785300192# or +13017158592,,83785300192#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 837 8530 0192

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83785300192>

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the draft minutes from July 7, 2021

Public Forum – Members of the public may address the committee

Agenda Items –

1. Dog Task Force Appointments (5:45 to 6:30) – all applicants invited to address committee (Attendance appreciated, but not required for appointment).

Schedule next meeting

Adjournment

Non-Discrimination: The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact Human Resources Department at 865-7145

Resolution Relating to

BURLINGTON PARKS ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE TO CREATE A DOG TASK FORCE

RESOLUTION 6.09

Sponsor(s): Parks Arts and Culture
Committee

Introduced: 07/12/21

Referred to: _____

Action: adopted

Date: 07/12/21

Signed by Mayor: 07/23/21

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-one

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, According to the City Charter, a dog is defined as the following: Dogs shall include both
2 male and female of the canine species. Dog shall also mean any animal which is considered to be a wolf-
3 hybrid as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 3541(6).

4
5 WHEREAS, Dogs are considered an integral part of our society, playing different roles and providing serv
6 in the daily lives of humans, such as for accessibility, companionship, exercise, security and more.

7
8 WHEREAS, Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is a dog that has been
9 individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including a physical,
10 sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

11
12 WHEREAS, According to the American Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty (ASPCA), dog
13 adoptions are up 700% nationally during the pandemic.

14
15 WHEREAS, According to the City of Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront website, "The State of
16 Vermont has one of the highest rates of pet ownership around the nation, the City of Burlington has made
17 possible for community members to share their experiences in many different locations in the greater
18 Burlington Area."

19
20 WHEREAS, The City of Burlington issued 755 dog licenses and collected over \$23,000 in dog license
21 revenue for the 2020 fiscal year.

22
23 WHEREAS, The City of Burlington via the Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront has made a
24 substantial investment in the renovation of the Starr Farm Dog Park located in the New North End.

25
26 WHEREAS, Over the past few months, residents of the New North End alongside other residents of the city
27 have shared via social media (Front Porch Forum, Facebook) a growing number of incidents involving dogs
28 dog owners. The incidents were reported by both dog owners, former dog owners or nondog owners.

29
30 WHEREAS, Most of those incidents are similar in nature; some are unique incidents that resulted in a
31 decreased quality of life and have caused tensions between neighbors. Those incidents include but are not
32 limited to the following:

- 33
34
 - Off leash dogs in city parks, natural areas or beaches
 - 35 • Dogs attacking people or other dogs
 - 36 • Dog feces not being picked up

* * * * *

DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution
has been sent to the following
department(s) on

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

Attest:

* * * * *

- 37 • Policies not being enforced
- 38 • Unlicensed dogs
- 39 • Dog barking contributing to noise pollution

40

41 WHEREAS, Several other issues involving other types of pets in the city were also shared by community
42 members.

43

44 WHEREAS, On Tuesday, March 30th the New North End City Councilors, Barlow, Carpenter and Dieng
45 hosted an informative and constructive community meeting alongside South End District City Councilor
46 Shannon and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Director Wight in order to better understand the pet issue
47 beyond the complaints shared on social media.

48

49 WHEREAS, The Community meeting was well attended and received by the community. The attendance
50 ranged from people of the South End, Old North End and New North End. Most attendees were dog owners,
51 former dog owners as well as non-dog owners, nature lovers, dog park volunteers and professionals working
52 with pets.

53

54 WHEREAS, Residents who attended the community meeting brainstormed ideas and best practices related
55 to these issues and are willing to formally help the city in an ongoing way.

56

57 WHEREAS, The Burlington City Council, via a resolution, respectfully tasked the Parks, Arts and Culture
58 Committee to make a recommendation via a resolution by June 28th to the Council regarding the creation of a
59 Burlington Dog Task Force to address the issues raised in this resolution and possibly other issues.

60

61 WHEREAS, The Parks, Arts and Culture Committee, in consultation with the Director of Parks, Recreation
62 and Waterfront and the Starr Farm Dog Park Volunteer Coordinator, developed the following
63 recommendations for a nine (9) member task force and their scope of work.

64

65 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The nine-member Dog Task Force shall be composed of the
66 following members:

67 1) Starr Farm Dog Park Volunteer Coordinator

68 2) Representative of a dog shelter, dog rescue group or other dog group to be appointed by PACC

69 3) Dog trainer to be appointed by PACC

70 4) Veterinarian or animal health professional to be appointed by PACC

71 5) Burlington Police Department Community Resource Office representative to be designated by the Chief
72 Police

73 6) Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront representative (staff with land use or event planning expertise)
74 to be designated by the BPRW director

75 7) At large Burlington community member who is a non-dog owner to be appointed by PACC

76 8) At large Burlington community member who is a dog owner to be appointed by PACC

77 9) A representative of the Parks Commission to be appointed by the Parks Commission Chair

78

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Parks Director will create an application for task force membership.

80 Applications will be received by the Clerk/Treasurer's Office until August 31, 2021. PACC appointed

81 members shall be selected by the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee at their September meeting

* * * * *

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ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

Attest:

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82

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Parks, Art and Culture Committee recommends the following:

84

85 A) That the Dog Task Force members elect a Chair as their first order of business in their first meeting
86 and the Director of Burlington Parks and Recreations and Waterfront to identify an administrative
87 to the taskforce

88

89 b) That the following be within the Dog Task Force's scope of work:

90

91 1) Review current city programs and policies including other dog task force work.

92 2) Conduct an Education Campaign:

93 a) Off leash dogs in city parks, natural areas or beaches

94 b) Dogs attacking people or other dogs

95 c) Dog feces not being picked up

96 d) Dog barking contributing to noise pollution

97 3) Review licensing rules and make recommendations

98 a) Review licensing fees and make recommendations

99 b) Explore modernizing license fee applications

100 c) Consider the question of licensing of outdoor cats

101 4) Review compliance and policy enforcement and make recommendations

102 5) Plan Pet/Dog Events, Activities and Celebrations, i.e., National Pet Day or National Dog Day Celebration

103 6) Review current funding allocated to our municipal dog/pet resources and make recommendations

104 7) Provide quarterly updates to the Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee

105 8) Generate a final report to be presented to the City Council by April 29, 2022

106

107

108

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has been sent to the following
department(s) on

BPRW Director Wight

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Burlington Parks, Arts And Culture Committee To Create A Dog Task Force

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Adopted by the City Council

July 12....., 20 21

..... Clerk

Approved July 23....., 20 21

..... Mayor

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Attest:

Lois Olberg

Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

* * * * *

Staff: Holli Bushnell, Office Assistant
Lakeview Cemetery
hbushnell@burlingtonvt.gov

Minutes

Parks, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 5:00 pm

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON AT 645 PINE ST FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM

Attendance:

Committee Members: Chair Joan Shannon, Councilor Ali Dieng, Councilor Karen Paul

City Staff: Mary Danko – Fletcher Free Library, Cindi Wight – BPRW, Holli Bushnell – BPRW Staff

Public – Joanne Kalisz, Lori Kettler, Julia Ginorio, Ute Monsen, Maria Karunungan, Lori Davison, Jake Shulman

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by Chair Shannon

Approval of agenda

Councilor Dieng moved to approve the agenda. Councilor Shannon Seconded, all were in favor.

Approval of draft minutes from July 7th, 2021

Dieng moved to approve the minutes. Shannon seconded. All were in favor

Public Forum

Public forum was postponed until the end of the meeting after dog task force applicants were given an opportunity to speak. There was no one present wishing to speak for public forum.

Agenda Items

1. Dog Task Force Interviews –

Individuals who applied to participate on the task force were invited to speak before the committee. Of the 11 individuals who applied, 6 were able attend the meeting.

Joanne Kalisz was the first to speak before the committee. She is a dog owner living in the New North End and has experience working with a rescue group in the past. She is working part time presently and will be able to commit quite a lot of her time and energy to the committee. Councilor Shannon complimented Kalisz on her thorough application. Dieng asked what her priorities would be as a member of the task force. Kalisz thought there were many issues of importance that the task force could tackle, and that the focus depends on the other members in the group. She also highlighted her experience with both dog ownership and behaviorism and social psychology as being

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strength she'd bring to the task force. She concluded by stating she is interested in doing more than just saying "no" to people, and hopes to work on coming up with creative solutions.

Lori Kettler detailed her experience as an animal law attorney, practicing for 20 years for largest animal rights group in country. Her area of focus is in regulatory law, which could be extremely beneficial to this task force. She feels that the approach of the task force needs to be a balance between education and regulation. In addition to her work experience, Kettler lives in the Old North End, walks her dog a lot, and has a lot of the same concerns that members of the public have in the city. Group that she works for does shelter work and knows a great deal about dog adoption and ownership. Shannon asked about the rescue work Kettler indicated she had been involved with in her application. Kettler explained that she works for an organization that does rescue work, and has a lot of knowledge of the issues because of the folks. Her official title is VP deputy general counsel for organization.

Theresa Gorman was not present, nor was Ilona Blanchard

Julia Ginorio was the only non-dog owner applicant present. She is a resident of the Old North End and is familiar with the issues with dogs in that area of the city. Ginorio is passionate about animal welfare and concerned about houseless folks having resources for dogs, stating that everyone should have access to all the same services. Ginorio also volunteers for animal organizations.

Nina Hurley also was not present.

Ute Monsen is a New North End resident and a new American/immigrant. She moved to Burlington 7 years ago and considers herself both an active and proactive dog owner. She's active in the sense that she's always out and about, hiking, running, walking and biking with her dogs. She's proactive in the sense that she pays attention to license fees, educates herself about dogs and dog ownership, and has even trained her dogs to be a certified therapy dog. She takes care of her dog waste and makes sure her dog regularly visits the vet. Monsen wants to be involved because she loves the community here, especially the dog people. She has seen issues for years with people who aren't being good dog owners which leads to frustration among dog owners as well as non-dog owners. In the last year, Monsen had to take her dog to the emergency vet because he was bitten by an off-leash, uncontrolled dog. When this happened, Monsen reached out to Councilors Dieng, Sarah Carpenter, and Mark Barlow to try to have someone take action. Ultimately, it was her interest that started this whole process.

Maria Karunungan expressed her excitement for the opportunity and also informed the committee that she has cochlear implants and may have some trouble understanding. Holli Bushnell typed questions from the committee to aid Karunungan in understanding.

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Karunungan is a professional dog trainer with a certificate in teaching and counseling from a professional dog trainer organization. She has been training dogs for 20 years and is a dog owner who lives in Old North End. Karunungan would be happy to offer her services as a resource as someone who is very experienced with behavior issues. She is an advocate for both animals and all people (dog owners and non-owners). Although Karunungan teaches 2 evenings a week she can be flexible and would love to be part of the task force. Councilor Karen Paul mentioned that, in the interest of full disclosure, she did visit Maria's business, Fetch the Leash and knows both Maria and her partner Megan.

Lori Davis was the last to speak. She is a recent retiree who has just returned to Burlington after living in New Hampshire for many years. Davis wants to be part of the force as a dog owner because it's a great intersection between being a dog owner and being of service to her community. Davis has participated on a planning committee before and is familiar with the need to build consensus and communicate.

The interviews were completed at 6:14pm

2. Deliberation

Shannon suggested that the committee start with the position that has the most requirements and work towards the position with the least requirements. There were no applications for the veterinarian position.

Shannon called for recommendations for the Dog Trainer/Rescue group position. There were two applicants for the position – Joanne Kalisz and Maria Karunungan. Jake Shulman, the Starr Farms dog park volunteer, asked to advocate for Maria Karunungan, although he was not against Joanne Kalisz. Shulman stated that Karunungan is not only an expert in dog training, but she has also been working with owners for 20 years and is an expert educator for humans too. Paul stated that she appreciated Jake's insight and nominated Karunungan for the dog trainer position. No others were nominated. The committee voted and all were in favor of Karunungan's appointment (none opposed).

Maria Karunungan was appointed to the task force.

The applicants for the position of someone involved with an animal shelter or dog rescue group were Lori Kettler, Joanne Kalisz, and Nina Hurley. The committee reviewed Hurley's info mentioning that she is on board of Humane society, has worked on low cost spay/neuter clinic with that group, and places a strong emphasis on education. Her official title is chair of board for the Chittenden County Humane Society. All three applicants for this position are also applying for the role of at large dog owners.

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Dieng put Kettler forth for the position. Shannon loved hearing about Kettler's background in animal law, but also felt it might be important to have a representative from a humane society involved. Dieng mentioned that, without a veterinarian application, there may be a place for Nina in that role. The committee voted and in favor of having Lori Kettler in dog shelter/rescue position (none were opposed). Lori Kettler was appointed to the task force.

There were two applicants for the position of at large non-dog owner – Ilona Blanchard and Julia Ginorio. Of those two, Ilona Blanchard who was not present, so the committee reviewed her application. Blanchard lives in the downtown area/ward 5 area and has a planning and admin/policy background. Shannon nominated Ilona Blanchard for the position of at large non-dog owner. All in were in favor (none opposed). Ilona Blanchard was appointed to the task force.

The final position up for appointment was that of at large dog owner. There were multiple applicants for this position, and the committee reviewed each applicant. Paul felt that there was one candidate that made some great points – Ute Monson. Paul felt it would be good to include her as she's been pushing this forward from the beginning. Dieng agreed, adding that Monsen has been modeling what a good dog owner looks like as well as participating in the community forums at the beginning of this process. Dieng nominated Ute Monsen for the position and all were in favor (none opposed). Ute Monsen was appointed to the task force.

As there were no veterinarian applicants, Shannon suggested considering Nina Hurley in that position as she has had some professional experience with an animal welfare group. Shannon felt that she would add a unique perspective to the task force. Dieng agreed with the idea of nominating Hurley, Jake Shulman pointed out that the position is for either a vet or an animal health professional and that Hurley is an animal health professional sort of. Though a vet would still be very helpful, perhaps it would be better or easier to approach one as a consultant instead of a member of the task force.

Dieng suggested appointing Hurley to vet position and using some of Kettler's expertise to help find a vet if/when needed. Dieng nominated Nina Hurley for final task force position. All were in favor (none opposed), and Nina Hurley was the final member appointed to the task force by PACC.

The first task of the task force at their first meeting will be to elect a chair.

Bushnell will send folks appointment congratulations, thank you notes to those not appointed, and inform all that these are public meetings and everyone is welcome to attend, even if they weren't appointed. All applicants will be informed about future meetings of the task force.

3. Schedule next meeting

The next PACC meeting will be scheduled via a doodle poll to be held both in person and via zoom.

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4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

DRAFT