BURLINGTON
PARKS
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WATERFRONT

PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA
NOVEMBER 3, 2015
645 PINE STREET, FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30PM

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Consent Agenda
   A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2015 Meeting
   *waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

III. Information Item: Leddy Proposed Concession Agreement (attachment)

IV. Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)

V. Action Item: Oakledge Park Siting Study (attachment)

VI. Discussion Item: Downtown & Residential Parking Plans (attachment)

VII. Director's Items

VIII. Commissioner's Items

IX. Adjournment

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Parks & Recreation and Harbor Commission Meeting
Minutes
November 3, 2015

Commission Present: Bossange, Hurley, Kaplan, Khadka and Matson

Staff Present: Bridges, Francis, Adams-Kolitz, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:31 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda
A Motion was made by Bossange to approve the agenda, second by Khadka , motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda
Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2015 Meeting
*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Bossange, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Leddy Proposed Concession Agreement
Bridges stated the Arena had entered into a concession agreement with Superhappyfuntime, LLC to run the snack bar at Leddy Arena. They would operate for a defined amount of time for winter and can utilize kitchen space during the summer. Gotten good reviews from SEBA and others on the vendor and they have good menu options. They will be open during all games and big events. The Arena Manager is very excited to have gotten concessionaire for the season. Not huge revenue generator but very important service to the public.

Bossange asked if the food truck would be located at Leddy in the summer and Bridges said it was a very good possibility and also there had been some interest in starting something in that area of town in the future similar to the Truck Stop vendors in the South end but would need a partner for that.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)
Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Kaplan

Carolyn Bates, Burlington resident stated that she had discussed with others the desire to have meters on all streets around Oakledge Park, more trash cans, clean up Blanchard beach, does not like beer and food festival and does not think Oakledge should have any special events in the park due to the size. Said that some people that play tennis would like to keep the courts, in volleyball area would not like to have pavers for parking and would like no fires on the beach. Further would like to have any fire pit taken apart, likes making beach handicapped accessible, suggested switching paths, does not feel softball should be in the park and asked about season park passes.

Cynthia Knauf, Burlington resident said the Oakledge plan looks good and did not want to see a reduction in the tennis courts from three to two and said the courts are busy with a wait a lot of the time. Is happy accommodating people with dogs, having an area where it is open to dogs should be

monitored so that people that do not like dogs would approve also. Suggested leaving the wetland as it is so that it could be left for a different habitat. Said parking on Flynn Avenue is a dangerous situation and feels should not have parking.

David Alofsin, Essex resident, and member of the Kickball league wanted to make sure that the activities that have been happening continue and preferred the more engineered plan if it would keep more open land. Was concerned about an events space and future amp theatre, as it is currently used as a field and if a permanent structure were created it would eliminate over 200 people from coming and using the field. Asked what the timeline for elimination of volleyball use was and what the downtime would be. Loved the opportunity to have a season pass and would like to see if that could be grandfathered in. Generally feels the plan looks great.

Public forum closed at 6:15 p.m.

Oakledge Park Siting Study

Bridges prefaced by stating the plan had originated from the BPRW Master Plan and is getting into the individual park studies piece. A thorough technical ecological analysis of the park has been concluded. The siting study was conducted by a team of local environmental scientist, storm water experts, and landscape architects to better understand the ecology of the park and its critical role in protecting lake health. The goal of the effort was to outline a more resilient balance between ecological constraints and recreation demand, both active and passive, including long-term ideas for ecological restoration, storm water management, and environmental health. Stated the purpose is to show the findings of this and underlying constraints and some items to discuss. This is a start to look at the study and conceptual plan, nothing will happen immediately, but will decide what steps to take first.

Adams-Kolitz explained the department had several bid proposals for the study and ended up going with Watershed, liked the scientific analogy and felt some limitations and obvious have some storm water and ground water issues, did borings and found some nuances within the park such as sand in most used area, two class two wetlands, vegetation, soils and had several meetings to review, came back with a proposal that was very highly engineered and wanted to do some under draining and let ecology be the lead of the process.

Francis stated the shaded areas on the map are more passive recreation area and the other areas are more active.

Bridges added several others did field visits such as Fish and Wildlife and Wetlands Division of DEC. The ecological findings will be part of the process of making changes at this park as it moves forward. Will be building off storm water work that already happened on the area near Flynn Avenue.

Bossange stated the City was fortunate to have natural and active areas complement each other.

Bridges added that it had long been assumed that the softball field had clay on bedrock and has water issues that will not go away. Have upcoming uses and ecological improvements.

Bridges listed some of the proposed uses starting in the south end of the park with restoration and reforestation and how repopulated will be discussed which means the softball field will need to come

out and will discuss when, but will not be putting significant work into , stretch of bikepath on Austin Drive and would partner with DPW, and how it connects into the rest of the bike path, proposing fenced dog area, smaller than others as well as some off leash areas that are not fenced, some informal trails and picnic areas, formalize some trails and remove some to keep in better shape, some rare endangered species that have not been completely verified yet due to the time of year. In many instances spaces will be created and used in a responsible way with expectations that are set. Reconfiguration of the parking area and adding vegetation and nicer experience, would also allow for capture of storm water in that area. Proposed relocation of the softball field which would allow multiple uses to work together in that space, keeping some of the open spaces and formalizing the lower lot that is not paved and reduce erosion and increase spaces and improve accessibility which will help with the accessible playground and will work to raise additional money for the playground. Tennis courts would be reconfigured.

Bridges said yes proposing to remove the attendant hut and get away from the hut and gate staff and move toward meters, have honored the green mountain pass in the parks, do league discount. With the removal of attendant will get the attendant in the park and better servicing the park and would also like to see the parking removed from Flynn Avenue and working with DPW on looking into more areas as well. The amp theatre has been removed from the park original plan and no plan to do permanent structure in the park. It is an appropriate event space and it is not the most used. Trying to get accessible access to the beach, phasing in and feel the volleyball area would see an increase as it would be more visible, tennis courts are an ongoing conversation and will not remove anything. When get to renovation will be looking at more, softball conversation will be larger as to safety and whether can continue to play there and how much it will cost to renovate and make usable. First layer has to be responsible usage and cost prohibition and role of the City while keeping conservation as part of the mission.

Bridges stated that this item proposal is an action item but the Commission did not have to act on today but rather would request permission to start design of playground and the use of the softball field.

Bossange made a motion to endorse the direction of the Department and what has been done up to this point with this plan as the guidance to continue work on, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Downtown & Residential Parking Plans
Nicole Losch, Transportation Planner, DPW stated in 2011 the Burlington Municipal Development Plan (PlanBTV) recommended a Residential Parking Study be conducted to formally review the existing program and recommend revisions to management, administration and enforcement of on-street parking in residential areas.

Losch listed the five areas it was tasked with and then explained how the Plan will work to achieve the objectives to improve parking in residential areas. She also added that the study allowed the opportunity to conduct a city wide modernization of the current program and what the City would like parking to look like now and into the future and more specifically near parks. The main goal is to balance and how to best manage, trying to create more options and drafted some strategies and distributed last week and have acquired a long list of changes moving forward.

First strategy was directive to encourage sustainable alternate modes of transportation, broader list of options, encourage satellite parking, improving signage and wayfinding to direct people into the park,

installing parking meters and pay stations, expanding use of parking time limits, striping parking stalls as well as adding additional shared parking opportunities. Currently the proposal for commuter parking permit program will be removed from the proposal and potentially discussed at a later date. Full draft will be out in the next few weeks.

Bossange asked what other Cities have done and how they have gotten to the implementation level and changed the mentality around this change and Losch said they had looked at other Cities that are comparable and a lot of them already had the commuter part in place so the changes were minor. Therefor they talk more about decreasing motor vehicles in general and need to work in tandem to get to the end result.

Bossange asked how the University of Vermont has been addressed to help deal with the issue with students and is there any cooperation from UVM and Champlain colleges and Losch said they had very different views and have included them in the draft plan and have heard the major institutions have not worked well with the City and need to require it and adding some more specific language to address better.

Kaplan stated that she went through the residential parking process and said it was not good and needs to address some of the inadequacies.

Khadka asked if any of the housing authorities were involved in the process and said he heard from residents that no parking for parents and other visitors at larger housing complexes was an issue, Losch said there is currently nobody from the housing authorities on the committee and said it would be helpful to have more communications with them.

Director's Items
Bridges explained the department would be hosting the Pomerleau Holiday party on December 6th and Sr. Holiday dinner on December 17th, encouraged Commissioner's to contact Emma Allen if they could volunteer for either event. The Harbor Commission will be on the December agenda and will receive a report on the season, reminder of the Master Plan completion celebration is on Friday, November 6th starting at 3pm, Recreation Program Manager position had 100 applications, got down to 11 and search team will begin to look at toward end of next week and will have someone very qualified in the position soon, Burlington College will have more talks soon, having discussions on concept around St. Josephs School and how to bring more programming to the Old North End for Seniors and other active uses, location is acceptable and will update soon and lastly the City is developing the FY17 budget.

Commissioner's Items
Hurley said that she had been enjoying the Battery Park play area a lot lately.

Khadka stated that a resident asked him about the soil at Leddy and asked Bridges to elaborate on the status, Bridges said finished additional testing and the technical narrative was submitted and awaiting jurisdictional decision and will have a reuse decision on November 12 and will discuss some options, if disposal is the only option it will require procurement and will have to wait to go to City Council. Dirt is contaminated but is not harmful and people see the numbers and get scared but it is not a risk to human health as is shown in the data.

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Khadka asked if it has hindered the parking at Leddy and was told no by Bridges. Bridges also stated the meeting time is 6 pm at Leddy Park for discussion on this topic.

Khadka asked if there is any space for indoor soccer practice and was told not much space at any of the indoor facilities and Memorial is not being used for any new uses due to the safety and problems with the building. May be a limited time at the Miller Center, can contact Cate for available space.

Bossange stated that the no smoking ordinance passed but having another meeting on it and would like to have Sally Matson speak with the BHS students, ongoing process and he still needs to meet with three more City Councilors and stated that some are not on board with the proposal.

Bossange asked if there will be any soil issues when continue work on the bike path and Bridges said no because it will not be reused.

Kaplan stated that she had been speaking with her co-workers regarding the proposed no smoking ordinance and they have training for people to become tobacco cessation volunteers and promoting healthy lifestyles and wanted to know if the department would like to send anyone to the training, felt should hold a tobacco cessation program and stated that putting the proposal out as a public health issue would be a good way to promote.

Kaplan met with Charter Change Committee about increasing the Parks & Recreation Commission members from 5 to 7 and it was approved and will be trying to have on the March Ballot.

Adjournment
Motion was made to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by Bossange, second by Khadka, motion carried.

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