



PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
AMENDED AGENDA
October 4, 2016
645 PINE STREET, FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30PM

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Consent Agenda
 - A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2016 Meeting
*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
- III. Volunteer of the Year Award (verbal)
- IV. Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)
- V. Public Forum: 10 Year Capital Plan
- VI. Discussion Item: Great Streets Project (verbal)
- VII. Presentation: Transportation Alternative Grant Program/Bike Path Connection (verbal)
- VIII. Presentation: Oakledge Accessible Playground (verbal)
- IX. Discussion Item: Diversity and Equity Report (attachment)
- X. Discussion Item: Proposed Smoking Ban (verbal)
- XI. Director's Items
- XII. Commissioner's Items
- XIII. Adjournment

Agenda available in alternative media forms for people with disabilities. For disability access information, call (802) 864-0123.



**Parks & Recreation and Harbor Commission Meeting
Minutes
October 4, 2016**

Commission Present: Bossange, Hanson, Kaplan, Pierce and Montroll

Staff Present: Bridges, Rogers and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:38 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Bossange, second by Pierce to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2016 Meeting

*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

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

Volunteer of the Year Award

Rogers stated that the volunteer of the year award began in 2014 and was first awarded to John Ewing, was created due to the due diligence and outstanding volunteerism. Tonight honoring Steve Schifilliti, stated that not another person in the City of Burlington that spent more time in Burlington volunteering at the ball field and rare to not see him on any given day working on his tractor maintaining the field for the past 40 years. Mentioned how well organized the league is and premier location, he always stayed involved and kept the quality and level of the facility going, unfortunately left too soon. On behalf of the department Rogers thanked and Chuck Schifilliti accepted the award on behalf of his brother, stated that they had made a promise to their father to keep the field maintained and going, stated elections are coming up on October 17 for league positions. On behalf of his family thanked for the award.

Hanson thanked all for keeping going and added it was a nice way to honor his brother.

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

Public forum opened at 6:15 p.m. by Bossange.

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed at 6:15 p.m.

Public Forum, 10 Year Capital Plan

Nobody came forward to speak at the public forum regarding the 10 Year Capital Plan.

Great Streets Project

Kirsten Merriman Shapiro introduced herself and explained the project; three main components are Downtown Street Design Standard, Main Street Concept Plan and Park & Main Project. Went to the voters in 2015 to get funding, over last 5-7 years developed plans in downtown area and taken that information and putting into place, that will guide the street development and implementation, wanted to let people know had meeting with consultants and gave out save the date flyer, consultants will be



back for November 16 hearing from public, City got grant in 2012 and got a concept plan and now moving forward with the process.

Bridges stated this will be on the Commission agenda for a few more months so that all are very familiar with the plan and can give input and see how the project is moving forward and then will go into planning phase and design team.

Bossange asked about the block that is on the corner of Main and South Winooski Avenue and if it would be used by UVM as a stadium and was told yes by both Bridges and Shapiro that the City is currently having discussions with UVM regarding this possibility, also stated that there would be a parking feasibility study done related to that potential redevelopment.

For more information on the Great Streets Initiative projects it was suggested the group go on-line to greatstreetsbtv.com.

Hanson asked if Memorial Auditorium was part of the process and was told no by Bridges, more focused on City Hall Park and street trees and will bring back the guideline standards to the group, will ask to vote on in January or February for other Commissions and Boards to vote on.

Hanson also asked how much public process had happened on City Hall Park since originally brought up in 2012 with some donors and Bridges said \$3 million project, would get money from multiple funding sources, TIF, Pomerleau and others.

Kaplan asked to have a copy of the conceptual plan sent to them again or they could go on line.

Bridges said will revisit at the next meeting, 1/3 of money has been raised to date.

Kaplan asked about the Main Street design concept and if it would include the median and Shapiro said the plan does not include a median and it is not being considered.

Montroll asked about the Farmers Market staying in the City Hall location and Bridges stated they have taken the market into account and the type of compaction effect on turf. The change in green space would not change but actually may be a bit larger.

VTrans Transportation Alternative Grant Program/Multi-Use Trail Connection

Bridges stated applying for a grant from the state VTRANS, the former Burlington College property and connects the Old North End community via North Avenue to the Bike path. The grant would be for \$300,000 with a \$75,000 match from the City. \$375,000 project cost. Funding is secured for a formalized scoping study for the .35 miles. The trail would route to stay off sensitive areas and would connect to property above. Have conceptual design currently but will still need to look at alternatives through scoping study. Grant submission is at the end of the month.

Hanson stated that she would like to approach the Cemetery Commission (which neighbors the property on which the new trail would be built) about having a gate access to Lakeview cemetery from the back side to connect from the bike path. Also suggested having a joint meeting and Bridges stated that he would reach out to the Cemetery Commission.



Bridges said applying for the grant and a study was done and property has since been acquired by City and would like to do scoping work in the spring and 2017. Design and construction would begin in spring 2017.

The Commissioners wished well and gave their blessing on acquiring the grant.

Oakledge Accessible Playground

Bridges stated gave conceptual renderings and currently had a number of public meetings in creating universally used playground and would like to create a design that speaks to the landscape and using the land form to create play spaces. Showed some renderings of how it could look and would have a grade as well as some climbing features and would be totally accessible, would also create an amazing pause place from the bike path. Using different decking material which could take the rainwater, wind harp, many accessible swings, also added a component to get to the rocks near the water by adding a boardwalk, making accessible is what brings up the cost dramatically.

Bossange stated since ADA compliant could it receive Federal funding and Bridges agreed could go after different grants and would definitely look at funding sources.

Hanson asked if this project was based on other spaces of the like and was told yes by Bridges. Had consulted with others and is unique to the park and the play features were what are compatible to others and of good quality that have been created. Hanson would also like to hear how well received many of the elements have been in other communities. Bridges said will refine and get back.

Diversity and equity Report

Kaplan stated that she would take on this and get in touch with other members on how to move forward and what she would like to receive for help from other members.

Proposed Smoking Ban

Bridges stated that PAAC had been talking about how to pay for a study and Burlington High School had done a survey, the State had done a survey and many others as well as the National parks had just issued a no smoking policy and over 70% of the country supported. Bridges presented that information to the PAAC committee and also gave a revised version of the proposed policy that would ban smoking in all parks under 10 acres and increased the distance from play structures and ball fields which would affect parks such as Callahan. Was a mixed review and will take back to the committee. Chair proposed a separate one, ban on Waterfront and City Hall Park, not sure how it would be enforced. Had not had any feedback from members and not sure where it stands.

Bossange stated that he would give Pierce and Hale the research that has been done regarding smoking in parks. Bossange asked the Commission to decide where it is with this proposal and would like to put something forward again and is asking others if they want to move forward with a total ban as he does.

Hanson suggested thinking about where can insert into contracts with vendors such as the Farmers Market, also with food truck vendors, asked if could put no smoking on them and as part of the contract, also suggested having signage on picnic tables at North Beach and others.



Bossange said he feels that is a good move and Pierce said his first thought went to Church Street and that the ban is not real effective and still have people that smoke and believes the way in which you present no smoking is very helpful, such as why not to smoke is helpful in having people understand why not to and to respect others. Hanson suggested more education.

Montroll will do some investigation on who is involved still within the high school and Bossange will reach out to others as well on specific verbiage.

Director's Items

Bridges said he would send around the presentation he is doing at NRPA regarding homelessness in parks and how to be part of a process. Spoke of some of the things the department has worked on personally, homeless are not usually doing anything other than trying to have a home, participating in low barrier shelter, making sure enough beds, spoke with several partners about renting out space at stone house, step up type housing, some groups when finished with transitional housing then go to Champlain Housing for permanent housing, the urban reserve has created less encampment.

Commissioner's Items

Kaplan stated that originally she set next Tuesday as the date for the Commission retreat and realized that would not work for a number of reasons. Would like to reschedule sometime near the end of November and solicit questions beforehand to have answered at the meeting and could have the City Attorney attend as well, open to suggestions and resources.

Hanson stated that she would not like to go through the full process of what the duties and responsibilities of the Commission are but feels it would be good for new Commissioners and they could meet individually with the City Attorney and Bossange agreed with that and would prefer to focus on specifics at this meeting.

Kaplan requested from Staff and Commission to have meetings at different locations to visit other locations and facilities to help with outreach and it was unanimous to go at least 3 times per year, Hanson would like to see it be publicized well and have the location/space connected to the meeting. Kaplan will work with Bridges and Putzier to coordinate dates and locations.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. by Bossange, second by Pierce, motion carried.