CITY OF BURLINGTON
PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Councilor Joan Shannon, Chair, South District
Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7
Councilor Mark Barlow, North District

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

AGENDA
Parks, Arts and Culture Committee Meeting
Front Conference Room, 645 Pine Street
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 5:00pm

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
When: Jul 13, 2022 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: PACC
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88086963888
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Webinar ID: 880 8696 3888
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Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the draft minutes from May 12, 2022

Public Forum – Members of the public will be invited to speak at the start of each agenda item

Agenda Items –

1. Summer Camp Programing (Cindi Wight, Doreen Kraft, Mary Danko)
2. Leddy Ordinance Change (Cindi Wight)

Schedule next meeting and discuss proposed agenda items

Adjournment

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Minutes

Parks, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 13th, 2022, 4:30pm

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

Attendance:

Committee Members: Chair Joan Shannon, Councilor Mark Barlow

Absent: Councilor Ali Dieng

City Staff: Doreen Kraft – Burlington City Arts, Sara Katz – Burlington City Arts, Colin Storrs – Burlington City Arts, Cindi Wight – BPRW, Mary Danko – Fletcher Free Library, Meghan O'Daniel – BPRW

Meeting was called to order at 4:34pm by Chair Shannon.

Approval of the Agenda

Barlow moved to approve the agenda, Shannon seconded it. No discussion. All in favor.

Approval of the draft minutes from May 12, 2022

Barlow moved to approve the draft minutes from May 12th, 2022, Shannon seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

Public Forum

No members of the public present for public comment.

Agenda Items

Public Art Policy

Shannon began by sharing that PACC has had 2 presentations on the Public Art Policy. She asked if there had been any changes since the last presentation.

Katz responded that the committee hadn't made any changes or received any feedback that requested changes so they are the same as the last version PACC reviewed.

Shannon noted that BCA was looking for PACC to sponsor the resolution and make a recommendation to the City Council. She asked if there was a motion to recommend the Public Art Policy become a resolution with the City Council.

Barlow made a motion that PACC sponsor the Public Arts Guidelines resolution to the City Council. Shannon seconded it. No further discussion. All in favor.

Kraft asked if when the recommendation is made does that then legal to draw up the resolution or is that something that needs to come from the Department level.

Shannon answered that BCA would need to provide draft language.

Summer Camp Programing (Cindi Wight, Doreen Kraft, Mary Danko)

Danko began by sharing her screen with everyone. She shared that Fletcher Free Library's program is not called summer reading anymore, but is now called the Summer Challenge Program because it is not just about reading it is about engaging children in STEAM activities as well. Danko continued that they have gotten funding from the Burlington School District to hire outreach people to go to the parks and also have a partner grant with BPRW to go to the Rec & Nutrition sites. Danko shared that there are 6 Youth Summer Outreach interns this year and that they are visiting parks with books and activities. She continued that there are 3 teams of 2 going to 2-3 sites a day and that they are working with other Departments in an effort to go where the children are. Danko used the example of the skate park after camps and City Hall Park around the Splash Dance time and BPRW camps, for example Champ Camp. She feels that they have gotten better this year about coordinating to make sure they are engaging with as many children as possible. Danko shared that they have signage out at the parks and advertise through the schools. She continued that they have also added story time at each park this year, which educators are happy with because of the structure it brings for children during the summer. Danko shared that they have gotten funding to give away free books as well to make reading accessible for families who do not have the capacity to have library cards. She continued that there is also still stuff going on at the library like an online reading tracker, Very Merry Theater, Dinoman and BPRW bringing kids to the library through camps. Danko shared that she is excited about the wonderful partnerships that keep growing and expanding – for example the YSOs trained with BPRW staff on topics like cultural competency and behavioral issues, which they felt was valuable and nice synergy between the departments. This year there have been substitution opportunities for the Library staff to partake in, which has been wonderful.

Wight began by sharing that BPRW has camps up and running from athletics to specialty camps and the licensed child care Champ Camp, all of which are full and have made for a great summer so far. Wight continued that the numbers so far are showing that the vacancy numbers are too low and that BPRW needs to add capacity. The Recreation division is finally fully staffed so they are excited to be able to add more camps for next year. Wight shared a photo of Neil, the lead Park Ranger, reading a book to Leddy campers outside. She continued that there is also the Recreation & Nutrition program, a big part of BPRW's summer programming, which takes place at 4 sites throughout the City – Franklin Square, Riverside Apartments, South Meadows, Roosevelt Park and programming at CP Smith after their SOAR program ends. Last year the Recreation & Nutrition program served around 11,000 meals to children in the community. Wight shared that they got money from the Summer Matters grant and the school district and that she is hoping that these are long term investments.

Kraft began by sharing that there is a wonderful and supportive team working with the coexistence of construction and the camps. She continued that they are 98% filled, which is an uncomfortable place to be and that they were filled very early and have done everything they can to add more units, but there just are not enough teachers available. They are going to work with other arts organizations and the Vermont Arts Council to try and find funding to train artists to become art educators to expand the list of people available. Kraft continued that in addition to the camps at 405 Pine St., that BCA also does camps at their Gallery on Church Street. In total, including PAL camps with BPRW and camps with the school district, there are 18 instructors, 12 teaching assistants and 2 camp assistants that have allowed them to work with a much more diverse set of individuals and bring in a younger generation in a mentor mentee relationship with the instructors so that they can be under a learning umbrella. Kraft finished by commenting that there is a need for Fletcher Free to be in City Hall Park, and that it could be a very calming influence on the space if they were able to be there once a week.

Shannon thanked everyone for their hard work, great programming and for looking ahead to expanding the capacity.

Barlow asked if Recreation & Nutrition program was being run by the school food services.

Wight answered that we provide the programming but that the school district provides the food.

Barlow asked since the demand for camps is so high, what is the plan for expanding and is there capacity to do so.

Wight answered yes and continued with the example of Champ Camp. That used to be held at 2 schools, but they had to decrease the size to fit just at the Miller Center because of the pandemic, but they will be able to be back at the 2 schools next summer. Wight continued that they have been without one of their Recreation Specialists, but that position has recently been filled and although he is new and focused on supporting the Recreation & Nutrition program

currently, he will start to think beyond this summer's programming to outdoor programming year round soon.

Barlow asked if BPRW has been able to get summer staff hired.

Wight answered yes – and feels that a big part of that is because of their livable wage increases. She shared that their lifeguard numbers are down a bit, but that is one of the only areas where that's the case.

Schedule Next Meeting & New Business

Shannon shared that the City Councilors received an e-mail from President Paul that day asking each committee Chair to review their committee's mission statement at their next meeting. She feels that PACC should wait for Dieng to be present, so suggested reviewing and potentially revising the PACC Mission statement at the next meeting. Shannon asked anyone else had items they were expecting to come up that could be benefitted by PACC review.

Wight asked for the Leddy Ordinance Change to be on an upcoming agenda when there is time.

Shannon asked to have the minutes reflect that both of these items will be on the next agenda.

O'Daniel confirmed.

Shannon commented that the next meeting will be scheduled via doodle poll.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Shannon at 5:07pm.