



AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
May 2, 2017
645 PINE STREET, FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30PM

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Consent Agenda
 - A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2017 Meeting
*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
- III. Presentation: Recreation Trails Initiative (verbal)
- IV. Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)
- V. Action Item: Farmer's Market Contract Approval (attachment)
- VI. Action Item: Request for Entertainment Permit, AS Concessions, LLC (attachment)
- VII. Action Item: Permit Extension for Battery Park & North Beach Events; July 3rd and Summer Cinema Series (attachment)
- VIII. Action Item: BPRW FY18 Capital Budget Approval (verbal)
- IX. Action Item: No Smoking Signage (verbal)
- X. Director's Items
- XI. Commissioner's Items
- XII. Adjournment

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PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
May 2, 2017
645 Pine Street, Front Conference Room
5:30PM

Commission Present: Bossange, Hurley, Hanson, Pierce, Healy and Montroll

Staff Present: Bridges, Allen, Cahill, Safavi and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:46 p.m. by Commission Vice Chair Bossange.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made to approve the agenda as amended to change item VI Request for Entertainment Permit, AS Concessions, LLC to a discussion item by Hurley, second by Hanson, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Hurley read aloud with the motion included, motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Hurley, second by Hanson, motion carried.

Recreation Trails Initiative

Matt Moore and Zoe Richards introduced themselves, Conservation Board members. Explained the what they felt was a compelling idea, have been working on for quite some time. Asking the Parks Commission to work with them and push for this initiative.

Moore explained they were asking to work with the Commission and interested parties, to have a concerted strategic approach to taking care of existing urban wilds and strategically go after land acquisitions and easements to protect existing trails, low impact quiet recreation. This would also include existing uses on private land that is unused. Have Conservation Legacy fund that has been very successful. Expressed how BPRW has been very proactive working on and would like to formalize a City- wide approach to trails and conservation and put in place an action plan for the City. Would ultimately like a trail around Burlington.

Richards gave some background to recognize that Burlington has incredible natural areas and does not have access to private property. Goal is to make some of the awesome natural areas more accessible, have not focused internally and the goal is to get WVPD, BPRW and other friendly landowners together and allow for better recreational areas.

Moore asked for initial reaction to the draft resolution as well as thoughts and questions. Have met with Dean and Shannon and other members of the City Council, will be on the June 5th City Council agenda for approval. Would like to say Parks Commission is on board with the plan.

Hurley asked if the end product would be a brochure or other and was told would be more physical and a plan to work with City and others to buy land and easements and be a land steward.

Bossange asked if eventually it would create a way to circle the City, told yes trying to create connected areas so this is possible. Have valuable wild spaces currently and would like to find a better way to get public out on the trails and connect and maintain. Envision where people are actually going.

Hanson asked how things would look different than they currently are and was told by Moore, will see acquisition of lands, some places closed, better signage and maps, trails, conservation, and green ways for public access



beyond the bike path. Also asked why you would want to get rid of those type paths and Bridges added that it would be in very specific places that are getting ruined and making improved paths, better signed and safer.

Montroll asked how you would keep people from going on these trails that are not to be used and was told better signage and brushing in with debris and working with fellowship of the wheel. Intent is to keep access open to property. About more opportunity not closing spaces down.

Cahill added that he wanted to recognize that Moore and Richards have been the champions of this concept. They are thinking cohesively about connectivity and trying to bring all parties together and some of the final product is unknown but will be better.

Hurley asked if there would be a budget involved and was told it is the intent to get all founders together in the same room and leveraging the funding.

Moore asked if this was an initiative that the Commission could endorse to move forward and bring before the City Council. Bridges added that these conversations have been happening and is in collaboration and in with the mission of the department and in agreement.

Hanson would like the City to show by example the need to have open gates for access and would like to start with properties that the City already owns. Would like to be sensitive of signage and other not so attractive features. Worried about things that could be lost, need to think about private landowners and easements and worried about spending a lot of money, would like to get the most out of City money.

Bossange asked the Commission if they supported in concept and could work forward supporting into the future. All agreed.

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

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Bossange

Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed at 6:00 p.m.

Farmer's Market Contract Approval

Bridges stated this was an updated renewal contract request that would not include Memorial Auditorium this year, all permits in place for street closure and very prepared. Asked if any major changes and was told no, doing what can in the interim to keep space clean and well kept, first date is the weekend of May 13th.

Montroll asked if BPRW was involved with the Winter Farmers Market at the Davis Center, UVM. Bridges stated the department was not.

Motion to approve the contract for the Farmer's Market by Pierce, second by Healy, motion carried.

Request for Entertainment Permit, AS Concessions, LLC Discussion Item

This item changed from an action item to a discussion item under the approval of the agenda.

Bridges stated he was not in specific discussions with vendor, have been in support of most all of the changes with concessionaire, went positively, not huge revenue generator for department but it is what would like to see in that location. Would like to draw campers down to the location, the concern is on the blanket permit and that is the crux of the issue. Would be comfortable with discussion with Beach manager to work on the entertainment and schedule, needs to be in concert with staff that and not as a blanket approach.

Hurley asked if currently allowed to have a radio and told nothing currently. Hurley felt there was a difference between band and radio. Felt should have a conversation with beach manager to work out a plan.



Jusufagic was concerned with others playing music on and around the beach but he being unable to have any. Bridges stated it was the way that the permitting works for amplified music and entertainment, in a balancing act due to some of the ordinances that are currently in place and have no real means to manage others that attend the beach but do with the concessionaires and have to look at all.

Bossange stated the request was too open-ended, have been very open-minded but need a bit more control, would like to have the beach manager control this piece of the process. Requested moving slowly with this process, more detail and less open-ended entertainment, more definition and growth successfully.

Bridges said most of the types of entertainment seem like a great synergy with other activities and will help but need to find the balance and would recommend concessionaire meet with Waterfront Manager and North Beach Manager to work through dates and types of entertainment that would occur.

Hanson explained generally when have entertainment at any Park a request is sent to the Commission specifically for approval, has some concern with a radio station blasting music on a regular basis, suggested coming to Commission with 4 or so specific dates with entertainment/music and would have the opportunity to get feedback from community. Currently under the proposed agreement could have a radio station every day blaring music need to think about being consistent and have specific hours of operation and would like to start that way and may find don't need to do that moving forward.

Jusufagic stated that radio station will not have any music at the location will broadcast but not play music and Bridges confirmed the type of operation, they typically are on the site and promote the site rather than music playing.

Bossange stated the City would like to have concessionaire at the said location and be successful, wanted to have Jusufagic sit down with managers and come up with a plan and bring to the Commission to act on as an action item at a future meeting.

Pasagic expressed an issue with rain dates and weather dependent and suggested building in rain dates. Another concern was the ability to get sound readings and was told this could be an issue.

Bossange ended by asking to address concerns with the Beach Manager and Waterfront Manager, come up with dates and types of entertainment and then bring back a proposal to June meeting for approval.

Permit Extension for Battery Park and North Beach; July 3rd Event and Summer Cinema Series

Allen stated she was requesting for July 3rd for the 4th years at battery park having the Burlington Concert Band, requesting to extend the time by two hours and end time from 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Motion to approve extension by Hanson, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Allen said first season doing a Cinema Series in the park would include an inflatable screen. Asking for approval for three Friday nights, will be free, dusk to 10 p.m. and will stay within the 3 consecutive hours.

Bossange asked where the screen would be at Battery and was told in front of the band shell, have not committed to licenses yet for the specific movies but has three in mind that would be family friendly.

The hours would be approximately 9 p.m.-10:30 p.m. including breakdown, asked if there would be vendors at the series and was told not for this first year as both parks currently have vendors at each location.

Healy asked if Allen had a success plan she looked to in planning this and was told ultimately public feedback had requested such an event and further stated many of the current events have been happening for a long time. Allen



stated she had looked into new events and demographics missing in the community and believes this would be a successful event.

Motion to approve the request by Pierce, second by Hanson, motion carried.

BPRW FY18 Capital Budget

Bridges began by stating that Safavi was present as well to answer any questions. Explained that since last met, completed meeting with all NPA's talking about all the improvements over the next fiscal year, good conversations, had good feedback. This is following in the process of the capital plan then to City Council and both general and capital should be approved in June as part of the annual process.

Motion to approve the FY18 capital budget by Pierce, second by Hurley, motion carried.

No Smoking Signage

Bridges stated that he did not have revised drawings with him and will adjust and review then hand off to Safavi to submit at a future meeting. Most signs are up and being disseminated. Did all signs down the boardwalk and added the skate park banners text. Hurley asked if any coordination with police to make sure enforced and was told not until after the school year and will be part of the onboarding of parks patrol.

Bossange said in the smaller parks hopefully signs will be seen, worried that the larger parks would not have enough signage, was told interim older version of signage and not have signs every 15 feet so it would not ruin the park experience. Might seem overboard initially.

Hanson added that she would like to have added to vendor contracts a no smoking clause of some type. Could suggest vendors support the no smoking effort in different creative ways.

Director's Items

Bridges explained planners have next phase of bike path out to bid should go to City Council soon to start the next phase for approval. Working with Local Motion to help with detours and sent post cards of construction, also sent information to Colchester to let them know about closures. Been very positive collaboration and the City as a whole has been working well about all capital projects. Reminder that Kids Day is on Saturday. Bridges last day is May 30th with department, looking to get position posted as soon as possible. Working on job description with HR, very positive, very difficult to communicate to team, positive about what has been done to date, reiterated he is not leaving Burlington, will still be very involved with many initiatives. May be at the June Commission meeting regarding some items working on and will have budget approved.

Commissioner's Items

Bossange requested the minutes show that the Commission truly appreciates the five years of tremendous leadership shown by Bridges during his role as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront. "The entire department has grown and come together in ways unseen in years. Dozens of completed projects are now a part of Bridges legacy in the City".

Bossange stated that Bridges would be missed by everyone, the commission wished Bridges the best as he assumes the role of Executive Director of the United Way.

Hurley asked about Beach Bites food vendor events and was told they would be happening every other week and dates are listed on the department website.

Pierce asked about the next bike path construction detours and was told would start the beginning of June, southern portion from North Beach, deciding on which side of Leddy will be starting point for construction.

Hurley asked when the exercise equipment would be placed and was told going in end of May.



Healy asked if going to let goats eat poison ivy from Leddy and Bridges stated that had been done in the past and it did not work, they ate everything but the poison ivy. Would like to get back to that type of agriculture but not currently available.

Cahill added that beginning discussions with grazing people at UVM, looking to find a new group of goats.

May 31st at 11am celebrating the Parks Foundation accomplishments with a commemorative rock, unveiling of rock in urban reserve, the Foundation gifted the City the check for this. Stated very beautiful and invited all to attend.

Bossange shared an article about the difference a park can make, changes the soul of a City. Left for folks to read. Also mentioned "City Squares" book, go to different places and explain what happens at the different squares and the power and significance that they make, cultures and the ones that sustain also sustain their communities.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. by Pierce, second by Hurley, motion carried.