



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
March 8, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Traverse, Johnson, Lantieri, Hurley and Duke

Staff Present: Wight and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:33 p.m. by Traverse

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended to add Approval of Special Use Permit by Stone Circle at Oakledge as item XI and move Adjournment to item XII, by Lantieri, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Traverse asked to waive the reading of the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval.

Approval of consent agenda by Hurley, second by Duke, motion carried.

Camping in Parks Proposed Ordinance Change

Travers introduces Councilor Joe Magee and Councilor Gene Bergman to the meeting and stated how Roach and Lacey had been to the commission previously to discuss this issue and Magee has put before the Council an Ordinance request and the matter touches on parks and the commission has asked to speak to all on the proposed change. Traverse explained that the commission does not have a role in approving but is gathering information and putting out informationally to the public. After today the ordinance will come before revitalization committee and send back to full council.

Magee thanked for inviting and having public conversation with the idea of coming up with further engagement with commission. Gave some background, feel a way forward from seeing bad handling of displacement of people and unfavorable handling and what was exposed was ways that the current policy is failing the folks it is meant to protect, as well as staff, highlighted the policy was never accepted by City Council and campers did not have the chance to challenge. Primary goal is to provide protections under the law and remove the ambiguity for campers and staff, policy won't just allow for camping in all parks, it does allow to prohibit in some parks as long as specifically posted and ordinance does keep the regulation by the parks department, reaffirms housing as a human right, takes people approach for dignity and respect that all people deserve, decriminalized camping, borrows from Montpelier that decriminalizing and a set of procedures to address the campsite if staff has to help to relocate and defines the circumstances and offers camper opportunity to correct and prevent removal, outlines a clearer notice of removal and the process to appeal, after removal would store items for 90 days with full documentation of what is stored.

Bergman stated the impetus for doing was the Sears Lane situation was not enforceable and did not follow, the policy itself came as a result of the settlement of a lawsuit, the 8th amendment prohibits from barring people from camping anywhere, good case law around the country and groups like ACLU has sued regarding and have policy but was not enforceable and very unconscionable. If it were enforceable it has significant problems and one of the important things to do is make sure problems



were corrected and other items needed were incorporated. One of the problems with Sears Lane was with some certain campers and collective punishment for the few misbehaved. New policy allows to mitigate and it will allow the people that are not in conflict to remain unaffected. Park commission does not have many appeals, some other Boards and Commissions do. Trying to bring that process into the framework, spoke with advocates as well as homelessness and felt the property storage process was very lacking in the policy and worked to address that piece. Why doing while as a certain point brought port-o-pots and dumpsters, nothing the city did that could have in this policy. Rather than get into the details felt to get into questions around the policy and the ordinance. Said some misconception as to how the ordinance was previously, with 3 days too short to deal with but tried to set out the process and timeline to be realistic and reasonable and the details with appeal process and standards to follow to make as fair as possible to all parties.

Lantieri said very thorough, felt the way the timeline changed felt very significant from 3-14 days was a huge improvement. Asked if the purpose of the policy to determine how the department can justify creating posting or the prevention and Magee said if ordinance passes will not have to post every area right away but will be able to continue to make decisions as go and outline if don't post an area and the circumstance arises will have the opportunity to be remedied and to outline and could lead to relocation and outside prohibited areas. Lantieri asked if a place could be posted without having special circumstances and was told yes.

Hurley thanked and said the highly sensitive areas is what she is having a hard time understanding how it would work and if a map would be available and how it would be determined what would not be a highly sensitive area in the parks. The determining of the actual geography is what she is concerned with. Bergman said there might not be a single park that does not have a highly sensitive area and if posted sufficiently that is a piece of the ordinance and to afford people to find camp might be defeated in most parks. Stated that to be clear most of the specifics came from Montpelier's rules.

Wight said that really concerned about how written with 30 day notice with multiple tents going up in parks and worked last year and able to post, work within reasonable times, if someone needed extra day or two, really concerned with 30 days and setting up for a lot of challenges. Concerned with sufficiently posted, particularly with Leddy Park and all the different ways to go in and out of the park and how to have sufficient signage, worried about kids walking to parks and if allowing tents in spaces for extended times about people to play. Also if we want to allow we should allow a designated site sanction in the campground. Felt policy using was very humane and could use a few changes but not comfortable with the current ordinance.

Traverse said he appreciated coming and continue to work with others moving forward and he heard from a number of folks around this topic and briefly mentioned others thoughts and his own; asked if open to some places being prohibited without being posted, such as cemeteries for example, if do not do in ordinance and list all places are prohibited then would be a lot of signs and have the unintended impression that not welcoming, other items are in the definition of camping, folks putting up a tent for the night, or lean-to's or more mobile or moveable and other structure. The definition as to what is a sensitive area and how it is described and the proposal mirrors a lot of Montpelier but uses "substantially" often and would like to get better clarification of intent and finally there may just be some areas that do need that criteria that are just not appropriate and in Montpelier it says 24 hours but the Burlington proposal says it allows for a 30 day window and would like to focus on that question also between 24 hours in Montpelier versus 30 days in Burlington.



Magee said they are not expecting the Parks Department to come up with a solution but to pursue solutions to make brief and have options for folks who are houseless that are not sleeping outside but important to acknowledge that will sometimes have people that need to seek shelter and can be sought someplace safely in a space that has a no barrier and how to balance with making parks safe and accessible to all.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:05pm

Don Meals, Conservation Board member said he had not heard about the proposed ordinance and wanted to be notified about this ordinance prior to and has significance expertise and need to bring into the discussion soon. As Burlington resident has concerns about addressing needs of people suffering and staff but did not hear about residents that are not in need or staff being involved in the process, also heard some casual mention of sleeping for a night, and the words of the ordinance allow more than a night but more continuous, and third not enough mention about the clean water and sanitation for right to housing, port-o-lets and dumpster will not give adequate housing. Rather start with pilot program in one or two programs to be designated in smaller area.

Gail Rafferty, lives near Smalley park and commented that Smalley had ongoing encampments last summer and one might say although small, in this ordinance it will be posted and two signs went up that indicated no camping, experience is that even though prohibited had several weeks of camping and people were given quite a bit of time and left but came back. Referenced the last speaker, saying odd as created an elaborate and long amount of time someone can stay. Seems 30 is for people who are breaking the rules and others will have full summer of camping, water came from her faucet outdoor. Does not understand when someone does not abide. Also point out as resident close to park, not all that tent in park are homeless it could be youth, someone attending a concert, friends visiting a college or tourists. Smalley park neighbors are concerned.

Ian Roos, wanted to know how the parks will be posted and important to take into account, might incur large costs to maintain, some get torn down or defaced, also consider many in urban reserve are quite a few tents that have been abandoned and how that process will go forth, if left possessions for long stretches, all winter for example and how it will be handled.

Joel Baird said that he recognizes and respects the intentions of the ordinance and the systemic problem around housing, feels needs to go back to drawing board but misplaced, needs to go further upstream and toward some type of dignity, some not able to make decisions for themselves and keep healthy. Said that Sears Lane was a nightmare for some and utopia for others, needed to be reexamined, need to talk to people before they feel entitled, before camping on public land, concerned that Parks Dept. can't afford to send people out in a timely fashion and Howard Center can't reach everyone that needs it. Felt it was wishful thinking it will work with people who can't afford to hop in a van and go out to Waterbury reservoir and need to show more respect and understanding to those who camp in our parks, is not giving these people dignity.

Matt Viens, St. Paul Street, felt others made some good points, concerned about the change in policy, although some parks will be posted, in effect will be sending the message you can camp wherever you want. Explained Burlington has a Code Enforcement department and can't effectively enforce and stuck

Commented [JP1]:



without sufficient staff and would unintentionally create more work and not a message that he feels should be send. Also agree does not deal with root cause of the issue.

Dave Conger, felt like blanket opening, City will be looking at easier way to do this, also a neighbor of Smalley and has had issues with camping in parks, also concerned with costs and appreciates the thought to improve homeless but parks and rec is not the ones to take on.

Cory asked is this the right thing to put on Parks and Recreation, believes facilities, sanitation, someplace to be during the day, felt could use NB or a place that is designated for that specific use. Feels the city has a lot of not in this place and needs more yes with regulations and teeth to enforce. Need to have basic needs fulfilled with more strategic plan in place.

Seeing nobody further from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:41 pm

Leddy Fee Parking History

Wight stated she spoke on this subject about a year or so ago and was coming back around to see if in favor of charging a gate fee at Leddy, mainly to control gate more and second to try and get more revenue within the department. It would be easier with new system in place, would not need parking attendant with hut, currently use park mobile with kiosk, makes easier. Reason moved originally as it was not paying for person at the gate. Attendants utilizing programming would obtain a code to use when registering and would not have to pay. Will capture those vehicles accessing the bike path and beach. If you walk or bike it would be free as with all other parks.

Duke feels very appropriate to charge fees at the Leddy location as is with other parks. Also asked since the bond did not pass what the department will have to make up and Wight said she did not currently know but should know soon.

Lantieri also agree that the fee seemed appropriate.

Forming Interview Team for Student Commissioners

Traverse explained that the commission had put into place adding one possibly two student commissioners and would like to put together an interviewing team. Traverse asked if any of the commissioners would be interested in being on the committee and Hurley asked if it would involve looking at applications and Wight said yes it would not be too much work. Hurley agreed to be on the committee and Lantieri said he would be interested as well and asked what the outreach would be. Wight said they would utilize Front Porch Forum, Burlington High School and Rice Memorial High School.

Commission Terms and Board Continuity

Traverse said received letter of resignation from Andrea Todd, appreciated her participation on the commission and what she brought to the commission, congratulated her joining Rock Point Board and wished her well. Traverse announced it would be his last meeting as he was elected to the City Council and would have his first meeting April 1st.

Wight explained that terms were coming up for two of the commissioners, and losing Traverse and Todd would be a total of four and that would be a huge loss in continuity. Asked if others would be applying to renew their terms. Terms that are up are Duke and Lantieri and they both said that they would be reapplying for their seats, which would make only Traverse and Todd spaces with vacancy.



Wight also thanked Traverse for his work as Chair and efficient great work with the commission.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Traverse had one additional hour, Duke had 2 additional hours and Lantieri had ½ hour additional.

Report on PACC Dog Force

Duke said not too much to report but said still information gathering but a lot about rules and regulations and trying to come to the point of what trying to do. Wight, Farrell, O'Daniel going to look at what was done previously.

Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said in process or supporting FRAME, had couple of meetings and more discussion, also supporting Red Stone Cottage.

Director's Items

Wight said selected Rec Manager but not sure if notified there manager yet, so holding off on name, Paul Morris is leaving grounds and going to DPW, did not want to be a Manager any longer, he will be missed, started MOU's and charting and graphs for workers, bids are due March 15th for Red Stone Cottage, hoping for at least 3, gardens are almost full, some money in bond for water systems, irrigating Starr Farm fields, next will be expansion of water systems in the gardens, Leddy internal kickoff soon, bike path downtown, looks like closed for 45 days in spring, had some work that did not get accepted and needs to be fixed, kudos to Rogers for working on recreation grants, allowed to expand summer programming. Thanked staff for sending great updates and Diana for agreeing to take over the Annual Report that will be more fluid moving forward.

Hurley asked if Winterville was cancelled again and Wight said it did get cancelled the Friday before, Kids Day is back on and being discussed as to what it will look like.

Traverse said he was sad to see Morris leaving and also stated Morris ran a great Green Up day last year and hoped it would be carried on in the coming year. Asked why the Urban Park Ranger was posted again and if it was the pay, or if they took other positions and Wight said it took too long to get through the interview process and the staff left out some experience and the importance of the park experience necessary for the Lead.

Commissioner's Items

Lantieri asked if the special meeting was recorded and Wight said the Media Factory was present and they will have the taping available and it will be posted. Duke said it was very interesting.

Special Use Permit for Stone Circle at Oakledge

Wight said she got a call from David and they come each year to Oakledge and do a maintenance day and saw an advertisement for an event that was having a bonfire happening. Wight reached out to the contact and worked out and let them know that they needed a permit for the event and wanted to recognize when they do them they do not charge and is always open to the public and felt it would be good to waive the fee for permit as it is for free and if doing larger would charge. Requestors will sign off with O'Daniel.



Motion to approve Special Use Permit fees for Circle of Peace, and waive the fee, acknowledging different season changes by Traverse, second by Hurley, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:30pm

DRAFT



MEMO

Date: April 5th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Abra Clawson, Burlington City Arts Event Manager
RE: NEDA Special Use Permit for April 30th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at City Hall Park to hold a fundraising event and for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

The National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA) will be hosting their annual NEDA Walk at City Hall Park on Saturday, April 30th. This event has two purposes: to raise public awareness about eating disorders and to celebrate and strengthen community around this issue here in Burlington.

This event is expected to have between 100 and 150 participants and volunteers over the course of an hour and a half (9:30am-11am). NEDA will be providing complimentary coffee and snacks for participants, and Burly Axe will be providing their mobile axe throwing unit. NEDA will be working with BCA to ensure all vendors follow the required guidelines and go through the proper process. Their staff and volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up alongside BCA event staff, who will be managing the event. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance. NEDA has already gotten approval from the Church St Marketplace for their Walk.

The amplified sound will take place between 9:30am – 11am, using the BCA sound system. They have already booked City Hall Park.

Contacts for the event are Olivia Taylor and Abigail Waite.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: MadFreedom Special Use Permit for July 16th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Battery Park to hold an event and for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

MadFreedom, Inc. is hosting their annual Vermont Mad Pride Day on Saturday, July 16th at Battery Park. This will be a celebration organized by psychiatric survivors, consumers, service users, mad people, and folks the world has labeled "mentally ill". Mad Pride is about challenging discrimination, advocating for rights, affirming Mad identities, remembering and participating in Mad history, and having fun. Our lives are valuable and need celebration. MadFreedom, Inc. is a Poultney, Vermont 501(c)(4), tax-exempt non-profit organization whose mission is to secure power and influence to end the discrimination and oppression of people based on their perceived mental state. MadFreedom envisions a world where all people, regardless of race, gender, class, ableness, and mental state have the freedom to live their lives on their own terms without coercion and with equality under the law.

This event is expected to have around 100 participants and 25 volunteers. This event will include a march from Church St. to the park, speakers, live music, spoken word poetry, skits, informational tabling and a catered meal. MadFreedom is collaborating with several other organizations to curate this event. Those organizations include Pathways Vermont, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (Montpelier), and Another Way Community Center (Montpelier). MadFreedom is anticipating that a local caterer will be providing food and will be working with the Department to ensure all vendors follow the required guidelines and go through the proper process. They are prepared to provide extra portalets and their staff and volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

The amplified sound will take place between 1pm and 3pm. They have already booked Battery Park.

Staff contact for the event is Wilda White.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: The Redeemed Christian Church Special Use Permit for June 4th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Battery Park to hold an event and for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

The Redeemed Christian Church is holding their outdoor evangelism music event on June 4th at Battery Park.

This event is expected to have around 50 participants and 10 volunteers. Volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up.

The amplified sound will take place between 4pm and 7pm. They have already booked Battery Park.

Staff contact for the event is Victor Boardman.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: BCA Programming in City Hall Park, Summer of 2022

Request for waiver at City Hall Park to allow amplified sound for BCA events and programming throughout the summer of 2022.

Burlington City Arts is pleased to continue their activation of City Hall Park through the arts, with support from our underwriters and partners, for the summer months of 2022. This programming ensures that the park remains a vibrant public space, increases accessibility to the arts, and creates a sense of belonging for community members across a spectrum of ages, races, abilities, and incomes. City Hall Park's programming will also create economic opportunity for artists who have been hit hard by the pandemic, and will attract people to downtown Burlington to aid local businesses, restaurants, bars, and clubs in their recovery. In addition, this programming will allow community members to come together safely and outdoors for much-needed joy, social connection, and creative release after a year of extraordinary hardship. Finally, through this programming, the City directly supports Vermont artists, paying out \$22,000 in artists fees in Summer 2022.

There will be weekly events and programming organized by BCA throughout the summer at City Hall Park, both with and without amplified sound. They do not exceed the parameters surrounding park usage stated in the City Ordinance. Weekly programming includes the BCA Summer Concert Series, The Twilight Concert Series, Splash Dance, Flicks in the Park, Listen Up, Community Spotlight and the new Burlington Market. Programming will run from June 4th to October 1st.

BCA staff contact is Zach Williamson.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Commercial Access Approval in City Hall Park, Summer of 2022

Request for waiver at City Hall Park to allow for commercial access approval throughout the summer of 2022.

Church Street Marketplace is planning to post an RFP shortly to find a vendor to serve food 5 days a week on the College St. Terrace.

Church Street Marketplace staff contact is Samantha McGinnis.

Staff Recommendations:
Allow for Special commercial access.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: REIB Special Use Permit for June 19th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at City Hall Park to hold a Juneteenth event and for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

The City of Burlington's Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Office focuses on promoting racial equity and inclusion throughout the City of Burlington both internally and externally through engagement, facilitation, and education. They are producing a City-wide Juneteenth event with some programming focused in City Hall Park including a concert with amplified sound taking place between 8pm and 11pm. They have already booked City Hall Park.

Staff contact for the event is Casey "Jersey" Ellerby.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Vermont Commons School Special Use Permit for June 9th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit and waiver at Oakledge Park to allow for amplified sound.

Vermont Commons School has rented out the Upper Shelter at Oakledge on Thursday, June 9th for their annual Field Day. The roughly 120 students and staff will be participating in good-natured competitions including volleyball, Kubb, various relay races, Capture the Flag, etc.

They are requesting to have amplified sound from 9am – 2pm, including music being played from a playlist and various announcements throughout the day. They have already booked the Upper Shelter.

Tim Harger, the Dean of Students, is the point of contact for the Vermont Commons School.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: GBGSL Special Use Permit for June 11th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Calahan Park for a waiver to allow amplified sound.

Greater Burlington Girls Soccer League (GBGSL) will be holding their annual end-of-season Jamboree at Calahan Park on Saturday, June 11th. GBGSL has been using the Calahan Park soccer fields for their Spring and Summer seasons since 1997. At some point during the Jamboree, all of the players and their coaches plan to get on the field and dance to current pop songs and the Macarena together, usually resulting in a very long conga line.

The amplified sound will take place between 9:30am and 1pm, and will consist of music from a playlist and announcements. They will be informing the surrounding neighborhood via Front Porch Forum ahead of the event.

Contact for the Jamboree is Robyn Kummer.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: ONE Farmers' Market Special Permit for Commercial Use for 2022 season

Request for a Special Permit for Commercial Use for Tuesdays from 3pm – 6pm from June to October at Dewey Park.

The Old North End Farmers' Market consists of local vendors selling produce, prepared foods and handmade goods. This has been a staple for the ONE community for many years.

The agreement with the City has been updated and signed for the 2022 season.

Staff contact is Dan Cahill. Market contact is Hillary Martin.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Permit for Commercial Use.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Community Block Party Special Use Permit for June 2nd, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Pomeroy Park to hold a neighborhood block party.

Mellisa Cain, the outreach coordinator for Mascoma Bank, has a goal of bringing the community together after a very long winter to celebrate the Old North end through food, music, art and sports in a fun and accessible way. There will be art activities designed and facilitated by ONE Arts Center Community School teachers and kids will be the highlights of the event. There will be music playing from a playlist and/or a DJ, food available for purchase from a local ONE food vendor available at a sliding scale, and an organized basketball tournament. They are prepared to rent a portalet to have available on site. Volunteers will be responsible for site clean-up. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

The ONE Arts Center has two locations in the Old North End, both focusing on providing art education to young people in the Old North End regardless of financial background. ONE Arts will have a table to chat with their neighbors about programming, scholarships and, of course, making art. Mascoma Bank is a BCorp, meaning that they use their "business as a force for good." As part of their commitment to the Old North End, they have hired ten-year ONE resident, Mellisa Cain as a contractor to liaison with the ONE community and assist in meeting needs of folks who may be underserved. Mascoma will have a table and will likely be distributing water bottles and possibly have a tie-dye station.

The gathering and amplified sound will take place between 5pm and 7:30pm, and will consist of music from a playlist and/or DJ.

Contact for the event is Mellisa Cane.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Hope Works Special Use Permit for April 20th & April 24th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Pomeroy and City Hall Parks to hold fundraising bake sales and at Waterworks Park to hold a Zuma class with amplified sound.

HOPE Works will be holding a bake sale at Pomeroy and City Hall Parks on April 20th from 12pm – 6pm, and a Zumba class at Waterworks Park on April 24th from 11am – 12pm. These events are all for Sexual Violence Awareness Month. HOPE Works is dedicated to ending all forms of sexual violence. They are committed to serving the Chittenden County community through the continued provision of their services and to being a leading voice in the State of Vermont for meaningful change in law and society. They provide crisis counseling and advocacy for those whose lives have been affected by sexual violence. Their education outreach work strives to change attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate and condone the cycle of violence. They constantly seek to expand our efforts to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community and welcome all to their agency. Support for their mission is actively sought through fundraising, development, and the dedicated efforts of our volunteers.

Contact for the permits is Natania Carter.

These are on days with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit including a waiver for amplified sound.



MEMO

Date: April 12th, 2022
To: BPRW Commission
From: Meghan O'Daniel, Community Garden & Parks Outreach Coordinator
RE: Sangha Studio Special Use Permit for April 30th, 2022

Request for a Special Use Permit at Pomeroy Park to hold a yoga class for fundraising.

Sangha Studio is holding a Community Earth Day celebration and fundraiser at their ONE studio location and they are looking to include a yoga class at Pomeroy Park on April 30th from 2pm – 3pm as a part of the event. The overarching goal of the event is to get people to think about their impacts on the local and global level and to understand what resources available to reduce, reuse and recycle. Funds raised from the yoga class will go to the local organization One Tree Planted, which has a focus on reforestation efforts.

Sangha will work with the Department to require the necessary permit based on class size. They have the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

Staff contact for the event is Laura Selin.

It is on a day with no conflicting events.

Staff Recommendations:

Allow for Special Use Permit.

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Parks Commission update – April 2022

Stories



Leddy Challenge Cup winner!



Professor Bill Keaton and students from EnVS 201, Restoration Ecology learning about Oakledge Park and preparing for their capstone projects focused on Oakledge.



Art hung in City Hall. This quilt was a gift to the City and hung in the third floor hall before the renovation

Department accomplishments and notable staffing developments since the last report?

- April Work Anniversaries – Michael Donachie (1), Jonathan Sumner (7), and Ian Magnus (7)
- Positions offered for Event Planner, Recreation Specialist and Public Buildings Maintenance Specialist
- Interviewing Urban Park Rangers
- Kirsten Santor, Recreation Manager and CAPRA Coordinator starts on April 4 – welcome Kirsten!

COVID-19

- Masks optional in all programs and facilities

Major upcoming events: <http://enjoyburlington.com/events/>

- CORE Adult Center presentation of “Senior Moments” @ 1:30 pm on April 14
- Teqball Kick-off – May 8 @ City Hall Park – (tentative)
- Kid’s Weekend – May 13-15 <https://www.btvkidsday.com/>

Recreation Facilities Division Update

Leddy Arena

- April highlight activities include USA Hockey Futures Camp April 1-3, Full Stride Women's Hockey Tournament April 22-23 and the year end Skating Show on Saturday, April 30 at 1pm. In addition to our regular user groups we have also already have eight school and birthday party groups scheduled in April.
- Dustin Dupont, one of our maintenance workers returns to the Parks crew for the summer season at the beginning of April – we wish him a great time working outdoors! Josh Cushing, another one of our maintenance staff welcomed a baby boy with his wife Erin on St Patty's Day – congratulations Cushings! Stan Bajuk, our third maintenance worker, will attend the New England Ice Surface Manager Association's spring conference in Rhode Island April 25-27.
- With the winter season winding down, the Arena staff looks forward to a seven-week shutdown in May and June. Staff are already busy booking ice for the 2022-23 season and planning maintenance and repair projects during shutdown. In addition, our Leddy customer service associate will be supporting the Waterfront this season by assuming processing of their revenues from the Clerk/Treasurer's Office. Some staff will also take some well-earned time off this spring! The rink will reopen for the season on June 20.

Miller Center

- In April the Miller Center will host its first AAU basketball tournament since spring 2019! Other April activities include April vacation camp, Green Mountain Transit's public meeting, Vermont Early Learning Initiative's training, in addition to our regular user groups and Wednesday Covid vaccine clinics.
- April staff projects include stripping and waxing floors which have had heavy usage this winter, drafting a new lease for Frog & Toad daycare whose lease expires this June and implementing a new facility rental rate structure and reservation cancellation fee for fy 23.
- Both the Miller Center and CORE welcome back in-person NPA meetings in April. CORE will also resume their monthly community dinners as part of the NPA meetings.

CORE

- The CORE welcomed Congressman Peter Welch to a press conference at the CORE Adult Center on March 28. The Congressman highlighted the passage of the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act and addressed the fact that seniors are disproportionately impacted by fraud, scams and identity theft.
- The first floor event space at the ONE Center, which BPRW manages on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust, is now reopened after a 9 month Covid closure and the response has been phenomenal. After only one and a half weeks of reopening, we have already scheduled three cultural/community celebrations, two weddings, an engagement party, a memorial service and an art show. We hope to continue to provide this wonderful space for a variety of community events. However in order to do so, we need additional staffing! If anyone knows of a responsible adult who might be looking for some extra evening and weekend work, please have them contact Melissa Cate, mcate@burlingtonvt.gov.
- We look forward to welcoming Kirsten Santor, BPRW's new Recreation Program Manager, who will work out of the CORE beginning in April.

Congressman Welch visits the Core Adult Center



Park Division Update

Park Administration

- VueWorks work orders have been live since February 1. We are awaiting an update that will fix a problem that is occurring with field staff preventing them from completing work orders through the mobile app.
- Interviews were conducted for the Central Facilities Maintenance Specialist.
- Released the Fireworks Display RFP. Bids due in early April.
- Continued safety and diversity trainings as required.
- Ordered skate new park coping and getting prices by contractors to install before July 1.

Conservation Program

- Development and roll out of the 50th anniversary of Community Gardening in Burlington. Will include season long education opportunities, a documentary, and a harvest celebration on September 11. Process being lead by BPRW staff and supported by a committee of gardeners and partners from various agencies.
 - 50 Years Celebration - [website history blog by Jim Flint](#)
- Support of the 2nd Annual [City Nature Celebration](#)
 - events to be held on April 26, a speaker event at Black Box Theatre, and a Spectacular Nature Day at the Intervale on April 30
- Development of Planting Plans for 2022 Season
- The Conservation Team is supporting the integration of native trees and shrubs into a variety of locations this spring. This work includes the creation of native plant nurseries at Staff Farm Garden and Champlain Elementary School. This work is in partnership with the [Grow Wild](#) partnership.
 - Spring planting sites
 - Burlington Greenway
 - Lakeview Cemetery
 - Northbend Orchard
 - Champlain Elementary School
 - McKenzie Park
 - Oakledge Park
- Installation of Trail way finding Signage at Arms Forest
 - Over the past several seasons the Conservation Team has been implementing actions developed in the Arms Forest Scoping Process. This season permanent way finding signage will be installed. Read more about the history of this project [here](#).
- Development and Planning for summer 2022 Bike Path enhancement projects. Over the fall and winter a series of improvement projects for the greenway have been developed in partnership with the Planning Division. This summer we will be focusing on five improvement areas.
 - Connector Trail Erosion at the Killarney Dr. bath access.
 - Shoulder erosion at the Blodgett Beach area.
 - Shoulder erosion at section 0 near Home Ave
 - Knotweed Mitigation near Harrison Ave
 - Stormwater pooling at Starr Farm intersection
- Community Garden Registration and Garden Start Up
 - This season marks the fastest that gardens have filled up. We are at an all time high in demand for community garden space.
- Continued Support and Participation in the Burlington Wildways Coalition. Learn more about [Burlington Wildways here](#).



Kate Krusei, Grow Wild founder, speaking with members of the North Shore Association about supporting the trees and native plants on their property



Volunteer, Stephen Blaisdell preparing the Grow Wild nursery at Starr Farm Gardens

- Planning and preparing for trail construction at Kieslich Park, scheduled for summer/fall 2022. This planning work is focused on the revegetation plan for the Park after construction has been completed.

Central Facilities Program

- Air purifier filters ordered for City Buildings and HVAC technician is working to get them all changed out to help keep our indoor air safe and clean.
- HVAC technician is gathering bids to have rusted stacks replace in alley between City Hall and BCA.
- Worked with outside vendor to have filter compartments adjusted for more efficient filter changing in City Hall.
- Held interviews for new Central Facilities Specialist position.
- Drawings completed for 200 Church Street. These will allow us to move forward with new HVAC system design.
- Repair and troubleshooting of front City Hall fountain starting next week.
- RFP to repair roof and ceiling at BCA awarded.
- RFP in process for Lakeview Cemetery and Howard Chapel exterior renovation and repair work.
- RFP posted for slate roof and ceiling repair at the BCA.
- Testing for additional signage at 645 Pine for Parking Services division.
- Troubleshooting completed for exterior water leak at Library.
- Planned and ordered ergonomic office desk for new CIO.
- Planning with outside contractor for additional card reader at Library. Also trouble shooting with same contractor for installation of more rugged readers in specialized locations at 645 Pine.
- Collaborating with DPW for troubleshooting and repair work to be completed on Pine Street fuel depot.
- Monthly meeting with steering committee for Burlington 2030 District.

Custodial team stayed busy around City Hall with additional outdoor clean up.



BPRW teams worked together for election equipment delivery and Ward set up.

Trees and Greenways Program

- Completed work on BED line clearing contract, \$124,500!
- Marked all sites for Dig Safe for spring street tree planting and finalized tree placement plan.
- Responded to resident service requests as needed.
- Presented educational talk to public on proper tree planting and tree care in partnership with Branch out Burlington at 645 Pine St.
- Assisted BED on emergency call due to vehicle collision with utility pole and tree on North Ave.
- Completed cleanup of park landscape shrub and perennial beds in preparation for spring mulching.
- Received designation from National Arbor Day Foundation of Tree City USA designation for 28th year
- Conducted regular tailgate safety meetings to ensure safe work environment.

Park Facilities Program

- Continued implementation of VueWorks Asset Management
- Installed electrical/data outlets on the floor in FFL children's section
- Inspecting/repairing mooring and dock hardware, ordering replacement parts

- Working to get pricing on security gates at dock sections A/C and D.
- REIB training / Vueworks training
- Snow and Ice removal as required.
- Assisted with posting RFP for Red Stone Cottage restoration

Cemetery Program

- Providing burial service Monday – Friday
- Maintaining summer mowing equipment
- Several wedding rentals of the chapel

Grounds Maintenance Program

- Dedicating 197 work hours to staying ahead of snow removal in parks across the city.
- Renewing MOU's with Little Leagues for 2022.
- Testing out Vueworks and troubleshooting work orders for grounds staff
- Repairing and maintaining small equipment for the mowing crew.
- Building new picnic tables to be sent out to parks in Spring.
- Taking inventory of landscape materials needed for Athletic fields. Creating special orders for field products.
- Maintaining outdoor Ice rinks as weather cooperates

Planning Division Update

- Projects Progressing:
 - **Bike Path Projects:**
 - Realignment projects kicking back up in April-
Upcoming Greenway Closures:
Maple to King will be closed until mid-May; detour to be reinstalled along Battery Street
College to King will be closed mid-April until June; detour to be reinstalled along Battery Street in this section also.
 - Rework of brick pavers at Oakledge started last week in March; should be minimal interruptions to the Greenway in this section until project completion.
 - **Calahan Park Master Plan:** Final Report Completed.
 - New Playground: Working with vendor on final layout and selection of new structures.
 - **Champlain Street Park Redesign:** Ongoing design work with internal City team on the redesign.
 - **Kieslich Park:** Working with consultant team at Cambrian rise on finalizing documentation needed to bid out the construction of the connection to the Greenway in 2022.
 - **Leddy Park Comprehensive Plan:** Project was kicked off internally in March, aiming for stakeholder outreach in late April and public outreach in May. We could use help getting the word out and potentially tabling at Leddy this spring/summer!
 - **Leddy Pause Place and UVM Fitness Equipment Pad:** Working with consultants on updating drawings to bid out these remaining parts of the Greenway rehabilitation and to build the second bioretention area at Leddy as part of our Greenway Phase 3 stormwater permitting with the state.
 - **Oakledge for All Universal Access:** Anticipating grant agreement in-hand soon for spring bidding. Bid documents for the playground wrapping up. Contract awarded for restroom renovations.

Leddy drone flight



Fitness equipment request bid out; selecting preferred vendor. Resident Engineer services for the playground construction have been retained.

- **Perkins Pier Siting Study:** Final report completed.
- **Roosevelt Park Comprehensive Plan:** Working on determining next steps for this project based on existing lot coverage; collaborating with DPW.
- **Schifilliti Path:** Project kicked off in early March; expecting drone survey to be undertaken soon.
- **Wayfinding:** Priority locations have been identified and vendor selected. New signs coming soon to six parks!
- Projects supporting other divisions/ departments: (abbreviated)
 - Playground Equipment and Compliance
 - Survivors of St. Joseph Orphanage Project



Oakledge Beach access – winter view

Waterfront Division Update

- We received notice that we were not successful in our ARPA grant application. We will take all the accumulated information that was gathered for the grant and seek other opportunities.

Marinas, Harbor & Parking

- Plans are underway to have a parking kiosk installed at Perkins Pier by May 15th.
- DPW has identified 2 parking kiosks that are in current use but scheduled for removal in the next few months to be relocated to Leddy Park for the rollout of parking fees at Leddy Park. They will both be located in the large surface lot by the Arena. The current plan is to have them installed by July 1, 2022.
- The marina completed their installation of the new operating software, Dockwa. Billing is currently underway for seasonal boaters.
- The marina is exploring adding gates to dock entrances. Vandalism and break-ins have been occurring more frequently, and we need to address the safety of our boaters. Estimates have been received and Facility Maintenance is working with the Marina Manager for the best product.

- The Marina Manager, Brendan Kaplan, started a marina certification program the end of February in FL.

Campground & Beaches

- Campground reservations opened April 1st. We are looking forward to welcoming our neighbors to the north after two years of the border closed.
- North Beach will have the same food concessionaire as previous seasons. Discussions are underway for site improvements for the 2022 season.
- Seasonal hiring has started for campground and beach positions.



A new collaboration with BPRW, BFD, BSD and UVM resulted in a great “1st” unofficial beach day of the season at North Beach.



Events

- With approved applications for 2022 complete, our Events Manager has now moved forward to working with the specific events to finalize their contracts, in time order.
- We are seeing many events return to Waterfront Park and look forward to welcoming them back.

Urban Park Rangers

- Both the Lead Urban Ranger position and the Urban Ranger position have closed to applicants and interviews are scheduled in April for both positions.
- We have purchased e-bikes for the Urban Rangers program. They will be housed in a new shed at their main headquarters at Leddy Arena.

Recreation Division Update:

The Recreation Division is happy to welcome our newest team member, Kirsten Santor. Kirsten comes to us after working for several years at Essex Junction Recreation & Parks. She is our new Recreation Program Manager and her first day was April 4th.



The Recreation Division will be offering two separate day-long Spring Vacation Week Camps from February 21-25; a State Licensed Child Care Vacation Camp at the Miller Center, and Spring Break Cool Camp at Leddy Ice Arena. Online registration for all of our youth summer camps went LIVE on February 1st and generated over \$100,000 in

registration in the first week. Our full day, VT State Licensed Champ Camps are full for all seven weeks of the summer. Many other camps are also filling fast, so staff will be looking at providing additional offerings.

The Recreation Division has finalized an agreement with the Burlington School District to access Federal Covid-19 relief funds specifically intended for free summer programs. BSD will be providing a \$115,000 grant for Summer 2022. These funds are crucial for providing transportation for all summer programs (including BSD Summer School SOAR Program) as well as supporting our five Recreation & Nutrition sites (FREE Program) throughout the City. Additionally, VT After School Summer Matters Grants are being made available again for Summer 2022. We received \$35,000 in assistance from this funding source last summer and applied for \$40,000 for Summer 2022. We should hear about potential funding from this grant by late April.

Leddy Arena Programs

- **Freestyle Ice (on-going until May):** Meant for practice/instruction with a coach. Mornings Monday-Friday
- **Adult Skating Clinics (on-going until May):** Tuesday & Wednesday Mornings. Figures Clinic/Advanced Skating
- **Public Skate (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. Monday-Thursdays 9:00am-10:30am
- **Stick and Puck (on-going until May):** Drop-in only. M/T/TH 10:45am-12:15pm
- **Lessons**
 - Itty Bitty Lessons, Level 1-6, Super Sk8 and Adult
- Still space in our April Break youth skating camps at Leddy
- Completed successful Winter Vacation Cool Camps February 21-25



Miller/CORE Programs

- Spring Programs taking place at the Miller Community & Recreation Center or the ONE Community Center include:
 - American Sign Language
 - Ethiopian Cooking with Mulu Tewelde
 - Senior Adult Tax Assistance
 - North End Yoga
 - Yoga for Adults
 - Very Merry Theatre for Adults
 - Fit Lot Exercise classes
 - Women's Self Defense
 - Out & About Trips

CORE Adult Center

- CORE Adult Center participants attended nine trips in March to destinations throughout Vermont



- CORE Adult Center staff continue to offer a daily lunch program for Burlington seniors. Transportation to our Congregate Meal site is provided by SSTA through a statewide grant administered by Green Mountain Transit and United Way of Northwestern VT. ***Additionally, staff are working with Age Well VT and Champlain Housing Trust to restart our weekly Bhutanese Community Meal at the CORE Adult Center. We anticipate 20 to 30 Bhutanese Senior Adults to begin attending this weekly event later this month.***
- Offerings at the CORE Adult Center:
 - Chair Yoga, Bone Builders, International Cooking and Cooking with Mulu, Acrylics, Reminiscing, Book Club, Bingo, Theatre Class, Nature Crafts, Seed Saving, and a daily social hour
- **Congressman Peter Welch visited the CORE Adult Center on March 28th** for a press conference and Q&A with our senior adults. He announced new national bi-partisan legislation for tougher laws and stricter regulations to combat scammers that target older adults. Tens of millions of dollars are stolen each from older Vermonters.



Department Events

- Staff are planning for Kids Day, Leddy Beach Bites and July 3rd Fireworks. We are very much looking forward to being able to bring people together for our City-sponsored events.
- **Kids Weekend Events are set for Mid-May**
 - **Friday, May 13 4:00-7:00PM**
Roosevelt Park Pizza Party and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Social (Sports, Games, Mountain Bike Park, DJ)
 - **Saturday, May 14 11:00AM-2:00PM**
City Hall Park Celebration and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Social (Live Entertainment, Splash Pad Opening, Games and Crafts)
 - **Sunday, May 15 11:00AM-2:00PM**
Schmanska Park Celebration & Palmers Maple Creamies (Live Entertainment, Story Walk, Games, Outdoor Fun)

Athletics

- Our Melanie Davidian Women's Basketball League completed another successful season in late March.
- We are offering several athletic clinics and programs this spring:
 - Registration for Youth Lacrosse begins April 4th
 - Itty Bitty Soccer in April and May
 - Maven After School Skate Camps in May
 - Soccer Spark Clinics in April & May



- Disc Golf and NFL Flag Football Clinics in April

Admin Division Update

- Two submissions for the Red Stone Cottage – both are significantly over the estimate. We will determine final contractor and then work with them on phasing.
- Received \$300,000 VOREC grant. Supports Community Sailing Center, Winooski Valley Park District, Burlington Bike Park and BPRW equipment lending program
- Received \$68,000 grant from VHCB for Red Stone Cottage construction and funding towards a federal Historic Registration application
- Working on an ordinance and off-leash area subcommittee as part of PACC Dog Task Force
- Draft FY23 budget submitted with \$209,000 in cuts and an additional \$209,000 in cuts if needed
- BOF/CC approved parking fees for the 2022 season

Commission notes

- No additional notes this month





PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION

April 12, 2022, 5:30PM

ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173066008>

Webinar ID: 821 7306 6008

Phone 301-715-8592

PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

- I. Approval of Agenda
- II. Action Item: (10 min.) Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2022 Meeting (attachment)
*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
 - B. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, NEDA Walk at City Hall Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - C. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, MadFreedom, Inc. at Battery Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - D. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, Redeemed Christian Church, at Battery Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - E. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, BCA Events at City Hall Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - F. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, Church Street Marketplace at City Hall Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - G. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, REIB Juneteenth Event at City Hall Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - H. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, VT Commons School Field Day at Oakledge Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - I. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, GBGSL End of Season Jamboree at Calahan Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - J. Action Item: Approval of Special Use Permit, Old North End Farmers' Market at Dewey Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve request for Special Use Permit
 - K. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, Mascoma Bank, Community Block Party, ONE
*waive the reading and approve the request for Special Use and Amplified Sound
 - L. Action Item: Approval of Permit/Waiver, HOPE Works at Pomeroy and City Hall Parks (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve the request for Special Use and Amplified Sound

M. Action Item: Approval of Special Use Permit, Sangha Studio at Pomeroy Park (attachment)
*waive the reading and approve the request for Special Use Permit

IV. Action Item: (15 min.) Bike Share, Lease Space at Waterfront Hub, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachment)

V. Public Forum: (Time Certain 6:00PM)

VI. Information Item: (20 min.) Final Report on Calahan Park and Perkins Pier, Sophie Sauve, Parks Comprehensive Planner, BPRW (links)

https://issuu.com/btvparks/docs/220401-calahan-comprehensive_plan-report/s/15400064

https://issuu.com/btvparks/docs/perkins_pier_report_march_final_draft

VII. Information Item: (10 min.) Leddy Park Comprehensive Study, Sophie Sauve, Parks Comprehensive Planner, BPRW (verbal)

VIII. Action Item: (15 min.) Penny for Parks FY23 Projects, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachment)

IX. STANDING ITEMS:

A. Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

B. Report on PACC Dog Force

C. Report on Parks Foundation

X. Director's Items

XI. Commissioner's Items

XII. Discussion Item: (10 min.) Wright Ave Stairs, * * * EXPECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION * * *

XIII. Adjournment

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



MEMO

Date: April 8, 2022
To: Parks Commission
From: Cindi Wight, Director
CC: Erin Moreau, Waterfront Superintendent and Harbormaster

Subject: Bike Share Hubs in Parks

OVERVIEW

On May 5, 2021 Burlington, South Burlington, Winooski, the University of Vermont (UVM), Champlain College, the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) executed a one year contract with renewal options with Bolt Mobility to bring a fleet of electric bicycles to the region at no cost to the parties. This came after 3 years of a traditional (non-motorized) bikeshare network operated by Gotcha and then Bolt (after merger and purchase). On March 21, 2022 the City Council approved DPW to extend for up to two years an amendment to the agreement. The DPW memo to Council is at the bottom of this memo with the full details.

RELEVANT DETAILS FROM THE DPW MEMO

Bolt agreed to limit four bikes to the Waterfront location at the start of a day. In addition, the City requested signage at the Waterfront space in Year 1 direct users to local bike shops for longer rides and that the e-assist will not function on the Causeway. In Year 2, it is required they have the same signage but larger and have an in-app notification prior to using a bike on the waterfront.

LEASE

We will require Bolt to have a lease with BPRW to continue to have a rack in a City park. As it is a special use of a park, it requires Parks Commission approval. We are proposing to Bolt a 5% gross sales lease for any bike that starts from a Waterfront Park location, which is in line with other waterfront park leases where we provide only the land and no other assistance.

LOCAL SHOPS

We (Erin and Cindi) met with the local shops to see if there is any interest in a presence at the Waterfront. There were three ideas considered:

- 1) Improve the existing sign on the back of the electric panels at the end of College St to include the history of the Greenway and list local shops where you can rent a bike. We are open to that improvement and will work towards a design.



- 2) North Star Sports had an interest in free pop-up events, showcasing electric bikes, at Waterfront Park. We are in support of the concept and noted the process for a permit to host an event. We hope they do some!
- 3) Share potential locations where a trailer could get placed for rentals of bikes at the Waterfront. Erin sent the group a map with a couple of locations. We will continue to explore this option with interested shops.

Actions for Parks Commission

Approve the lease of space at a Waterfront Park for a bike rack for the bike-share program for 2022 and 2023 under the agreements approved by the Burlington City Council for a Waterfront Park location.



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Chapin Spencer, Director, Public Works
Robert Goulding, Public Information Manager, Public Works
Nicole Losch, Senior Planner, Public Works

DATE: March 21, 2022

CC: Cindi Wight, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

RE: Amendment of E-Bikeshare Operating Agreement with Bolt Mobility to Extend Term

Background

On May 5, 2021 Burlington, South Burlington, Winooski, the University of Vermont (UVM), Champlain College, the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) (together, the Partners) executed a one year operation agreement with renewal options with Bolt Mobility (Bolt) to bring a fleet of electric bicycles to the region at no cost to the parties. This came after 3 years of a traditional (non-motorized) bikeshare network operated by Gotcha (which Burlington was not an original agreement partner to) and now the e-bikeshare network operated by Bolt (after merger and purchase of Gotcha; Burlington is an agreement partner to this).

The goals of this system include:

- Providing convenient, alternative transportation choice to residents and commuters to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Growing the number of bike users and bike commuters in the region
- Creating an equitable system that allows anyone fair access to an e-bike

Performance to Date

Areas of Opportunity: Overall, we are pleased that Bolt met the commitment of paying a livable wage, hiring a local employee, transitioning the bikeshare network to an electric fleet, expanding the number of hubs from 17 to 28 and providing good customer service. They have been candid with us about supply chain challenges in getting the fleet up to 200 bikes (averaging 99 available bikes) and early technical trouble with their speed restrictions.

Areas to Improve: We need the fleet to expand and the number of hubs to expand further into neighborhoods. While we do think bike share riders should have access to the waterfront, we do not want a Waterfront station to be the dominant station in this network – which it currently is. Neighborhood expansion and purpose driven (as opposed to recreational) trips are our priority. Additionally, we want to see more aggressive marketing, including of the equity plan and the development of an escalated pricing model (to further discourage recreational trips).

Stakeholder Feedback

Our partners in Winooski, South Burlington, Champlain College and the University of Vermont are interested in continuing this partnership and renewing the agreement with Bolt. They agree that the system needs to refine and grow, but like us, believe that Bolt has shown responsiveness to our issues, flexibility to our community needs and has been one of the only micromobility companies willing to hire locally with staff on the ground.

Local bike shops and an area vendor have expressed frustration with the system. While they express support of the goals of shared mobility, their assessment of the system to date is that it has been tourist-driven and has served to steer business away from local businesses. While more than 2000 starting trips have begun at a campus station, more than 2000 trips have also started at the waterfront station. Assuming the waterfront station (especially if roundtrip) is a proxy for tourist recreation than we also agree that this has been a major flaw of the system's implementation.

Our Recommendation

Based on our analysis, our Partner's support, Bolt's willingness to introduce further restrictions to address local business concerns and a unanimous recommendation from the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee we would request an amendment permitting the operation agreement between Bolt and the Partners to be renewed for up to two additional years.

As Burlington has become more involved in the deployment of shared mobility between Partners, we have gotten partner agreement for more local business and community protections. See below for how this has evolved.

	Traditional Bikeshare	E-bikeshare Year 1	E-bikeshare Year 2 (proposed)
Burlington as Agreement Partner	NA	☑	☑
Speed Restrictions on Waterfront	NA	☑	☑
Livable Wage Guarantee	NA	☑	☑
Hubs	17	28	Minimum to expand 10 more hubs in BTV alone
Bikes	100	~100 deployed on average	200
Waterfront Rebalancing	NA	NA	Limited to 4 bikes to start each day during peak season

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Waterfront education	NA	- Signage directing users to local bike-shops for long rides - Signage alerting that e-assist will not function on Causeway	- Same signage with larger requirement - In-app notification prior to using waterfront bike
Escalated Pricing	X	Requested	Required
Mitigating tourism issues		Moved most popular station	- Requiring a public meeting to determine if ridership thresholds have been met - Discounted employer-based membership options - While not agreement-related, BPRW will be meeting with local businesses to assess a waterfront lease option for their own rental needs

ATTACHMENTS:

1. First Amendment to Bolt Operation Agreement
2. Original Bolt Operation Agreement
3. Bolt End of Year Data Report
4. Public Comment
5. User Fees

Motions:

Actions for City Council:

1. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an amendment in substantial conformance with the attached amendment to the agreement between Bolt Mobility Corporation, the City of South Burlington, the City of Winooski, the University of Vermont, Champlain College, the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, and the City of Burlington for e-bikeshare operation, to extend the original operating agreement by up to two years and add partner-specific performance conditions, subject to review and approval of the Burlington City Attorney's Office.

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MEMO

Date: April 11, 2022
To: Parks Commission
From: Cindi Wight, Director
Sophie Sauvé, Parks Comprehensive Planner
Subject: FY23 Penny for Parks Projects – **UPDATED spreadsheet**

Overview

The Department continues to prioritize projects based on the 2015 Parks Comprehensive Plan along with emergent needs and community requests that come up on an ongoing basis. When a park has two or more upcoming projects we aim to start with a comprehensive plan for the park to ensure we properly locate improvements and re-examine key elements such as access, accessibility, connectivity, site ecology and evaluate current park uses and needs based on robust community outreach throughout an extensive process. We recently completed Comprehensive Park Plans for Perkins Pier and Calahan Park. Based on upcoming improvements for Leddy (Bike Park, playground, and shelter) it is now in progress. We anticipate starting Roosevelt Park and Battery Park within the next few months.

The attached spreadsheet shows the projects identified for FY23, including multi-year projects and projects reprioritized from previous years.

Reading the spreadsheet

All projects included in the spreadsheet we intend to “touch” in FY23. The touch might be a start to a project, continue a project and/or finish a project. If there are no funds in the project line, we allocated the funds in a previous year. The “Budget FY” column indicates the year we allocated funds.

Funding in ‘system-wide’ is used as needed and is not for one specific project or park. In addition, a portion of the Parks Comprehensive Planner’s salary is in Penny for Parks.

Community Requests

You might have concerns seeing only \$5,000 in the community requests line. We allocated \$40,000 in FY22 and at this time, only anticipate spending the FY22 approved Greenway signage in FY22. Therefore, \$35,000 of the community requests remains in the budget and we do not need to add more than \$5,000 to FY23 as the project funds roll over year to year. The other two approved FY22 community request projects we added with their own budget line and anticipate completion in FY23 (Pomeroy Park tot lot and Roosevelt Park tennis court repair).

FY23 Penny for Parks Projects	Source	FY Budget	BUDGETED FY23
Arms Forest Trails	PFP	21	\$0
Battery Park - Cain Overlook	PFP	21	\$0
Battery Park Chief Greylock	PFP	21	\$0
Battery Park Comprehensive Plan	PFP	23	\$50,500
Calahan Park - Court and stormwater design	PFP	23	\$65,650
Calahan Park - playground	PIF	22	\$0
Champlain Park - Pocket Park construction	PFP/PIF	21	\$0
Kieslich Park - Natural Trail	PFP	22	\$0
Kieslich Park -Stone House - construction	PFP/Donation/ Grant	23	\$580,070
Lakeside Park - Playground design and community input	PFP	23	\$0
Leddy - Bike Park design	PFP	23	\$15,150
Leddy Park - Comprehensive Plan	PFP	22	\$0
Oakledge Park - Fitness equipment	Donation	22	\$0
Oakledge Park - lower restroom renovation	PFP	22	\$0
Oakledge Park - playground, restroom, beach access, parking	Mix	22	\$0
Perkins Pier - Playground design and community input	PFP	23	\$0
Pomeroy Park - replace tot lot	PFP	23	\$25,250
Roosevelt - Park Comprehensive Plan	PFP	22/23	\$55,000
Roosevelt Park - resurface courts	PFP	23	\$10,100
Smalley Park Playground	PFP	23	\$45,450
System wide - Bike Rack expansion	PFP	23	\$10,000
System wide - Lighting improvements	PFP	23	\$20,000
System wide - Park Comprehensive Planner	PFP	23	\$37,000
System wide - Parks Planning Contractual Services	PFP	23	\$3,000
System wide - PFP Community Requests	PFP	23	\$5,000
System wide - PFP Emergent needs	PFP	23	\$35,000
System wide - Playground equipment and wood fiber	PFP	23	\$25,000
System wide - Signage and Wayfinding	PFP	23	\$20,000
System wide - Standard Equipment replacement	PFP	23	\$25,000
System wide - walkway improvements	PFP	23	\$10,000

\$ 1,037,170



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
March 8, 2022
Parks and Recreation Commission**

Commission Present: Lantieri, Hurley, Farrell and Duke

Staff Present: Wight, Sauve and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:40 p.m. by Wight

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Farrell, second by Duke, motion carried.

Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission

Farrell nominated Duke as Chair, and Duke nominated Hurley as Vice Chair. All in favor of Duke as Chair and Hurley as Vice Chair, all were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Duke asked if anyone would like to speak to the consent agenda and several individuals from the public that had items replied.

Wilda White of MadFreedom, Inc. said they would be at Battery Park and hoped the Commission would support the request and was willing to answer any questions.

Tim Harger said he was available to answer any questions regarding the VT Commons School, said they were having a Field Day event.

Melissa Cain spoke to the neighborhood block party and that it was also a non-profit.

Zack Williamson also stated present and available for questions regarding the City Hall Park, will have a host of events through summer.

Natania Carter from Hope Works, regarding sexual awareness month and was available for questions.

Duke thanked all for coming out and offering events in the parks.

Duke asked to waive the reading of the consent agenda and motions into the record for approval.

Approval of consent agenda by Farrell, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Penny for Parks FY23 Projects

Wight updated that the Community requests had been approved but the whole slate for the year as well needed to be approved also. Have FY23 projects, based on comprehensive plan, 10 year plan from 2015, and other items that come up from year to year. Wight explained that the first column was funds going through PFP lines but not all PFP tax dollars, just run through that line.



Arms Forest Trails- FY21 started, most money spent about \$26,000 left, just because it says zero does not mean has no money but rather the funds were allocated in a previous year.

Battery Park/Cain Overlook – repair mortar, had no bids, looking into to change RFP

Battery Park/Chief Greylock – was a community request in FY21

Battery Park Comprehensive Plan - in City bond, separate budget

Calahan Park - based on plan, changes to courts, design work, storm water and playground, money is budgeted, selected company and working on final pieces

Champlain Park/Pocket Park - construction

Kieslich Park/Natural Trail - natural park pushed off until fall and aligned with, Stone house to award April 25th, relook at as project came in much higher than originally, ACT 250 permit came in.

Lakeside Park - FY23 shows zero dollars but put amount in to plan when have the money to spend and get community input ahead of time.

Leddy Bike Park/design - approved 2021 and was pulled into Leddy Park plan and can use those dollars to design when started, Leddy plan has additional bond money.

Calahan- out to bid soon

Perkins Pier - will not possibly do that playground depending on how it fits the comprehensive plan

Roosevelt Comprehensive Plan - started survey work this spring, with focus on circulation, resurfacing courts

Smalley Park Playground - natural playground and continue to use natural materials, working on

System wide projects:

Bike racks, some replacements, but making sure all parks have first

Lighting improvements

Comprehensive salaries

Community requests

Pomeroy Park Tot Lot FY23

Comprehensive Planner

Playground equipment and wood fiber

Signage and wayfinding

Standard equipment replacement

Walkway improvements

Lantieri asked if the numbers include full project or certain items, Wight said labor if contracting but if standard equipment replacement it is just the equipment, currently not billing services within department but will be doing in the future.

Wight also said budgeted based on the full Penny for Parks, getting back to the full penny, not big change from what was planned originally.

Lantieri asked how much, was told \$381,000 and after last year Mayor was not ready to assess, was still not at full penny and now based on Commission work promoting, based on understanding could.

Duke asked how far out budgeting PFP and was told about 5 years, about one year off currently.

Lantieri asked how compares to other years and Wight said the funds had been building up and good for a few years but Kieslich Park was a big project, FY23 taking some of monies toward next year saving for FY24 as needed to continue for project ending of others.



Motion to approve the PFP expenditures Hurley, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public Forum was opened at 6:02pm

Rick Sharp, owner of Burlington Bike and Segway, stated that after lobbying he started with 4 ebikes, added 4 more in 2018 and 6 more in 2021, many downtown places rent ebikes. Bikeshare came to Burlington and competed with bike shops, only peddle bikes originally then BOLT took over with ebikes, ¾ of BOLT revenue was received by the Waterfront location. Sharp said one hub on waterfront provides the most income and most use. Half of all ebikes come from Penny Lane hub, in 2021. Sharp said the City is aware that point to point hub and DPW admits but feels more important to have bikeshare that it's willing to support and Sharp feels he has \$20,000 in lost revenues to them. Feels unfair competition and loss of income, will not buy more ebikes this year due to uncertainty. Would like Bolt hub removed from Penny Lane and put at Battery Park in a true neighborhood. Feels the City should direct users to local bike shops. Complimented Wight for getting together with bike shops and putting a sign together to help local businesses and also to have less racks/bikes placed on Penny Lane, feels more work to be done.

Seeing nobody further from the public, Public Forum was closed at 6:11 pm

Bike Share, Lease Space at Waterfront Hub

Wight explained that she gave a memo from DPW and herself and why looking at lease, in 2019 approved rack and used encumbrance but is actually a lease, similar to that of Maven and would do a lease per the City that was passed by City Council, get 5% gross sales for any bike that starts from that rack and go to UVM. City would receive 5% of what that trip costs. Bolt said checked with technical team and can track that information. Still proposing to keep rack at that location, is clear, strong tourist attraction, does have Amtrak and lots of UVM students that go to the park and they would need a place to put there bike, otherwise penalized for having bike outside of the system. Trying to work hard with shops to help, working on signage, some popup areas and the like. Would have to be put out publicly as an RFP. If permanent would have to be RFP.

Duke asked if concerns about competition and Wight said yes some, if someone came to town they will plan ahead, but if in town and go past the rack, hard to know if there would be people that would say I want to rent a bike and then say they are physically there, they might not call and would just go to the location. Local Motion used to have bikes outside and then moved to an on-line system and have gotten stronger and stronger by online rather than outside on the path.

Sharp said when this was proposed years ago, it was stated it would not take money out of the tourist part of the economy and now City is taking 5% of the cut and admitting the reason to have the rack in place is to promote income, otherwise it would not work without that rack there. Feels in direct competition with him as it is ebikes and not regular bikes. Feels not fair as it is on the bike path and feels people can use smartphone. Otherwise feels customers can use smartphone and find a bike rental. Urged the City to stay local.

Lantieri said feels staying in tact with local shops and contingent upon and for bikeshare to stay is contingent on being in that spot. Asked what the actual action is and was told to approve lease for bike rack on Penny Lane, Lease of space.



City Council approved 2 year lease extension and City Council is aware of there being a Waterfront bike rack, no concern to move or that they did not want a rack at the waterfront, but did work toward improving.

Farrell said feels two different markets, different than the person that happens upon one, great location to have the rack and is in favor. Duke agreed, feels room for a lot of business and a big market.

Lantieri asked if they had authority to open another space for another vendor and Wight said interesting and if a vendor decides it would like to have a spot leased, if the commission was interested and approved now, would not have to come back at a later time. Could approve one for bike share rack and the other location as determined by department as temporary bike lease Rental shop to be managed by local shop.

Lantieri would like to give approval to work on another space moving forward and all agreed with that.

Motion to approve bike share lease by, Lantieri, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Motion to approve a lease of a space to be determined for a non-permanent bike rental at a location to be determined, by Lantieri, second by Hurley, motion carried

Final Report on Calahan Park and Perkins Pier

Sauve stated she would share the final report for both Perkins Pier and Calahan Park but would go through the big pieces first.

Started with Calahan Park and updated on project; received final report from consultant, everything in the report was already conveyed but outline the full process as the public process, message is clearly communicated, heard from public that it is a great park but why doing anything. Sauve stated not looking to blank slate, just looking at what is working what is not and who are we missing in the park and moving forward as doing playground, are we putting in the right place? Want to make sure beneficial and lasting to community. West to East things familiar, ballfields are in the same place, the community says not regulation size but not a quick fix to make large but rather what the need is, and currently they can't have tournaments. Connections to Pine Street more gradual path into the ballfield and around the ballfield, also ravine near bagel shop a boardwalk potentially going in for educational area, informal now but could be much improved. Pine and Locust formal connection and proposed new location of building, move to more beneficial location but still central to other activities and visibility. West of building will be the playground area, taking out some of the space, future phase. More paths around soccer fields, better surface, more seating also and benches in parks. Upper terrace area, basketball more to the east and new pavilion to the west, multi-use ice rink and shelter in the summer similar to North Beach. Rain garden and storm water feature to alleviate water issues.

Perkins Pier, robust public process, popup in park in December and what priorities are, north is up, currently come and eliminate asphalt and see tree line promenade, vehicular traffic comes around and through greenway pulling into site but can still be by the lake and not have biker riding in front of them. Concern with temporary detour has a lot of crossing of traffic and would reduce dramatically, would have floating dock. Promenade leads down to play area and have fun pieces could be nautical or water oriented, plaza to watch fireworks and sunset lawn, extension for public to walk on boardwalk for all, shade structures and seating, could use non-motorized. Ramps go into the water if carrying



paddleboards and helps to protect from being tossed around helps to extenuate from waves. Concerns with climate change thinking of splash pad or something without getting into the lake. Parking lot to water area have storm water infiltration and Water department could expand and any investment would need to be north of that area. Adding slips and removing boat access, acknowledging another options for launching, this space more for boating and docking not launching.

Farrell asked how to get to work yard and Sauve said connection not meant to be obvious as not meant for everyone.

Hurley asked about Pine Street access to Calahan and the gradual slope and asked about the unofficial one if it would stay and if better signage and was told yes it would be improved and better signage and more than one sign.

\$12-\$124 million, the not appealing things are the things needed most.

Lantieri asked the proposed fee for material for promenade and also the Pine Street corner of Calahan would be. Sauve said more about conceptual and boardwalk plan for Calahan and would let out onto Pine Street.

Duke said she felt the design was beautiful and Hurley asked what the commission could do to help elevate and excite people about the projects and Sauve said to just get people aware of and the more they can promote the process and include as well as ask people to be a part of and embrace.

Leddy Park Comprehensive Study

Sauve explained the plan kicked off internally last month and kicked off with consulting team 3 years ago, understand projects coming up and came from different place and different priorities coming up. Led by SE Group and others to just walk the site with BPRW larger team of what works and what doesn't, in two weeks identified specific stake holders to understand needs as users to engage from the start. In May have public meeting and look at options for planning and going forward and have open house then hit summer and have tabling and more interaction personally. Intercept surveys during summer and then in fall final public meeting with final plan, doing outreach and every voice is important. Heard a desire from the public for a public pavilion and playground.

Hurley asked if there was an initial date for public forum and was told only end of May but not definite and would let know and send. On April 28 stakeholders meeting, could come at 4:30 or 5:30 to hear specific groups, this would be for commission to attend not the public as it is specifically for stakeholders.

Standing Item:

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours

Lantieri had an additional hour, Farrell had an additional hour, Hurley had an additional hour and Duke had an additional 3 hours.

Report on PACC Dog Force

Duke said moving along got several sub committees formed, off leash, ordinance, had a public service announcement on April 1st PSA April Stools Day, still information gathering.



Report on Parks Foundation

Wight said looking for Friends of Frame came to talk to foundation around ideas and had communication and Mayor is getting feelers to see if behind, fundraising not committed as of yet.

Director's Items

Wight said rec team down 3 full time positions, filled 2, Kirsten Santor, Recreation Manager and KJ Doyle accepted Event Manager and need to fill one more. Kids Weekend, May, ONE Center event space open, campground \$290,000 on first day, open two months later than usual for opening day. Received couple grants VHCB and another for Red Stone Cottage. Tough budget year, had to show two rounds of cuts. Unions are currently negotiating and will depend on COLA decision.

Commissioner's Items

Lantieri reminded all about FPF to post as much as can or want it is free if using government profile. Also asked about student representative and Wight said sent to Rice and BHS and has not heard anything yet. Maybe rely on social media and the extra boost as commissioners might be more helpful. Hurley also suggested promoting through Ward NPA's.

Lantieri trying to find ways to do community engagement and get gardens going again. Would like to have the green area reinvigorating.

Wight said did outreach before COVID and after and need to get done and keep opening again and will get a lot of same people showing up and was not a lot of draw to that space and could check in with Max to see what the latest drawings are for that area. Wight said Meghan O'Daniel is the person to reach out to for permits for doing something in the park for gathering and also talk to Max to share designs with all. Asked if reported and as a neighbor of the area to use the plots and Wight said if using would need to know they would go be temporary and go away.

Duke said two open commission positions and need to recruit, particularly from different demographics and areas, do outreach and get diverse group to apply.

Wright Avenue Stairs EXPECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hurley made a motion to go into executive session where pre-mature disclosure would put the city at a significant disadvantage, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Motion to go out of executive session by Farrell, second by Lantieri, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:49pm