BURLINGTON
PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT

AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
April 4, 2017
645 PINE STREET, FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30PM

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Consent Agenda
   A. Action Item: Approval of Amended Minutes of December 6, 2016 Meeting
   *waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
   B. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2017 Meeting
   *waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file
   C. Information Item: Report on Use of Segways/ebikes on the Bike Path
   *waive the reading, accept the communication and place it of file

III. Presentation: Burlington BikeShare (verbal)

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

V. Action Item: Request for Conservation Funding by WVPD (attachment)

VI. Action Item: Request for Conservation Funding by Lake Champlain Land Trust (attachment)

VII. Update Item: Youth Sports Alliance (verbal)

VIII. Action Item: Vendor Contract Approval (attachment)

IX. Action Item: No Smoking Signage (attachment)

X. Presentation: BPRW FY18 Budget (verbal)

XI. Director's Items

XII. Commissioner's Items

XIII. Adjournment

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

BURLINGTON
PARKS
RECREATION
WATERFRONT

PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
April 4, 2017
645 Pine Street, Front Conference Room
5:30PM

Commission Present: Bossange, Kaplan, Hurley, Hanson, Hale, Healy

Staff Present: Bridges, Rogers, Holbrook, Cahill and Putzier

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

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

Approval of Consent Agenda
Bossange read the items aloud with the motions included and a motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Hurley, second by Hale, motion carried.

Burlington BikeShare
Abby Bleything, UVM Sustainable Transportation Coordinator and Katie Martin, CATMA introduced themselves and stated that they wanted to explain the program to the group and how it would work and benefit the City overall.

They said they had two bikes currently on campus and have not been as successful as anticipated, feel a need for this service and wanted to get buy in by schools and other organizations. Rolling out in phases, joint effort with Planning Commission, explained that it was very cost effective, reduced congestion and wasted fuel, improved access to jobs, higher retail exposure and home values, increased connectivity and physical activity and decreased air pollution. Explained how evolved from a simple old fashioned "dumb" bike style to a "smart" accessible bike process. Felt the cost is lower than ever and a good time to implement. The mission is to transform the region by providing a high quality convenient and affordable bike share system that will connect people to more places where they live, work, and play in Chittenden County.

Currently have a bike library and bike share systems, mentioned where in Plan BTV walk/bike is located for folks to get more and better information. Met with others around the best bike to get, decided on going with Gotcha bike, has innovative technology, fully customizable, and turnkey solution. Will be the first to have an e-bike, will have 25 out of only 100 in the country. Appeals to a wider variety of people by having an electrical assist. Shows all statistics, area, miles, co2 reduced, calories burned, money saved versus driving and the locations people are going and what are the most popular destinations. Hubs can move very easily. Technology is on the bike including the lock on the back.

Hanson asked what the locking system consists of if you stop and want to lock and was told you are still charged when you stop for time and responsible for locking, it does include a locking system. Also asked about helmets and was told it is up to the operator to regulate themselves. You must be 18 or older to use and have a credit card and sign a waiver to become a member.

Rogers asked if the bikes were being bought or leased and was told leased and updated every three years by company.

Cahill asked how many bikes would be available and was told 100 in about 18 hubs, 25 would be e-bikes and the majority would be on campuses. This is phase one and would then have phase 2 and 3 later that would have more buy-in by others outside of the colleges.

Bridges said critical and the City of Burlington will be helping with the infrastructure of bike areas. A question was asked about bikes going to the beach and was told that the intent is to have only for point A to point B, not for tourist use, not in competition with other businesses that cater to tourism.

Kaplan stated that the Commission has been very specific about e-bikes on the bike path and the regulations around that, was told limits can be put on the locations that the bikes are allowed to go.

Healy felt a great idea and long overdue, felt crucial to have hubs out in the North end of town and would like to know if the bikes would be year round or seasonal and was told they would like to have year round the first year and would have at least half available during the winter months.

Hale advocated to have early, phase two is a heavily populated area and would be located on North Winooski Avenue.

Cahill asked what type of encouragement will be given toward education about where bikes are locked and is concerned about them locked to trees and other areas, was told the way they are set up you really want to end up at a hub as it will get very expensive. Holbrook asked what would happen if a hub was full and was told should be able to accommodate but will be tracking as they go.

Still in the planning and finalizing initial agreement with Gotcha, sponsorship, system planning, developing program specifics (rates, service et), hub locations, anticipated pilot launch date is summer 2017.

Bossange asked if the presenters had asked what other Towns/Cities are doing for input of what is working and wanted to ensure they are getting answers from other users and was told they have been relying on Gotcha at this point but are working on reaching out to others as well.

Hurley asked if they had a website and was told yes.

Request for Conservation Funding by WVPD
Cahill stated they have full support from staff to enhance conservation and have been vetted through BPRW and the Conservation Board.

Nick Warner, WVPD stated partnering with Lake Champlain Land Trust, the Marina was shown on the overhead, it is a flood plain property and residential, current family owners would like to transition back to the river. Need to get an appraised value, family will get a real estate appraisal and is currently on board with the plans. This property has highest conservation metric, Board understands the importance, owners can't donate but very interested in selling. WVPD would like to take to the next level and get an appraisal if results in a deal to sell and under a contract then pre-acquisition piece would be next.

Bossange asked how much land and was told about 2.4 acres used to be an island, 40 slip Marina, would like to continue recreation activities and keep a part of the marina operational.

Motion for funding for the grant in the amount of 3,000 for the initial appraisal work for 3090 North Avenue extension property and a contingency of an additional $7,300 based on a signed purchase and sale agreement (or equivalent) for a total of $10,300 by Bossange, second by Hale, motion carried.

Request for Conservation Funding by Lake Champlain Land Trust
Chris Boget introduced himself from Lake Champlain Trust, been fundraising and have continued conversation on the rest of the property, need appraisal, feel realistic and good about going forward with budget. Worked with on exclusions looking at 93.5 acres of property with no structures. Proposal similar to last easement, no construction or upset to conservation. Willing to look at and have been thinking about for some time. 20 acres north of the bike path buying the rights on it, can't build on, do management before logging, will own those rights and restrict what can be done. Will have to allow public to go through the property. Will work through what type of public access will be on the proposed property moving forward.

Hanson was glad the City is on the forefront of trying to save this land and would like to see the public access piece worked through. Having a better management plan will help. Feels a great direction to go in.

Hurley asked if there was public access currently and was told moving forward the plan is to improve the trails and come up with a public plan. Bridges stated not a very inclusive plan currently, working very hard to articulate with them on the proper signage and bike racks as well as clear and articulated paths. Current value will be significantly less due to the very low density for housing.

Motion to recommend the request for $8,000 with the condition that they submit an itemized budget with the contingency that 20% of the $8,000 go toward staff time, this shall not establish a precedent, by Hale, second by Healy, motion carried.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00PM, 3 min. per person time limit)
Public forum opened at 6:18 p.m. by Kaplan
Seeing nobody from the public the forum was closed at 6:18 p.m.

Youth Sports Alliance
Rogers began by handing out minutes of the last meeting and stated that Roach and himself have been communicating with youth organization that are doing sports and how this can work better with both staff. First wanted to contact School Department, as they are the biggest user of the field space. Discussed what the purpose of the coalition would be and was decided reservation deadlines, how for safety reasons to communicate dangerous fields and the like, led to a comprehensive list of groups that are doing youth sports, which included updating contact information, requiring a safety officer with cell and emergency information for each group. Talked about fees and how each sets fees, to be discussed at a later date for the next meeting and of the 35 organizations had a good turnout of keeping all engaged and decisions will be made at these meetings, need to have a representative from each group. Broke down into three areas; field and facilities availability, maintenance & Reservation processes, program safety and potential coalition functions.

Gave some education about the actual fees that are incurred to maintain indoor and outdoor facilities and what the costs would be so that everyone was on the same page. Questions came up on where new spaces are going to be built and how no money is available from Schools to build on their usable field spaces. Spoke about background checks and insurance liability and having all covered and provided to department.

Kaplan brought up the question of if a new sport happens to come up what is the process to help integrate spaces for new activities that want to use field space, how do we keep it equitable and have a process for users. Rogers explained that it is necessary to be equitable to the families being served and the trends, which must be fair and will continue to work on a plan.

Hanson very happy that Rogers took on the initiative to pull this group together and is a big improvement from what it was in the past and thanked for all his work.

Kaplan suggested including UVM in the discussions as well as Mater Christi, and other schools and was told they were informed and included and Kaplan added that it is known that they are users as well and could also help with space and equipment. Encouraged to put all discussions on line so that it is very transparent. Users asked to have links on the department site connect with the other users and the department has implemented already to be connected.

Hanson also suggested posting open times to the public and Rogers stated that is now linked and will be posted by the School system and BPRW is looking to do the same.

Rogers stated twice a year will have some type of presentation/class that is relevant to all individuals either around safety or health, field use, educational.

Vendor Contract Approval
Bridges stated that this was for the Beansie's contract as it has a new owner, the primary difference is that they would like to keep the bus on location rather than moving every night after closing.

Motion to approve the contract with Beansie's as presented by Hurley, second by Bossange, motion carried.

No Smoking Signage
Bridges stated that the discussion is around locations for placing no smoking signage as per City Council, showed the banners that are up currently, picked bright colorful ones and will have similar ones at the skate park. Received a lot of positive feedback from social media. Stated per the ordinance he is required to designate areas in five parks and sent out some locations prior to the meeting to all. After discussion with commission will bring to the City Council. He reiterated that he was instructed to give locations, was very mindful to create spaces that you did not have to walk through or on a path to get to a specific location.

Leddy, area to the south of the Arena, Hanson said she would prefer the parking lot, feels that the area is too close to the path that is used.

North Beach, Parking area and the grassy area behind the parking spaces as well as the campground is the designated area.

Battery Park area is the outside area that runs along Battery Street and around the corner to the west toward North Avenue.

Waterfront Park, the entirety of the events space is smoking area, will ask event holders to have some specific areas, also the area on the back side of Splash and use the berm between the boardwalk and the turn around.

Oakledge no smoking just behind the bocce court area and the upper parking lot, in the grassy area in between the two fields.

Bossange asked about the ability to get to the Boathouse without going through a smoking area and was told staff deemed necessary, not many other locations.

Hanson felt it would be helpful to look at the point of view of crossing areas, has a problem with having to walk through an area of smoke. Felt Battery was the only park you could get through without having to walk through. Felt being very generous with space. Bossange agreed that the area nearest to the Boathouse is just too close to people walking through.

Bridges and Kaplan suggested the Commission send comments via email on specific ideas or areas by Friday on no smoking areas.

BPRW FY18 Budget

Bridges handed out the draft of the FY18 capital plan and added he had previously been talking about many of the projects with the Commission over the past several months. Mentioned in the process of rehabilitating a portion of the bike path and while working on the capital plan they are always looking for ways to group like projects to bid together and do one contract to save money on contract and staff time.

Penny for Parks (PFP), is a dedicated fund, lower number than in previous years due to court improvements, gave explanations of the specific projects and how spending the monies.

Park Impact Fees, paid when development gets certificate of occupancy. The biggest payments are on residential housing. Have not received much money in past years, expect some influx from current projects. Would like to continue to install standard lighting and efficiencies. Campground is getting a siting study currently, has not been updated since 1950's and needs improvements very large revenue generator, parks facility relocation design is to rebuild and improve facility for department needs

10 Year Capital Bond, North Beach overpass design, Waterfront Park site remediation, several court improvements (3) in different parks, Lakeview Cemetery fence replacement, annual walkway and green belt improvements and a staff position.

10-Year Capital Projects managed by DPW-Park paving, MCRC facility upgrades, Leddy facility upgrades and Lakeview Cemetery building repairs.

TIF, Grants, Donations-City Hall Park design and construction, former Burlington College property trail design build and Waterfront Park soil characterization (waterfront TIF).

Breakdown of funds under each category;
PFP Projects $372,725
PIF Projects $175,000
BPRW Bond Projects $3,956,700
Other Bond Projects $361,040
Grant ad Donations $390,000

Stated a very aggressive plan, learned to take better care of facilities, would like to have Commission approve the capital plan and have done a great job with planners managing, doing lots of projects outside of the plan.

Hale expressed the plan was well done and appreciated all the hard work, Bossange asked about the two separate planners and was told that one was already filled and had been working and the second was just filled in the last couple of months. Asked for an update every three months. Bridges said he would be updating.

Director's Items
Bridges explained the completed easement at Calahan Park, doing housing on a small portion of land that abuts the park, gardeners will be able to use spaces for parking. This speaks to partnerships and collaborations with others, City Council approved and legal is reviewing. Bridges also added that the Commissioners needed to sign up to be connected to the City email system, if not signed up must do so immediately. Putzier will send a new Commission list as well as the schedule and attendance records.

Bike Path schedule is in next phase hope to bid in the next couple weeks, beginning of June will start construction and will be closures with lots of notice and outreach, trying to minimize closures as much as possible but must remain efficient and cost effective to get the work done in a timely fashion.

Commissioner's Items
Hurley is doing work with film festival and shared with the Commission, invited all to stop by.

Kaplan said she had connected the State cessation department with the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront to collaborate and help with ending tobacco smoking. Kaplan also stated she would not be able to attend the May Commission meeting.

Hale told group about the "One Good Deed" awards event on Saturday and invited all to attend.

Adjournment
Motion was made to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. by Hale, second by Healy, motion carried.