BURLINGTON PARKS RECREATION WATERFRONT

AMENDED AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
April 2, 2019
645 PINE STREET, FRONT CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30PM

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Consent Agenda
   A. Action Item: Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2019 Meeting
   *waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

III. Presentation Item: (10 min.) Volunteer of the Year Award, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW and Gary Rogers, Recreation Superintendent, BPRW (verbal)

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

V. Presentation Item: (10 min.) Coach of the Year Award, Jennifer Cotton, Athletics Coordinator, BPRW and Gary Rogers, Recreation Superintendent, BPRW (verbal)

VI. Action Item: (10 min.) Transient Non-Peak Rates, Erin Moreau, Waterfront Manager, BPRW (attachment)

VII. Discussion Item: (10 min.) Dogs in Pomeroy Park, Cindy Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

VIII. Presentation Item: (20 min.) Penny for Parks 10 year anniversary: Budget, Process and Community Requests, Nina Safavi, Parks Planner, BPRW (attachment)

IX. Action Item: (10 min.) Use of Conservation Funds, 311 North Avenue, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (attachment)

X. Information Item: (15 min.) Update on Drone Policy and E-Bike Communication to DPW and Mayor's Office, Cindi Wight, Director, BPRW (verbal)

XI. STANDING ITEMS:
   A. Update on Parks Foundation, John Bossange (verbal)

XII. Director's Items

XIII. Commissioner's Items

XIV. Adjournment

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BURLINGTON PARKS RECREATION WATERFRONT

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
April 2, 2019

Commission Present: Bossange, Kaplan, Pierce, Hurley, Hale, Healy, Farrell, Montroll and Harris

Staff Present: Wight, Rogers, Cotton, Safavi and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:31 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan

Approval of Agenda
Motion was made to amend the agenda by adding Item #XI B. Monthly Commission Volunteer Hours and switching the order of Item VI and VII by Bossange, second by Pierce, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda
Healy read aloud with the motions included, motion made to approve the consent agenda by Healy, second by Bossange, motion carried.

Volunteer of the Year Award
Rogers presented the award to Deena Murphy, explained how she can be found around town constantly organizing transportation for children to participate in all youth programming with multiple organizations, particularly with BPRW. Has been doing for 4-5 years in addition to organizing rides to practices and games and speaking to and on behalf of dozens and dozens of children and parents, she also spends a great deal of time coordinating with all dates and times and thanked for the dedication and time spent getting children involved in programming.

Murphy thanked and said more people are helping also now and how wonderful it is to see all the connections, she explained how she hears lots of good stories from the kids while in the car. Rogers added that a plaque with her name will hang on the wall at MCRC.

Kaplan said because of the super volunteers all other volunteers come forward.

Coach of the Year Award
Cotton presented the award to Derek Poquette, who has been coaching since 2011, helped with football through a large change, difficult change in recruiting and retaining and making sure kids are having fun. Very dedicated and reliable, always willing to pitch in and help.

Poquette explained what a pleasure it has been to coach and satisfying, appreciates all BPRW does for youth and the community as well as parents. Rogers added when there is a need for coaching and getting volunteers it is very hard, for the last 10 years when in need of a coach, Derek has stepped up, very appreciative.

Kaplan thanked Poquette for coaching, explaining how appreciative the City was.

Transient Non-Peak Rates
Wight explained the proposed request from Erin Moreau, Waterfront Manager, to discount non-peak weekday rate of $1.75, which can include shoulder seasons (May/June & Fall) or midweek. Motion to approve the rate by Healy, second by Farrell, Motion carried.

Penny for Parks 10 Year Anniversary: Budget, Process and Community Requests
Safavi began by giving an update in terms of what the fund is and what to do with the dedicated tax that went into effect in 2008, initially received a lot of requests and then went through the Master Plan, go through process of ranking, submit projects and then seek approval from Commission each year. Receive about $370,000 every year as it is tied to the grand list and if it increases the funds available go up also. Noticed since implementing the program the department has been receiving fewer requests from public and will start doing more outreach. Some requests don't meet requirements or are not timely, department will do outreach with funding from annual capital plan, dedicate $40,000 to get feedback from community and understanding of how to put in a good application. Safavi included a copy of the new form and how it was kept simple. Would take any comments for improving, will discuss scoring of projects but did not include in application. Also asked for suggestions on locations and events to go to and help spread the word and present on the process. Encouraged to go on our website and direct others to go for further information as well. New marketing and outreach to come.

Bossange, asked if safavi would share the amount of money available each year and Safavi said will accept one to three projects a year to keep within fundable scope. Asked if it could be included with camp guide and in literature as well as having online and was told looking for other places within BPRW that are already using but asked Commission to do outreach with others as well.

Hurley asked if there was a deadline for submitting projects and Safavi stated eligibility is very basic and stated on the form, important to note that projects must be on City property, per city ordinance, generally will know instantly if qualified. Establish projects once a year but can apply any time of the year. Scoring criteria is higher if you can provide volunteer hours or if fundraising is a part of the project but only so much of that would happen and still stay equitable. Court resurfacing at Lakeside and Schmanska were first PFP (Penny for Parks) projects.

Healy asked if people are notified if proposal is accepted and was told yes and work with if acceptable, hoping to help people submit fundable projects.

Farrell asked what the approval rate is and was told about 50% only because don't get many projects and some are not feasible, such as turn squash court at Leddy into art space with bullet proof glass etc. Feels likely many people don't really know about PFP and how it works.

Kaplan asked what PFP was originally made for and Safavi said they are good matching funds for projects to get accomplished.

Farrell asked if Wight was able to go to ward 2/3 NPA meeting to present and Wight said she is on the list to get on the agenda to present and is working on a better way to communicate with NPA's, envisions helping them to identify a park and the NPA can vote during the eating time of the meeting and brainstorm together to present and help them come up with a project. Safavi added that if a project comes from a bigger group it would have a better chance of happening due to the larger support. Also

the department does not track smaller or non-costing projects currently and working on doing a better job at showing those projects.

Hale explained best to talk to people before they submit an application and spend a few hours with before submission. Safavi said in working with Tuttle from Planning & Zoning, suggested doing outreach before, show the applications from the community to the NPA so they can participate with the mentorship and help in processing, also would like scoring included in the process and to be very clear.

Kaplan asked if c click fix could be a part of getting projects, Safavi stated currently received requests and are routed through BPRW maintenance staff, more streamlined and just happen, talked about how filtering through and counting in PFP projects and getting put through general capital. Kaplan would like to see more of a conversation with public of all proposals and feels that C click fix would be the connector. Wight working with other departments to help incorporate getting specific positive outreach.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)
Public forum opened at 6:06 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Ann Kiley, North Street resident, explained she was involved in a Front Porch Forum (FPF) conversation in the old north end regarding Pomeroy Park and dogs. She was aware how some would like to have a dog park located in Pomeroy. Explained she lives on North Street, conversation has been going on about dogs using the fenced in area of the park for part of the day and then kids at a different time, stating the conversation was good but came to the conclusion not a good idea. Agreed no close dog park in the area, understands but does not have a dog. Only real green space is the back area that is fenced and very small and does not think it would work well.

Scott Goodwin stated he lives on North Street a few houses past Willard and has a dog and would like to see how others feel about using the park. Wanted to know what the next steps are or would be and feels the issue will not solve itself. Said no other parks available in the area and most are walking through in the morning and several dogs play as walking through.

Owen Harris a BHS Junior who participates in the youth advisory explained how he was interested in serving on the commission, went to Wildways meeting and very interested in serving. He stated he uses City parks a lot and feels has a different perspective than adults might have. Is excited to be an active participant on the Commission.

Public forum closed at 6:16 p.m.

Dogs in Pomeroy Park
Wight received some history of Pomeroy Park provided by Roach, last discussed in 2013 and at the time tried to dissuade from bringing pets into the park and to keep out of the playground, since could not come to consensus had help from police to enforce no dogs in the park and then they did not have community officer available anymore. From perspective believe this is a park that has a playground that was designed for children and because of obesity and the need for recreation unfortunately children and dogs can't coexist as the location is very small and does not allow due to design. Need to have dog owners obey this rule. Understand the need for a place to have a dog park but very hard to have in an urban neighborhood due to noise issues.

Montroll said he used to play in that park and it does not have a lot of green space and would be a shame to not have that available, he also sees a need for a dog park in that end of town.

Hale said she has a lot of refugee neighbors that have a very strong issue with dogs and very aware of people that are not comfortable with dogs and would love to find a place for dogs to go but need to have a lot of considerations that would need to be put into place to find a location suitable. Feels Pomeroy is not the right place.

Pierce lives in old north end and is a dog owner would love a place closer within a short walk.

Farrell said it really sounds like Pomeroy is not the right location and feels compassion for dog owners not having a place to go and it is definitely good to be looking at other locations.

Healy asked what is currently available and was told Starr Farm and the Waterfront are the only ones with the possibility of Oakledge, would be great to find a solution, not really any location.

Hurley lives near Battery Park and asked if the fence at Pomeroy was because of children and was told mainly because of slope and dangerous, for safety, very small area, Roosevelt has some fencing but mainly for baseball, not gated.

Bossange felt it should stay for children and said very hard to find a space in the urban city area that would not create a noise issue, part of being a dog owner in a City, it is on the owner to find a space, is inconvenient but can't see a close easy alternative.

Kaplan suggested both dog owners and staff take a look at this, some cities have dog runs but not parks and would likely not have the barking all day long and maybe some are paved or wood chipped, not big but a quick off-leash, appreciates the civility of the discussion on FPF and thanked both for coming. Hale suggested an Air B&B for dogs to go to as a possibility, or some type of shared back yard space.

Use of Conservation Funds, 311 North Avenue
Wight explained that back in July approved more money than needed to use, the ask is not different but have a better summary. Two additional costs, title insurance and closing date did not happen as early as anticipated and owed more interest. Between July to November realized all paperwork was done but check did not get cut for tax abatement, asking for less money but using differently. Up to $3,200, Board of Finance passed unanimously last night.

Motion to approve request for funds by Pierce, second by Hale, motion carried.

Update on Drone Policy and E-Bike Communication to DPW and Mayor's Office
Wight explained that the drone policy was sent to attorney and they have not gotten to it yet for approval, waiting until hear back. E-bike discussion was around speed and scooters run with a throttle and given to DPW and the Mayor, basic premise is the city will move forward with "Gotcha", will be a pilot in the fall. Will roll out ebikes, trying to work with shop owners and can put geo stops on, not intended as tourist thing and will help to make sure supporting rental shops. Nothing final yet.

Update on Parks Foundation (Standing Item)
Bossange still putting budget together for Rock Point/Arms, some construction started, will keep posted, had last foundation meeting, in process of what project will do next, possibly at Oakledge rock area so that folks can get closer to the water.

Report from Commission on Volunteer Hours (Standing Item)
Wight explained working on BTV stat and trying to capture volunteer hours and wanted to have commission share how many hours each month they volunteer time, want to capture and include in the reporting. Good information to have and show to community. Putzier will automatically calculate the hours for each commission meeting and who attended. When Putzier sends out the commission agenda she will also send reminder to commission to send volunteer hours via email to her.

Director's Items
Wight updated on the Planning for Leddy Park public workshop that will take place at Miller Community Rec Center on April 9th at 5:30pm, will have several stations if specific topic, can go directly to that area and all can be heard. Need to name park near the waterfront in front of the new marina, suggestion to call Water Work Park and will bring more information at next meeting to discuss, it would be interpretive. Bike path is out for bid, 3 bids coming, most challenging section, support letters from AARP, Local Motion and another along with the Mayor's office regarding the appropriate width, it does take the lake, need to go to Army Corp of Engineers, parks team is working on what to do with rare plants in the area will move to another space to help protect and save. Waterfront project is getting close, late spring and doing everything to push that project and have the Vermont City Marathon happening, Beach Bites will be every week this summer, meeting every week with library regarding the Stone House and how to use, initial piece that meets the donor that caretakers would be conservation staff and would be located on second floor, would rotate books at the location for the library, can't make a library as it needs to support outdoor recreation, focused on natural programming, look at the needs that are not being met. Met Preservation Trust of Vermont and Housing Vermont and explained what is historical about the house and the front is historical can't block, getting the roof replaced. New mascot will be revealed at Kids Day.

City Hall Park update, passed, long list of items that were removed to meet the request to fund the project from City Council, bottom line not changing may be making other changes within the full project. Challenging part is may not start until mid-July as SD Ireland is busy and can't get to any earlier. PHH's in soil were found and categorized due to fires and a pesticide that may be related to how trees were maintained.

Bossange asked if Wight would have a station at the Leddy workshop that speaks to the pause place and was told yes.

Commissioner's Items
Hale shared there would be a community brunch on May 5th, 11-1 at North End Studios.

Kaplan thanked Montroll for his service on the Commission and gave some swag and welcomed Owen Harris to the Commission.

Kaplan explained that she has been on the Commission for 9 years and Chair for 6 years and would not be reapplying for another term. She would be happy to share any knowledge with whomever is appointed.

Cindi thanked Montroll and added Harris would have big shoes to fill and how the Commission welcomes comments and input from the youth member and encouraged to be an active member of the Commission.

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. by Hurley, second by Hale, motion carried.

DR