



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
January 9, 2024
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Present: Bergmann, Duke, Etter, Johnson, Keech, Lantieri and Morrigan

Staff Present: Wight, Adams-Kolitz, Madalinski, and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:34 p.m. by Duke

Approval of Agenda

Duke asked for a motion to adopt the agenda, motion made by Morrigan, second by Keech, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Lantieri, second by Morrigan, motion carried unanimously.

City Public Pool

Duke wanted to discuss the idea of opening a public pool in Burlington, heard of citizens looking for an option in Burlington and a segment of the community not having access and some of the challenges that beaches are less available due to closures in summer. Stated interested in hearing thoughts from commissioners regarding this idea and if any commissioners interested in working on with her would invite them to help start developing.

Morrigan thanked for bringing forward to discuss felt clear the warm weather is getting warmer which means more beach closures and need to acknowledge the need to regulate body temperature. Would like all Burlingtonians to have access and one solution to explore is having some type of water feature, like a splash pad in each neighborhood. All would need to be able to access by foot or public transportation.

Keech did not support and felt the Lake is the single best City asset and talking about access that goes along the Waterfront and has access, feels a pool would take maintenance and upkeep, cost lots of money, example of waste of money and feels the City not looking at holistically.

Bergmann feels a good idea if researched properly and done correctly would welcome and happy to participate.

Etter asked if any change in how measured for closures and felt a large spike and Wight said she felt they were chemical issues not Lake specific issues, had many bacteria closures but the two spikes were chemical related. Wanted to make sure using good data, felt pools can be big money pits and having many would want to be careful. Sees many backyard pools and rarely used, wants to make sure it will be well used before putting in lots of funds into.

Duke felt good ideas and the start would be to gather information before any plan could be acted on, looking at finances, quality of life and ability to access and the ability to learn to swim. Asked for others to join and come back at a later date.



Etter felt ok to look into but not to escalate before taking too much into consideration.

Duke suggested getting together with Bergmann and come back to commission with something more formal at the next commission meeting.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:03PM)

Public forum opened at 6:03pm by Duke.

Joanna Albazar, roller-skater, said she was at the meeting to represent the State of Vermont skaters and a growing demand for skating, and explained the problem of not always having the safest spaces at a skatepark, or on the bikepath, have attempted to skate at basketball courts but often occupied. Created a petition and collected over 350 signatures from Vermont and neighboring states and it is very popular, hosted about a year ago and sold out in 7 hours. Hoping to have something that is accessible any time for all. Felt opened the possibility for youth programming and bipoc community use and want for every one of all income levels and very important in Latino communities and will help with many minorities, gives the opportunity for adults to make friends also.

Aleisha Taylor from Joy Riders, partnering with others to grow and nurture the skating community, most have a story of past with roller skating. Has been doing bipoc skating at ONE center and has been very popular. Lots of opportunities to get so many together and looks forward to working with staff to find a space that is accessible for everyone and thanked.

Albazar also stated received some donations of skates and funds and if they can continue to offer their collection to get people on skates they would really appreciate doing, want to pay it forward.

Jason Stuffle- part of the East End Coalition, park is Schmanska and have done several projects, past summer traveling with family and saw multi person swings and swinging bench and also spoke in favor of a roller skating space. Was in support of both projects.

Leanna Parker- asked for ADA approved port-o-lets in all parks and realized it was a challenge to use bathrooms with an infant and also thought of how difficult it must be for others with wheel chairs and other disabilities and what a help having them would be to all.

Public forum closed at 6:18pm

Penny for Parks Community Requests and Recommendations

Madalinski introduced himself and began to run through the requests that did not make it on the final report, Update North Beach Campground bathroom, already on list to do but don't currently have funding and are looking for other funding sources.

Path Improvements at Ethan Allen Park, planning to replace playground in 2026 and will add additional funding at that time to address trails and also DPW is looking into sidewalks.

Repaint the pickle ball lines at Oakledge, already have funding and will do with other monies, since small value working with contractor to do in the spring.

Additional lighting in Ethan Allen Park, made multiple requests for more information and could not reach so could not move forward with request.



\$32,000 available, all but \$2,000 spent and will roll forward for next year, ranked in order of importance. #1 was ADA Accessible Port o Lets in all Parks, can't spend on any operating expenses so unable to use PFP monies for this project, looking for other funding resources and the ability to update and increase the budget to support the units, and did not want to allocate at this time as unable to get accurate number.

#2 allocate up to \$25,000 for roller skate space, Oakledge does not have the best soil and space is slim, Roosevelt could be potentially good space, could not use those two locations but would work with to locate the best site to start and work on moving forward.

#3 replace some belt swings with multi-generational swings, got quotes and very easily installed by grounds crew, along with swinging benches, recommend allocating \$5,000 for swings and benches.

#4 and #5 not allocating funds to, one for additional lighting at Lakeside Park and the other for Pickle ball at Schifilliti Park/Miller Center.

Morrigan said she is very concerned with accessibility issues and very aware of how affects persons and asked for confirmation of that item not being approved and Madalinski stated it had to do with permissions and the legality of spending Penny for Parks funds on this item. Looking at getting an increase in general budget to cover and have in all parks.

Sauve mentioned in previous conversations to vendors that the supply of them might not be immediate as the access to getting them might not be readily available also.

Keech asked if the roller skating was just an outdoor venue and was told the derby still exists but getting discount rate and if someone with better or bigger profile came in they get booted, it is considered a liability etc. and working with bigger group and making a non-profit and coop facility for the derby and to offer Thursday through Sunday for the public to utilize, currently the facilities using are Talent and Integrated School, but limited to spaces.

Etter asked if PFP funds were not used are they rolled over and was told by Madalinski that the funds would get rolled over if not used. Supported ADA bathrooms, not sure that every single one had to be but would like to be balanced out. Wight stated that this is just a portion of PFP funds, have some put aside and this is funds set specifically aside for community requests and always bring the full list for PFP projects about \$580,000 a year to the Commission.

Motion to approve the request for funds from the PFP account up to \$25,000 for roller skating space, add multi-generational swings and or swinging benches at Schmanska Park for \$5,000 by Keech, second by Lantieri, motion carried unanimously.

Parking Fees

Wight said the Waterfront Parking fees are done by Commission and then approved but would be too late for when the season begins.

Changes are; new winter season fee, increased car and trailer day pass, added 24 hour, changed event rate to market rate and added a new pass for second vehicle for boaters.



Etter asked when the last rate increase was and Wight said it was increased last from her records was 2013.

Motion for 2 minute break by Morrigan, second by Keech, motion carried at 6:35pm

Motion to approve fees as recommended by Johnson, second by Lantieri, motion carried unanimously.

Recreation Data Report

Nancy Stetson data and analysis, took opportunity to look at who is participating, looked at 30,000 registrations, saw year by year at least 5000 or more, then it showed number of unique participants and again had surpassed, then looked at how the registrations split among the different types of registrations programs. Next showed the ages of the participant's majority in the 6-12 year range. Summer meals program was not tracked the same as it is a drop in program and show the number of free meals served to children under 18. Numbers that dipped were a direct result of how serving, have to hand to the children as opposed to giving to parents in 2021.

Then looked at where participants were coming from based on the type of programming and then did data on scholarship by program type and which type of programming had the most scholarships as well as scholarships by neighborhood with ONE being the highest. Tried to find if all areas of Burlington were being served equally by population. Rogers said when looking at the Old North End, many of the participants are involved at Roosevelt and Boys and Girls club and King Street have many opportunities for participants.

Introduced Felix who also worked on the data producing pieces.

Morrigan thanked, liked that even if not in BPRW programs was still in other programs.

Standing Items:

Report on PACC Dog Force

Wight said February 12 will give to City Council and likely in the front part of the meeting.

Park Foundation Update

Director's Items

Wight said another meeting encouraged to attend 1/24 PACC BTV waterfront presentation from a variety of projects, Meaghan Tuttle will present from planning perspective, Samantha Dunn on FRAME project, leases the City Holds that require public access, Moreau and Peterson will talk about marinas, Sauve will talk about PP plan and Moore will talk about wastewater plant and potential expansion, feels really informative meeting.

This time of year think about volunteer of the year award, typically internal process, asked commission if you have any interest in the choosing process, could also be unsung hero award. Asked if anyone wanted to comment on now. Will make a formal agenda item at a later date. Letting all know continued discussion on the Ranger Program and making sure stay safe, doing rolling campground reservations, every month a new opening and had no crashes of the system, went well.

Morrigan asked if there was support for staff around the changes with the environment and conditions at work currently and Wight said yes can talk with supervisor and do have AEP for all employees, also after large encampment removal do have some time after to process emotions and feelings and thanked



for asking and working also with HR to put together an encampment removal team and they would get a bump in pay. Morrigan also suggested talking to Chief Lachance to debrief after a challenging move.

Keech began to asked questions about the idea of a pool and it's connection to the Lake and the conversation was ended as it was not time for Commissioners items.

Commissioner's Items & Volunteer Hours

Keech asked how the idea of a pool is not connected to the effects of the lake health. Morrigan said that she could not speak to Duke's point of order but it was her understanding that the topic was more about starting a conversation.

Wight said she could invite Lake Health individuals to a future meeting.

Lantieri behind with organizing and planning and putting together spring launch at Champlain Street.

Etter asked if the needle work or report had gone to the City Council already and Morrigan said they have a proposal but going through the City Attorney, working on and can't speak to at this point. Morrigan added that they are proposing a pilot program and could also put before this commission for support, would be an outside program, department would have nothing to do with. Hopes commission with endorse but it is not part of Parks Commission purview.

Morrigan asked to have an agenda item to discuss how syringes are currently being handled within the City when C click fix is utilized.

Morrigan has 6 additional hours for meeting prep and organizational time.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm by Johnson, second by Lantieri, motion carried unanimously.