



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AND HARBOR COMMISSION
Minutes
December 4, 2018**

Commission Present: Kaplan, Bossange, Hurley, Hale, Healy, Farrell & Montroll

Staff Present: Wight, Moreau, Kaeding, Frazitta & O'Daniel

The meeting was convened at 5:36 p.m. by Kaplan

Approval of Agenda

Kaplan asked to have items 7 & 8 brought up to proceed item 3 and shift everything down from there. Motion made by Hale, second Bossange, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Kaplan explained that sometimes the Commission approves sound waivers and sometimes they don't but that O'Daniel is suggesting that all sound waivers are Consent Agenda items and if there's one in particular that you would like to discuss that is okay and it will be pulled and put onto the agenda. Kaplan felt it was a nice efficient way to move forward.

Bossange read consent items A-H aloud with the motions included. Approval of minutes from November meeting. Motion made to approve the consent agenda by Bossange, second by Hale, motion carried.

Naming of Appletree Park Field

Kaplan spoke about the naming of Appletree Park, explaining that Wight was approached by the Appletree community, who expressed interest of naming it after David Gretkowski because of the commitment that he had to the park.

Kaplan spoke of Dave's time spent in the park and how important it was to him and that naming the fields after him would be very appropriate stating that he took his civic duty very seriously.

A member of the public spoke of how he would see Dave out walking through the park every day and that it would be such a natural thing to have the field named after him. He explained that Dave would use his personal lawnmower to landscape the space even after the City mowed and that Dave grew up in the North end and has touched so many lives.

Another member of the public informed the Commission that the Appletree community would like to donate a bench to the park as well in honor of Dave.

Another member of the public stated that Dave was an important piece of the Schiffilitti Park as well and that Green Up day was like Christmas for him. The member of the public informed the Commission that they were hoping to celebrate Dave on Green Up day 2019. He also informed the Commission that Dave's parents live across the street from the park too, and it would be an amazing tribute to the family and the entire neighborhood to name the field after Dave. He closed by saying that this is what makes Burlington so special - that we can come together and make this decision.

Wight read aloud an email from a member of the public asking to circulate her agreement that Appletree field be name after Dave.

Another member of the public stated that he and Dave had been best friends for years and that he knew how much Dave cared about that park. He also echoed that this is what Burlington is all about.

Kaplan stated that the discretion was up to Wight.

Wight stated that she was in support of the naming of the field and happy to have the bench, which would be paid for by the Appletree community, installed in the park.

Motion to approve made by Hale, second by Farrell, motion carried.

Naming of Dragonheart Docks

Wight shared that Neal Hayes reached out in regards to the naming of the Waterfront docks at the Coast Guard Station that Dragonheart Vermont uses after the founders, Linda and John Dyer. She explained that according to Hayes, they were instrumental in the purchasing of the original docks in 2008 and that they have been vital in the fight against breast cancer within our community. She stated that Dragonheart is proposing to name the new docks "Dyer Docks" and would be covering all costs for a memorial plaque. Wight was in support of this request.

Penni Cross, past president of Dragonheart stated that John and Linda stepped down as head coaches and the organization has been trying to think of a way to honor them. She explained that material things don't drive them but instead community and supporting breast cancer survivors do. She stated that they have already put in the Western dock and she was hopeful that the Eastern dock would be in by Spring. She informed the Commission that Dragonheart will be raising money for adaptive paddlers because they have many survivors who need more accessible ways to partake. She explained that John and Linda made everyone better athletes and to bring this to the Waterfront with the placement of the docks and the plaque, that it would make the organization and John and Linda's efforts more visible to the public. She shared that this would be the best way to honor them, and for the organization and community to thank them for everything that they have done.

Farrell stated that he was very in support of this.

Bossange expressed that he thought this was a great idea. He asked for clarification as to where the docks are and if they are open to the public.

Moreau answered that the city launch ramps are right off of Waterfront Park. She continued by explaining that there is a large section where all of their (Dragonheart's) boats are stored and that the next contract includes new docks on the East side. These new docks have already been approved and they benefit the community more than just the organization because they are free, open to the public and ADA accessible. Making a non-motorized boat launch ADA accessible doesn't exist in Burlington yet.

Hale was in support. Healy was in support. Kaplan was in support.

Another member of Dragonheart stated that at any time they have about 60 breast cancer survivors and that they are incredibly strong people.

Wight stated that she was in support of the docks being named the "Dyre Docks" as requested by Dragonheart and said that they have agreed to pay for the plaque and will work with Moreau on placement.

Motion to approve made by Farrell, second by Hale, motion carried.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public forum opened at 6:02 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Seeing nobody the public forum closed.

Public forum closed at 6:02 p.m.

Sound Waivers for Shelter Rentals & Walks

O'Daniel explained that after she had booked walks for the 2018 season, she was aware of some gray areas that she was hoping to eliminate. She stated that she hoped to standardize and streamline the process of organizations using the parks for walks as well as keeping everyone informed about what was going on in the parks to avoid issues if there is ever a complaint. O'Daniel outlined what she has done so far to begin this process - including creating an application for all organizations, new and old, to fill out when looking to book their date, creating a walk specific time of the year for organizations to apply and getting more specific information about amplified sound from the organizers. With this information O'Daniel explained that she plans on submitting them to the Consent Agenda for approval, with the idea that if the Commission has any questions they have the option of asking O'Daniel and the walk organizer to attend the next Commission meeting.

Waterfront Operations Update

Kaplan moved to end the Parks Commission meeting at 6:14pm, second by Hale, motion carried.

Kaplan moved to open the Harbor Commission at 6:14pm, second by Hale, motion carried.

Moreau brought the Waterfront's BTV Stat presentation via PowerPoint to show the Commission. She showed that the Waterfront has had five years of profitability and stated that they are essentially

running a business within the city when looking at these numbers. She shared that FY18 was one of their best years yet and that the entirety of the Parks Division basically covered by the Waterfront's revenue. Moreau stated that the Waterfront is very self-sufficient, which is a unique asset that they have. She shared that they would like to improve on the capital investment.

Hale asked if that was expected to go up with improvements that will be happening at North Beach.

Moreau answered that that is the hope if it all gets approved. She stated that they just met to talk strategies on how they can capture some of this to reinvest in the Waterfront, and to stay tuned because it is an ongoing conversation and one that she want to continue having. Moreau state that they aren't increasing prices, because they want all that they have to offer to stay attainable for people within the community to use. She showed that the parking kiosks have increased parking revenue. She also shared that they are keeping track of where their customers coming from, and it has shown that they serve a decent number of Vermonters. According to the chart, Canada also brings a lot of folks. Moreau showed that campground numbers for the weekend are at almost max capacity throughout the whole season and that week days aren't as close, but they are almost full too. She also showed that the Marina has really strong numbers as well. Moreau shared that they have exceeded the budget performance expectation for 5 years. She shared that the Waterfront has been investing in access, equity and environment. She shared the example of the ADA beach access and water chair and how they have been a huge asset to North Beach. She shared that they are free and allow access for all.

Moreau introduced Kaeding and Frazitta, her Waterfront co-workers. They explained that they wanted to talk to the Commission about seasonal beach parking passes for 2019. They shared that they want to move away from the plastic hangers that have been used, explaining that the intent was for people to re-use them, but that very few people do. And that they are expensive, so giving people a new one every year is not cost effective. They would like to switch to a sticker instead that would stick to the inside of the windshield, ideally. They explained that they would be more efficient and cost less money. They have a mock up made (which they showed to the Commissioners) and are working on getting that piece of things finalized. They stated that currently they are spending between \$2500 - \$3000 annually with the way the passes are done now, and that this new way of doing things will cost closer to \$600, which will result in a lot of money saved.

Kaeding and Frazitta also spoke to the Commission about changing the prices for seasonal beach parking passes. They explained that currently there are resident passes, which cost \$45 and non-resident passes, which cost \$60. People can get a 2nd parking pass for a discounted rate of \$25 for a resident and \$35 for a non-resident. They asked if the Commission would be willing to allow them to drop the price for the 2nd one by \$10 – resulting in \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. They explained that the intention behind this is to make the parks more accessible and make it easier and more affordable for the public to buy 2 passes if they have 2 cars.

Healy asked about the challenges that have come with switching to parking kiosks.

Moreau answered that weather can pose problems and that it's a learning curve, so the focus is on educating the public about how to use them.

Bossange asked if they have thought about setting aside some of the money they are generating to give themselves a reserve fund to use for improvements or increasing their access, equality and environment initiatives.

Moreau responded saying that that is the goal and that they do want a reserve fund. She also stated that she wants to be cognizant that all of the revenue they currently make is accounted for because that's why BPRW can make things affordable and have scholarship funds.

Bossange stated that at some point they will max out, and that they will have to think about how they will operate with the flat line without increasing rates.

Frazitta explained that rather than ticketing and towing people, staff puts a note on each car that has not paid asking them to call the Boathouse in order to do so. This is so that people are not punished for potentially not understanding the process with the hope that after their first warning people will use the kiosks. He also stated that the parking revenue has increased since they began using the Park Mobile app.

Farrell stated that he thought it was a great tactic to be friendly and educational about the parking because it is better for the community and will pay off in the long run.

Hale moved to adjourn the Harbor Commission, Healy second, motion approved.

Catamount Trail Proposal

Wight stated that Mark was not able to be at the meeting in person, so the PowerPoint proposal was sent to the Commissioners to review beforehand. She said that she thought it was an interesting idea but was concerned that there would be a lot of moving pieces to it and that if something were to fall apart people would call the City even though it's a private thing. She explained that staff have been clear about what the Parks side of things would entail and that DPW has been clear about what the DPW side of things would entail.

The general sentiment from the Commission and Wight was that there are reservations about this and would need a lot more information before they would even begin to consider this as an option.

Low Income Parking Update

Wight and O'Daniel explained that there is a plan in place for a voucher to be available to all attendees of the Pomerleau Party for a free beach parking pass for 2019. They will have the chance to redeem it between May 15th and June 1st.

Wight wanted to give kudos to the mayor for asking that people be able to sign up for things at a reduced rate or for free at the Pomerleau Party. Ernie Pomerleau said that he will cover the cost of anyone who signs up for programs there, so we will not be taking that money out of our scholarship fund.

Approval of 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule

Kaplan asked to rotate locations every meeting and asked if October 6th, 2019 could be moved to the ONE.

Wight stated that we would check to see if a room at the ONE was available for that date and that if it was the switch would be made.

Update on Parks Foundation (Standing Item)

None

Director's Items

Wight stated that she and staff were currently working on closing out the 311 North Avenue property and that there were many moving pieces involved, including the VT Land Trust, Vermont Housing, the State and Cambrian Rise. She informed the Commission that they need to finalize the storm water piece of things and that this complication came up as they were getting ready to close. Wight stated that they were allotted a 7 month extension to finalize things, but that they are still aiming for December 31st to have everything wrapped up.

Wight stated that they are working on central facilities, who are the people taking care of the library, police station etc. She explained that there has been a look at what the future of central facilities will be, including the questions: does it stay with Parks? Does it go to Public Works? Or does it become its own department? Wight stated that they are leaning towards it not being under Parks anymore, but they are unsure what will happen at this point. She said that the next step will be going to the whole facilities division and seeing if they're on the same page.

Wight shared that there are 2 new employees - Scott Yaros who will be at the arena during the off-season and then will help with events at the Waterfront during the on-season months. And Janira Cartagena-Aponte who is the new part time person at the Miller Center.

Wight shared an upcoming event – the senior task force, which are open meetings. She informed the Commission that we may end up with the Heineberg Community Senior Center but that there are still discussions being had surrounding this.

Commissioner's Items

Hale gave an Oakledge for all update. She stated that everything is going really well and that the next stage is a meeting with the Commission and community members to make a solid plan for moving forward with what will be built at the end of January. She said that they are waiting to hear about a grant and that there has been a tremendous amount of input from the community and it's all going very well!

Kaplan asked that at the next meeting there be a discussion about which Commissioners will be a part of which extra committees.

Kaplan also brought up City Hall Park, and encouraged Commissioners to post to FPF with the facts in order to educate the public about what the actual plan and its effects would be.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. by hale, second by Hurley, motion carried.