



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes
September 4, 2018**

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

Staff Present: Wight, Safavi and Putzier

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

Approval of Agenda

Kaplan asked to have a motion to approve the agenda, motion by Pierce, second by Hale, motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Hale read aloud with the motions included, motion made to approve the consent agenda by Pierce, second by Bossange, motion carried.

Special Project by Francisco Martinez, Fellow of the Young Leaders of the America's

Martinez was not present, Pierce explained that Mr. Martinez works with the Young Leaders of the America's and explained what the program is and how youth have been placed with different organizations. Martinez is the Executive Director of an Ecuador project that does green up projects and reached out to make the connection with Martinez to partner. The program runs Monday to Thursday and the representatives do other projects on Fridays.

Wight said Martinez is working predominately with Cahill but will be connecting with DPW, as he is interested in Water infrastructure also.

Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM)

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

Robert Herendeen introduced himself and said he is still concerned with ebikes on the greenway. Concerned that electric cars don't change the corridor but bikes do. Feels the greenway is the linear park, mixed use, both ways. Concerned with how big a vehicle can be, speed versus acceleration, even though limited, a more powerful machine can accelerate faster. Lived in Norway and checked how they do it, United States defines differently between maximum and minimum. Hoping the issue of how big they can be, be considered, would like banned for 6 months or no policy at all for 6 months.

Public forum closed at 6:05 p.m.

Process for Banner Permits

Wight explained she had the schedule of use and anticipated about \$8200 profit, conservative estimate.

Pierce asked about the idea of bringing on too much work and wanted to know if this would justify the staff cost and time.



Wight explained that this was something for staff to determine and thanked the commission for support. Wight asked if the commission would like to approve if not a non-profit and if it was a good fit for item 4, if criteria not met would go to commission for approval of banners on City Street.

Hurley stated has a banner up currently and felt the process was different and included more steps, not necessarily a bad thing.

Bossange asked why DPW was not involved in the process, Wight said felt like it was a good fit with what BPRW is currently doing and created some revenue. Safavi added it was a pilot program and will evaluate after a year. Agreed would try and see how it goes moving forward but currently have the ability to do.

Hale said she supports and trusts that the department can handle.

Kaplan stated a location off of the belt line has a place that used to have signage across from the North Avenue Alliance Church that held a state sign, took down one of the signs but questioned if that could accommodate a third sign location.

Hurley asked about the list of banner users and if the event did not have a fee, if the requestor would have to pay, was not sure of the logistics of the fees.

Off-leash Policy

Wight explained in 2013 a tremendous amount of work was done regarding a policy, never got finished, department is taking up again. Do not want to start at ground zero but begin a small committee. Unearthing, asked if anyone was interested in serving on the committee and if should pull someone from the original committee.

Hale said a good idea to bring up again but did not want to be on the committee.

Kaplan stated that after the previous committee had met and researched, the document stopped to wait while the master planning was underway. At that point the department was ready to embark on it's master plan so decided to wait and it never got picked up again.

Safavi stated the master plan did address dog parks, in urban reserve and the other two, but no policy was established.

Kaplan recalled discussion on an ordinance, Safavi confirmed there was a draft but did not go all the way to approval, would be a good starting point and would not need a lot of work.

Pierce felt it was a good idea, likes the thought of the Intervale as a potential site and would consider being on the committee.

Wight asked if Kaplan would look back at past members of the committee and make some suggestions of people that would be good or interested. Kaplan will research and get back to Wight.

Safavi suggested having people on the committee that do not have dogs as well as the ecological piece of having off-leash areas.



Hale asked if the report that was sent in the packet is the report that staff would be working on and was told yes, and that many things have changed and been improved since the report was originated.

Kaplan asked staff to bring back to the commission and have a public forum prior to any approvals.

E-bike Discussion

Kaplan explained she received about 20-30 emails and is happy to discuss how to share with the commission and staff, 80% were in favor, many with restrictions and 20% wanted no ebikes ever, she felt it was a good mix of response with a good amount of public input.

Wight stated she met with new Local Motion Executive Director and was sharing what is out in the electric bike world. There are three classes of bikes; class 1 is a pedal assist no throttle, class 2 has a throttle and class 3 has no speed. Local motion is going to work on advocacy statewide. Felt the bikes are here, city bike concept is spinning out electric to the community, suggested considering low key and not making any decisions as they build the legislation around this.

Hurley asked if working on for next legislative session and Wight assumed yes.

Montroll said he supported ebikes and the benefits but they can go too fast, the system used in San Francisco with the three types of bikes could work but not over 20 miles per hour.

Hurley was concerned as to how other things like hover boards and that type of mechanisms play into the discussion. Agreed with Pierce on the class 1 with no throttle being the best option.

Bossange thought about more and more and said was in a place currently with tons of e-mechanisms, need to address other modes other than the ebikes, class 1. The e anything will be troubling and currently would like to just do electronic bikes and say no to other motorized.

Hale is heavily against banning ebikes, feels discrimination for those that have accessibility issues.

Kaplan was curious about the way the process is moving, segways went to legislature and had approved before they even put them out and was curious if spending this time waiting will enable the legislature to have something approved. Added that they are allowed on the path currently.

Wight asked for confirmation that the group was ok with the class 1 use and some rules and get away from the actual devices as a whole. Wight asked about drafting a recommendation to bring to the City Council.

Kaplan asked if an ordinance was needed, also what is considered a vehicle. Wight said she would have further conversations with attorney before submitting anything. Kaplan said get to the commission at the next meeting for approval and then it could be brought before the City Council, after that they could consider what to put on signs.

Safavi asked for clarification and Kaplan said with knowledge today make suggestions for how to move forward at this point and can revisit at a later point if just policy.



Hurley said to be clear they are not going to ban ebikes and wanted to clarify with the public.

Burlington Greenway Rules for Signs

Wight explained she met with Eric Rose and Karen and came up with a combination of sign pictures as well as a fair amount of writing for those that want more information. Speeds would be different at different times and locations as appropriate. Coming up with a full list of rules and then forward back to department for more icon/text for final approval. She also suggested having some cute fun ways to post ways to be safe and respectful on the path.

Hurley said the most effective things she sees is the flashing red signs that have text that show speed and Wight suggested borrowing radar occasionally to notify of speed.

Kaplan asked to put no smoking on the signs as well and also added putting other languages on the signage too.

Burlington Greenway General Discussion

Safavi explained that she was all wrapped up with the northern sections of the bike path and going to take that work and bring south from College to Queen City Park Road, designing should have everything permitted by December/January and which pieces to construct in spring to fall, Perkins to Oakledge construction would happen in the spring. Busy because goes through barge canal and residential area, urban soils. Amtrak coming to Burlington met with EPA and Army Corp of Engineers, a lot of emails from south end community, had to cancel but will have meeting tomorrow to introduce the design team and the designer from VHB to talk about the schedule and where to get information. Simultaneously while working on do other work in the area, taking care of bollards, the playground, on street biking facilities, general and introductory, hope entirety of project will be done by the end of next year. College to King Street section is uncertain at this point but have some ideas.

Hurley said staff did a very good job last time with notifying public and wanted to know if a full closure of the bike path would be necessary and was told yes, will be detour, have to close, only option would be to use Pine Street.

Pierce asked about the imminent domain piece of land on the bikepath and wanted to know if the railroad track would move and Safavi said the department does not encourage eminent domain and prefers to work with the landowner and would like to get an easement. Some issues with flooding and the high water mark, looking at the alternatives, means it would encroach on some neighbors, in the works but connected to how much the railroad needs and they have not decided currently. They will need two tracks, would not be touching that area of the bikepath this year.

Kaplan asked if anticipating neighbors will be upset about the changes to the bikepath and Safavi said that happens all the time but more people like the changes than not, been very successful making new connections with neighbors and ended up with a new connection, very pleased.

Bossange suggested reminding people that 74% of people were in favor of the path and the changes.

Kaplan understands why the City can't put up permanent signs and where to go, understands you need to meet all the requirements and sign standards and have good information on where the detour is and what the route is.



Wight stated that previously Local Motion did signage of the detour and asked if it was better after, told no by Bossange because it was too late and not good and visibly clear every quarter mile.

Farrell asked if maps were given out and Safavi said did have maps and outreach but it came a bit too late, this time would be smoother as they have been more proactive getting the word out.

Update on Parks Foundation (Standing Item)

Bossange said trying to put together coalition timeline with budget, and make a two-year project and convene discussion. Just about achieved the fundraising and finishing steps to get the projects done. Meeting in November and can talk about any additional projects that might come up next.

Director's Items

Wight gave a handout of her monthly report, highlighted some items in grey that might be of interest; -TIF was awarded and need to get that done, northern area between the Coast Guard and the drivable grass, put North Shore and Leddy out to bid, this fall North Shore, trying to get the Leddy price down.

-Explained the work done at the Picnic Grove development in the Intervale, with 100 plus volunteers.

-Staffing update, Jake Hornick replaced Alex Wheeler who went to BED and Larry Soltz retired from MCRC, will be hiring for the position this month, changed the hours slightly.

Upcoming events; South End Bike Path update, Wednesday, October 3rd, Schmanska Park celebration, October 13th with tours of the barn and cane ball, Arms Forest Tree Walk, October 14th the Halloween Howl, October 27th and the Halloween bike Ride, October 28th and the Oakledge for All Kick off, October 27th.

City Hall Park working toward 85% plans, need to finalize budget amounts available, Oakledge Playground first phase to be installed in October, had some bedrock come up and working on but took a bit longer.

PFPP next review is this month, will do a pilot in Ward 2/3 to help them complete the process of requesting projects and help them to be aware of the process and go through the normal review with all other requests.

Updates; working on Arms Forest survey, to look at before being sent out and the Starr Farm pause place is also out for a survey, for all of Starr Farm areas. Appletree Park is in process of renovations, Kaplan asked about the naming of the park and if she had heard anything further and Wight said she spoke with Hartnett today and needed to check with Mayor. Kaplan offered to reach out to the Association and get more feedback.

Commissioner's Items

Bossange asked about the placing of the no-smoking signs and how much work has happened to get them posted in the specified areas. Wight said added plaques to benches and signage has no smoking added as well. Safavi said do not want to be heavy handed with it, it is a process, signs are unique to parks and recreation and just did a round and will do more in the spring. Bossange would like more signs at Perkins Pier, under shelters at Oakledge and North Beach, Battery Park benches and along the road.



Hurley said the international film festival is October 18-28, Main Street Landing, full schedule will be in Seven Days next week.

Kaplan gave a reminder next month's meeting is November 13th, would like to have at another location, would like to have at the CORE Center. Kaplan will reach out to Zoe Richards, and DPW, Conservation and Cemetery to have joint meetings, would like to do in early spring, will start with Conservation first.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. by Pierce, second by Hurley, motion carried.