



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.cedoburlington.org

Councilor Karen Paul, Chair, Ward 6
Councilor Ed Adrian, Ward 1
Councilor Paul Decelles, Ward 7

Inquiries:
Larry Kupferman
802-865-7174
lkupferman@ci.burlington.vt.us

Minutes to the PACC meeting on 3/22/12

Committee members present: Councilors Paul (chair) (KP), Adrian (EA), Decelles (PD)

Staff present:

Mari Steinbach (MS), Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro (KMS)

Others:

Rob Sikora, FHWA, Scott Newman and Caitlyn O'Shea, V-Trans, Jim Lockridge, Greg Roy, Lee Buffinton, Linda Tierney, Alan Soucie, Allison Lockwood

Councilor Paul convenes the meeting at 5:35 pm

1a) Agenda:

KP: add to the agenda discussions regarding the High School girls softball field conditions and an update on additional bulletin board in the downtown. PD moves agenda as amended and so moved.

1b) Draft minutes from 2/16/12:

PD moves to approve as drafted and so moved.

2) Public Forum

3) Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center program update by Kate Neubauer, ED.

Ms. Neubauer (KB) reported that 40% of programming last year was canceled due to spring time flooding, damage and subsequent repairs; the Center has recovered financially over the winter. They do not consider themselves to be simply a sailing school but rather an educational and training facility by accessing the lake, having "floating classrooms" and other on water programming.

KP: asks about the Sailing centers commitment to the Moran re-development.

KB: the Sailing center needs a permanent home on the waterfront and hopes and still plans for it to be at the Moran.

PD: asks about the Center's outlook for fund raising.

KB: continued advances in program development will lead to a permanent home, which gives her confidence that a capital campaign can be reached.

KP: where is the capital campaign plan in terms of phasing?

KB: the capital campaign phase depends on the finalized product at Moran based on the operational needs of the Center:

- a) fit up of land for boat storage
- b) new docking infrastructure
- c) the building itself

Minutes to the PACC meeting on 3/22/12

The Center is a much different organization that when the project started in 2008 and is now better positioned to have a successful capital campaign.

4) Interim Skatepark location and funding/Mari Steinbach and Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro:

KMS: TIGER I funding, under the jurisdiction of Federal Highways and V-Trans requires a process known as 4-f to consider and mitigate resources changed or deleted by a highway project funded by the Federal resource. Scott Newman and Caitlyn O'Shea from V-Trans and Rob Sikora from FHWA are here to discuss that requirement with the committee.

PD: what about staging area in an old "contaminated site".

KMS: describes the state approved Corrective Action Plan (approved by Dept of Environmental Conservation DEC) and that city zoning allows for staging materials in the Urban Reserve as a temporary and permitted activity.

KP: asks if the skatepark relocation will be open and operating during this summer.

PD: asks if the skatepark is open now.

MS: The skatepark is usually re-opened for the season on June 1st but people do hop over the fence during other times.

The current park has a 3 step process underway now:

- a) staff will assess the current condition of the skatepark
- b) prepare a report as to the scope of work required to keep it in a safe and usable condition
- c) determine how to proceed during construction by working with V-Trans and FHWA staff on the 4-f compliance matter.

This work will be shared with V-Trans and FHWA to determine a plan for providing an interim facility.

PD: there was recent conclusion and concern about the 4-f requirement of the TIGER I grant and the possible need for additional funds for an interim solution.

MS: there was an initial discussion at Parks Commission about the requirement for an interim skatepark during construction and whether to rehab what we have vs. purchase new equipment. No decisions were made at that time.

Rob Sikora described the section 4-f regulations about an adverse impact on a recreational area- and the allowance for a diminimus status which has been established for this particular project.

PD: if the park is unusable and closed for safety reasons, will the impact on the project still be the same?

Mr. Sikora: yes, the condition does not affect the 4-f diminimus status.

KP: is it fair to say Penny for Parks is a source of funds for costs related to interim facility?

MS : the next steps taken with V-Trans and FHWA to determine the scope of an interim facility will help determine a plan and estimate of cost; we will need to consider all funding sources.

EA: asks if there is a process in place for determining the uses for Penny for Parks.

MS: yes, FY 12 budget is in place and any changes would need to be approved by city council.

PD: how will future determinations of t Penny for Parks use be made?

MS: the process and review is now in place for all future allocations and will be used in this instance as well.

Chair Paul allows questions from the public:

Lee Buffinton: asks what is the local match required for WFN and how will the current JO about Act 250 affect the project

She is referred to Chris Jolly, FHWA grant manager for the TIGER I grant.

Mr. Sikora states that federal funds cannot be expended for construction without permits in place.

Ms. Buffinton refers to the DRB plan for the skatepark and states that the City permits in place do not show ramps placed in the interim location.

Linda Tierney: she is curious about the federal government funding this project.

Mr. Sikora: the funding source remains as long as there is good standing of conditions for eventual construction.

Alan Soucie, speaking on behalf of the City Board of Health: concerning storage of soils on the Urban Reserve, the time frame for keeping the soils there, and questions about "updrafting" from there to higher elevations particularly Lakeview Terrace and other environmental concerns.

KMS: will send Mr. Soucie Corrective Action Plan and offers to come to a Board of Health meeting to discuss this plan.

Allison Lockwood: asks if a skateboard park needs to be operational at all times (during construction).

Mr. Newman: access to a similar arrangement needs to be maintained in proximate location to the project area.

PD: if another skatepark is available somewhere else in the city, would that comply?

Mr. Newman: requiring similar access, so maybe; would need to be explored.

4A) Girls Softball field

KP: the discussion has to do with the condition of the high school girls softball field and a recent presentation by the team to the Parks Commission; issues at play have to do with field conditions and if there is a plan for the team to play on their field this year.

<S: in response, she and Parks Superintendent Deryk Roach have communicated with the HS Athletic Director Jean Ohlson, HS principal Mellencamp and Schools Superintendent Collins about short and long term strategies to upgrade and maintain the field.

KP: asks Mari Steinbach to keep the PACC in touch with this matter.

4B) Bulletin Boards downtown-update:

Ron Redmond, Director of Church Street Marketplace sent an email update as to the recent Marketplace Commission meeting where additional bulletin boards were discussed and considered. Ideas for a central kiosk similar to one found in Boulder, CO were discussed.

EA: mentions other initiatives for Church Street that this committee recommended such as water fountains, donation drop box that take quite a long time to realize.

EA: remembers that this topic was to be discussed at the City Hall task force meeting.

MS: this topic is on the Task Force agenda but was not discussed at the last meeting due to other pressing matters; she has spoken to Doreen Kraft about the requested placement of a 2nd bulletin board; the task force is concerned about timing with city hall park design process.

KP: requests that the bulletin board discussion be kept on the Task Force agenda so as to keep attention to the request.

EA: also remembers that Steve Goodkind, at the last PACC meeting mentioned that it would be that difficult to replace the bulletin board that was removed from the corner of Main and Church at the Manhattan Pizza location.

5) Mission of the PACC:

KP: provides a written statement as to the mission of the PACC and is approved by the Committee after a slight revision by EA. The mission statement is attached to these notes.

PD moves to adjourn at 7:30 pm. So moved.

Mission of the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee

On August 11, 2003, the City Council formally adopted by resolution a new City Council committee structure. Part of the reason for the revisions to the new Committee structure was to improve the connections of the City Council to the Commissions and improve the operation of the City Council.

It is the mission of the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee to be the Council conduit for waterfront issues and operations, acting as the Council oversight of Parks and Recreation, Burlington City Arts and other arts and entertainment issues, as well as acting as an oversight to the Library. The PAC Committee will work in collaboration with the Library Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Community and Economic Development office, the Burlington City Arts board as well as all private and not-for-profit parks, arts and cultural resources to receive updates on pertinent concerns acting as a liaison to the City Council on recreational, art and culture events, issues, needs and goals.