



## CITY OF BURLINGTON

### Department of Public Works

Street & Park Department  
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## CITY OF BURLINGTON PARK BOARD MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 6:30PM

**Acting Chairman Lisa Wasik called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.**

**Roll Call:** Present: Commissioners, Clay Brandt, Jeff Schopp, Jason Ledbetter, Patricia Hoffman, Lisa Wasik and Aldermanic Representative Steve Rauch. Also present: Peter Riggs, Director of Public Works. Excused: President Jennifer Amborn and Park Foreman Aaron DeGrave.

**Approval of October 18, 2018 Park Board Minutes:** Aldermanic Representative Rauch entertained a motion to approve the October 18, 2018 Park Board Minutes. Motion to approve made by Aldermanic Representative Rauch. Seconded by Commissioner Brandt. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Citizen Comments:** Bob Prailes advised he would be running the Kiwanis car on the ice at Echo Park this year and questioned when it could be set up. Riggs stated he would check on it and get back to him.

**Aldermanic Report:** Aldermanic Representative Rauch advised that the dogs in the parks issue would be presented before the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 and City Council on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

### **Baseball 2000 (BB2K) Report:**

Bud Milroy, BB2K, advised the board he provided copies of the updated bylaws to the members present at the meeting. Milroy also noted that the updated lease was approved by the City Council and he was in the process of getting all members signatures. Milroy also advised the board they would be launching a website courtesy of Sports Engine. This provider would also be working with BB2K to run and link the teams, websites and calendars for games and schedules to allow for the public to view.

Milroy's main intention for attending tonight's meeting was to inform the board that BB2K had been looking into the replacement of the scoreboard at Beaumont Field. They have since found a sponsor, Lynch Chevrolet, who would be willing to put in the new scoreboard at no cost to the City or BB2K contingent upon sole advertising rights on the board for an agreed amount of time. Milroy stated he was working with Lynch to draw up an agreement regarding the scoreboard, including donated installation by Burli Signs. Riggs and the board commended Milroy and BB2K on the new scoreboard concept. A spelling error of "Beaumont" was brought to Milroy's attention as well. Due to questions raised by commissioners regarding structure durability and size, Riggs noted he would be vetting the issue further as to whether or not the City Engineers, Kapur & Associates, would need to be involved as well as if Park Board approval would be necessary.

## **Director of Public Works Report:**

**Riverside Park** – Riggs advised that the City’s grant application has been approved for the Riverside Park kayak launch and pavilion project. This would be a matching grant in nature up to \$85,000. Riggs advised the City would be working with Blake, Ayers & Associates, in order to write up a plan for these improvements. Riggs advised the plan and task order regarding this project would be presented to the board at their February meeting.

**CORP Update** – Riggs advised the board it was CORP update time. He advised City would be working with Blake, Ayers & Associates, over the course of approximately three months conducting surveys, field inventory and study sessions to incorporate into the new CORP document. Riggs noted that the Riverside Park improvements and the Park Development fund would also be discussed during this time. Teagan Yonash questioned if during this CORP time could scouts come to the City regarding Eagle project potential. Riggs advised that the CORP provides a list of needs in the community regarding this and stated he would advise Yonash of any opportunities when the time gets closer. Yonash also questioned what the plans were for the old Riverside Park Pavilion. Riggs stated there were no plans that he was currently aware of for the old pavilion. Yonash questioned if the City had no plans for it could it be used by the Boy Scouts. Riggs advised he would look further into it. Several commissions questioned what the timeline was for the new Riverside Park pavilion and Riggs advised tentatively Ayers would provide a task order for the scope of work to the Park Board at their February meeting where a recommendation could be made to City Council for March. Work would most likely not commence until late spring early summer with completion in 2019.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Update regarding Parkway Tree Planting Cost Share Program**

Riggs advised the board that during the budgeting process the City Council was able to allocate \$10,000 to this program which would amount to approximately 50 residents, on a first come first serve basis, the ability to obtain a reimbursement of up to \$200 for the installation of a new parkway tree. Riggs advised the resident would have to first obtain a right of way permit from the City, providing which species of tree from the approved Parkway Tree Planting list would be installed, as well as a plan of where the tree would be located on the parkway. Staff would review and inspect each permit to ensure the trees chosen would be suitable and sustainable for the area. Reimbursements would be provided after staff determined the tree was installed as agreed upon in the permit and all invoices obtained during the process had been submitted.

Several commissioners questioned how this new program would be communicated to City residents. Riggs noted he would be putting an article in the summer newsletter as well as on the City’s Facebook page. Riggs also requested feedback from the board regarding their thoughts on other ways to communicate this option to residents. Commissioner Hoffman noted that the language included in the current Park Board policy may need to be amended as it indicates priority is on reforestation over forestation. Riggs agreed and would look into amending the language. Commissioner Brandt suggested a letter be sent to residents who previously had a tree removed in the parkway and advising them of the program. Riggs agreed and stated he could do that as well as provide a date in the letter stating when the program would be open to the general public who may want a parkway tree.

## **Old Business:**

### **A. Update regarding the Dog Park Eagle Scout Project.**

Tristan Yonash was present at the meeting to update the board regarding the project he recently completed at the Dog Park. Yonash advised all work at the Dog Park has been completed and he was awarded his Eagle Scout Award. Yonash noted that in the spring he would be reopening the mounded tunnel and adding hazard signs for kids who have been playing on the tunnels. He would also be reseeding and realigning obstacles as needed. Teagan Yonash advised they were working on a dedication ceremony with the Mayor and Chamber and would keep Riggs advised of the date. Riggs reminded Yonash that any signage to be added at the Dog Park would have to come back to the Park Board for approval prior to being ordered and installed. Riggs offered to assist Yonash with the signage approval process.

### **B. Discussion regarding dogs in parks.**

Acting Chairman Wasik advised this item is on the agenda tonight for discussion and a possible recommendation to the City Council whether to change the current ordinance to allow dogs in parks.

Riggs provided the board with the history of the matter as discussed by the Park Board and the City Council. As of March 17, 2018 the last vote of the Park Board was to leave standing the current ordinance stating no dogs in parks.

Bob Prailes, Burlington resident, stated his opposition for dogs in parks based on the fact that he felt dogs could be unpredictable. Prailes also noted the City has a Dog Park for dogs to run and play in where children and other people who want to enjoy a park would not be. Prailes also mentioned how difficult he felt it would be to enforce only certain restrictions on dog owners if dogs were allowed but only in certain parks or not on playground areas.

Teagan Yonash, Burlington resident, agreed that enforcement would be very difficult if dogs were allowed in parks as each park would be a case by case as all are set up differently. Yonash also felt the dog waste issue would also be a detriment in the parks.

Ryan Heft, Burlington resident & 2<sup>nd</sup> District Alderman, advised the board that the biggest complaint he receives from constituents is the fact that dogs are not allowed in the parks. Heft noted that visitors to the City not knowing the policy regarding dogs bring their dogs to events due to a majority of communities allowing dogs in parks. Heft noted that he could see both the pros and cons regarding this issue; however felt if Burlington is striving to be a welcoming, progressive community for growth, allowing dogs in parks would be a good start. Heft also noted that the Dog Park was great but was more a place for dogs to play and many constituents complained they wanted to walk their dogs and go to events with them and not just watch them play.

Acting Chairman Wasik stated she had spoken with a representative with the Farmers Market which utilizes Wehmhoff Square for their events that includes a variety of vendors several being food related. The Farmers Market is highly concerned with dogs being in the park during these times not only due to food vendors but children running around. Wasik stated she was a dog owner herself but always felt safety first and people before animals. She felt there were plenty of walking trails, the Dog Park and open areas in the City to walk dogs therefore allowing them to be in the parks was unnecessary.

Aldermanic Representative Rauch stated he felt the Park Board should leave the ordinance as is and let the Council decide.

Riggs wanted to ensure three correspondences were added to the minutes as official record:

- Correspondence #1 - email from Park Board President Jennifer Amborn stating her recommendation to keep the ordinance the same – not allowing dogs in parks
- Correspondence #2 – email from 3<sup>rd</sup> District Alderman Jon Schultz stating his recommendation to keep the ordinance the same – not allowing dogs in parks
- Correspondence #3 – email from 2<sup>nd</sup> District Alderman Bob Grandi stating his recommendation in favor of changing the ordinance – allowing dogs in parks

Riggs also agreed with concerns voiced regarding the liability factor and he stated Attorney John Bjelajac would have to vet that issue further.

Commissioner Hoffman voiced her support allowing dogs in parks noting that proper signage could help the public understand the rules and responsibilities that come with bringing your dog into a park. She also stated she didn't feel there was currently any enforcement regarding dogs in parks. Riggs noted he had spoken with Police Chief Mark Anderson who confirmed the Police Department had not written a citation regarding a dog in the park in over five years.

Acting Chairman Wasik made a motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of an ordinance change to allow dogs in parks. Roll Call: Ayes: Commissioners Hoffman & Ledbetter. Nays: Commissioners Brandt, Schopp, Acting Chairman Wasik and Aldermanic Representative Rauch. Motion denied.

**Other Items:** None.

**There being no further items for discussion, Acting Chairman Wasik entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hoffman. Seconded by Aldermanic Representative Rauch. All voted aye, and Acting Chairman Wasik adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.**

**Minutes submitted by:**

Angela Hansen  
Administrative Assistant - Department of Public Works