



Place: 645 Pine Street, Burlington, VT
Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Date: March 10, 2015

Notes Taken by: VHB

Project #: 57634.00

Re: **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

ATTENDEES

Parks and Recreation Commission Members, Jesse Bridges, Jen Francis, Erin Parizo, Paula Miller, public attendance
– see attached sign-in sheet

1. Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation Update

- a. Presentation by Director of PRW Jesse Bridges and Erin Parizo from VHB
- b. See presentation slides for further reference
 - i. Introductions of project team
 - ii. Review of Phase 1a construction
 1. Ground Breaking – 10/2/2014
 2. Shallow excavation – College St. to Waterfront Park to protect Silver Linden root system
 3. Waterfront Park concrete sidewalk intended for slow moving traffic
 4. Mainline path realignment through Waterfront Park
 5. Drivable grass
 - a. Structurally stable to support vehicle movement
 - b. Allows for grass to grow between pavers for park aesthetics
 - iii. Additional Phase 1a construction items
 1. Anticipated start date – 4/13/2015
 2. Anticipated completion date – 5/18/2015
 3. Finalize construction from Perkins Pier to Penny Lane
 - iv. Update of Phase 1b project design
 1. Upcoming construction section
 - a. North end of Waterfront Access North project to Texaco Beach in the Urban Reserve
 - b. Northern limits for what the City currently has TIF district funding for
 2. Complete realignment of the path mainline
 - a. Construction will result in minimal interruption to users of current path
 - b. Realignment will move path closer to the shoreline
 - v. Path is in poor condition with significant deterioration and poor stormwater drainage
 - vi. Impervious surface removal is planned throughout the Urban Reserve
 1. Current design is to remove surfaces needed for path alignment and a buffer
 - a. Working with regulatory agencies to determine what is possible

40 IDX Drive
Building 100, Suite 200
South Burlington, VT 05403
P 802.497.6100

- vii. Moving forward with plans for construction of pause places along the path
 1. Conceptual plans have been created by Sasaki Associates
 2. Planned locations include Texaco Beach, the middle of the Urban Reserve, and College Street
 3. Public process will be used to finalize pause place designs
- viii. Assessing shoreline improvements to include in spring bid package
 1. VHB identified areas along the shoreline that require treatment
 2. Currently working to determine what rehabilitation will be performed
 - a. Stone work, vegetation, etc. will be needed to rehabilitate the shoreline
 - b. Rehabilitation important to ensure the long-term protection of the path
- ix. Path realignment will result in impacts to vegetation within the Urban Reserve
 1. Assessing what the impacts will be to trees and other vegetation
 - a. Path widening and undermining concerns will require some tree removal
 2. Replanting will occur for removed trees by a minimum ratio of 1:1
 3. Working with the City Arborist Warren Spinner throughout process
 - a. Identification of trees to be removed
 - b. Plans for replanting with various tree species focusing on native species
- x. Review of Phase 1b construction milestones
 1. Anticipated construction start date – 7/2015
 2. Anticipated completion date – 11/2015

2. Questions and Answers

- a. Chris Lyon – Is interested in the possibility of utilizing the path pause places to include fitness equipment and expand the bike path into a recreational project. Equipment and areas to stretch or perform light exercises would go a long way to further enhance the planned rehabilitation. This project is bigger than just a bike path and any possibility to draw more users to the area and keep them there for longer periods of time would be beneficial to the City.
 - i. Jesse noted that there will be public meetings in the future to discuss the exact configuration and details of pause places along the path. There will be an opportunity through this process to include fitness equipment in the pause place designs.
 - ii. Jesse noted that the City is also looking to rename the path to encourage the notion that this is a multi-use pathway and not confined to bicyclist traffic.
 - iii. John Bossange noted that the commission has always considered this path a multi-use path.
- b. Hans Van Weez – Is excited to see the path realignment, and asked for specifics on the alignment across Penny Lane which has been dangerous in the past. He also mentioned his interest in how the City plans on maintaining the path for winter recreation.
 - i. Jesse explained that reconfiguration of Penny Lane is planned to be integrated into the Waterfront Access North project.

- ii. Jesse noted that the City has been experimenting with winter maintenance of the path for the past two years. This year the City groomed the path allowing people to use the path to run/bike/cross country ski/snow shoe/etc. He discouraged the idea of salting the pathway due to proximity to the shoreline. Full clearing of the pathway similarly to sidewalks around the City would be a significant expense and may not be feasible.
 - iii. Carolyn Hansson commended the City for the decision to groom the path for winter activities.
- c. Carolyn Hansson – Is very pleased with the planned realignment and development of pause places. She sees the planned tree planting as an education opportunity that she does not want to see the City miss. Planting a variety of native tree species would provide an avenue for an interactive educational experience in arborology. She is also very supportive of the idea to include fitness equipment in the pause place designs.
- d. Jeetan Khadka – Wondered if any thought was given to improvements at the deep water port.
 - i. Jesse noted that this area is the only deep water port on this side of Lake Champlain which is publically accessible. The path realignment is the only development that has currently been approved for this area. Future discussion will be needed for any development of the area.
- e. Kristy Degati – Kiosks and signage along the path could also be used as an educational aspect to the path. Similar to the idea of planting native tree varieties, information on the kiosks would allow for further educational enrichment of the environment.
- f. Jen Francis – Is working with a sustainable transportation class at UVM. Students are investigating design aspects of the Bike Path's Texaco Beach pause place conceptual design as a real-world sample design scenario.
- g. Sally Matson – Asked for clarification on the difference between a kiosk and a pause place.
 - i. Erin explained that a kiosk is an attraction at a pause place meant to relay information to the public. The size and shape of the kiosks will vary along the pathway.
- h. John Bossange – Requested that future public informational meetings be held to continue to inform the public on the project development in the summer.
 - i. Jesse noted that information on the pause places and wayfinding packages will be presented to the public, likely sooner than this summer. There will be several informational meetings planned to continue to update the public.

