



Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead
Burlington, Vermont 05408

Tel: (802) 863-5744 info@wvdp.org www.WVPD.org Fax: (802) 865-0647



Minutes for May 17th, 2022, Board of Trustees for Winooski Valley Park District

The meeting began at 4:37 PM. Meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Present (via Zoom): Sonja Schuyler (Jericho), Erin Dupuis (Winooski), Jeffery Theis (Essex), Reid Willis (Williston), Aaron Keech (Burlington), David Crawford (South Burlington), Nick Warner (WVPD Executive Director), Lauren Chicote (WVPD Operations Manager)

Guests: Phelan Fretz, ECHO Center Director/Consultant

Absent: Susan Gilfillan (Colchester)

Public Comment Period: No one present from the public. Guest, Phelan Fretz, will speak later in the agenda about the Museum Renovation Project.

Agenda Changes: No changes were made to the agenda.

Review and Approve Minutes from previous meeting: Several grammatical errors/typos were corrected. Jeffery Theis moved to accept minutes with changes, Reid Willis seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

Review Financial reports: Lauren Chicote stated that WVPD's budget remains on track for the fiscal year. WVPD has received all expected payments from member communities. Still anticipating park expenses being over budget due to the 50% deposit for windows at the Colchester Pond caretaker house. Remaining expense for the windows will be in FY23 as work is currently scheduled for mid-summer. Lauren spoke with Park Superintendent, Tim Larned, about expected expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. The only large expense will be for repairs to several mowers and will be around \$2K. Depending on when work to the mowers is done and WVPD is invoiced, it could be an FY23 expense. Jeffery Theis asked if WVPD plans to apply for the VLCT Safety Grant program. Lauren and Nick answered yes, WVPD has utilized the grant program in the past and plans to continue to use for various safety upgrades. Tim Larned has several ideas of possible applications and will be looking into the program for this years' grant round. Sonja Schuyler asked about the surplus in the salary line and if that would change with the seasonal staff being hired on. Lauren answered that a small surplus is expected to remain in the staff salary line at the end of the fiscal year, but the seasonal staff has returned so that will be spent down. Reid Willis moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Jeffery Theis/Aaron Keech; the financial report was accepted unanimously.

Operational Updates from Nick Warner and Lauren Chicote: Nick announced that Lauren has been asked to join the board for the Friends of the Winooski River. The Park District is trying to recruit a gate tender for Wolcott. Update on Jacob parcel; we have the draft easement,

parking, and trail access as a condition of their approval. Please see notes provided by Nick Warner titled Executive Director Updates for more depth of explanation.

Discussion with Phelan Fretz/Museum Renovation Project: Nick Warner- Phelan Fretz is about to retire from 20 years at the ECHO Center; Nick approached Phelan to assist the Park District with the museum renovation project. Phelan states that he has some history with the museum and Abenaki. He plans to go into the museum as a “mystery shopper” and experience and explore that. He states that Fred Weissman is a gifted person and dedicated to the project. Angie (museum director) is a perfect fit. He continues to say that we do need a lease and a business plan. Phelan expressed his excitement about being part of the project.

Sonja Schuyler asks about how long it would take once he is officially on board. Nick responds that we have the first 50 hours covered and that it will roughly take 100 hours. Phelan believes it will likely take more than 100 hours to evaluate and weave the already existing relationships. Phelan asks what the strengths and weaknesses of the museum/homestead are. Sonja states that the strength of community and committed board members. Some of the museum board volunteers have been involved for 20-30 years. Dave stated that the staff over-commits themselves. Phelan asks what the strength and weakness of Alnobaiwi is. Jeff states that the group behind Fred is a cohesive, united front along with Fred having a long-time commitment. Phelan asks how the organizations feel about entrepreneurship. Nick states that our tenants seek stability.

Phelan asked each board member to respond to the question: What is the public personality of the two?

Erin- A weaving and honoring of the two, cocreation

Reid- Walking beside each other

Jeff- Full historic and holistic big picture

Aaron- Celebration of place, time, technology, and overlap

Dave- Learning experience

Sonja- A place where the member towns are honored to be a platform for this project

Executive Session: David Crawford made a motion to move into executive session to discuss real estate matters that the premature disclosure could potentially damage WVPD. Aaron Keech seconded. The Board entered the executive session at 5:44 pm. The Board exited executive session at 6:01 pm with a motion from Erin Dupuis, seconded by David Crawford.

Adjourn: David Crawford moved to Adjourn, Aaron Keech Seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting will be June 21st, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:

Erin Dupuis, WVPD Board Secretary