

CITY OF BARRE PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES

Committee/board/task force: Parks and Recreation

Date of meeting: September 10, 2025

Location of meeting: Virtual

Members in attendance: Joshua Piascik, Bernadette Guyette, Haley Pero

Members absent: None

Others in attendance: Councilor Michael Deering, II; Recreation Coordinator Michelle LaBarge-Burke, Peter Anthony

Meeting Minutes:

- Call to Order
 - Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM
- Adjustments to the agenda
 - None
- Public Comment
 - None
- Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - Minutes to come
- New Business
 - Welcoming new members
 - Introductions of Council liaison, City staff liaison, members, and guests
 - Member updates
 - Haley Pero announced resignation from committee due to upcoming move
 - Peter Anthony noted that he has submitted an application to join the committee and will be coming before Council soon
 - Discussion about the need for another committee members to submit agendas and minutes. **Joshua will set up meetings, with support from Roxanne at the City. A volunteer will be selected at each meeting to take minutes.**
 - Discussion about how to recruit new members - could the City post on their social media, Front Porch Forum? Peter mentioned that this is an important time, as the City may have more real estate for parks and recreation following buyouts. Councilor Deering has been doing some outreach already. **Committee**

agreed to put out call to our personal networks, and Councilor Deering will ask the City to put on social media and FPF. Peter also asked what the budget is for the committee. Councilor Deering, Michelle, and City Manager can discuss with Council, including potential allocations from pots of funding that are available but haven't been utilized. This led to a discussion about how the committee/City may interact with BYSA. **Decision made to move some of Peter's larger questions about the purpose/mission of the Committee, how it fits with BYSA, the budget, and future opportunities for more City property ownership to New Business at the next meeting.**

- Discussion about potentially adding more pocket parks with recreation activities around the City, but no decisions were reached.
- Old Business
 - Microgrant proposal
 - Discussion/refreshers about the proposal, its history, and next steps. This is funding from the Special Projects Fund, \$5,000 for more recreation and gathering opportunities. Councilor Gustin had asked committee to come up with application for requests of up to \$500. Councilor Deering confirmed that this funding could carry over to future fiscal years. **Councilor Deering will send information from Councilor Gustin about the proposal to the committee.**
 - Discussion about potential uses of funds: Grandparents Day, ice cream socials, etc. Haley clarified that our directive is not so much to come up with ideas ourselves, but instead to design an application to help solicit community-generated applications to use this fund. Peter suggested that we could reach out to people in neighborhoods to apply for next spring or summer. Joshua mentioned wanting to get the ball rolling on an application, as he is aware that the Friends of Mathewson Playground, for example, have immediate ideas for a Halloween party. Peter suggested doing outreach on Front Porch Forum. **Haley agreed to draft some basic questions for the application.**
 - Reviewing old project ideas
 - Josh and Haley briefed attendees on older ideas, including a rain garden, a rose garden, more signage, more interaction with the Barre Town parks and recreation committee, an annual calendar of events, and a parks and recreation map. They noted that they were not able to move much forward with a small committee made up of new members, but that with new energy, members, and City support, more could likely be accomplished going forward.
 - Confirming Zoom log-in process
 - Michelle noted that the best way to ensure that a reliable Zoom account is available is to keep meeting dates and times consistent. **Joshua will**

follow up with Roxanne about this. Councilor Deering offered his cell to Joshua to help troubleshoot.

- Adjournment
 - Joshua moved to adjourn, Bernadette seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM