

Parks Commission
Tuesday January 21, 2020 / 6PM
Meeting Location: Montpelier Police Station Conference Room

Commissioners: Kassia, Shelby, Dan, Carolyn

Staff: n/a

Public: Andrew Brewer, Alex Boguzewski, Stephanie Hunt, Kip

Meeting Minutes

6:04 January 21 agenda and January 7 minutes
Dan moves, Shelby Seconds, motion passes

6:05 Public Comment
None

6:10 Parks Commissioner vacancies - meet candidates
Candidates introduced themselves

6:34 Enter executive session to discuss appointment of vacant seat

6:53 Exit executive session

The parks commission appoints Andrew Brewer to the vacant seat. All three are encouraged to run for the two open seats and to continue to volunteer with the parks.

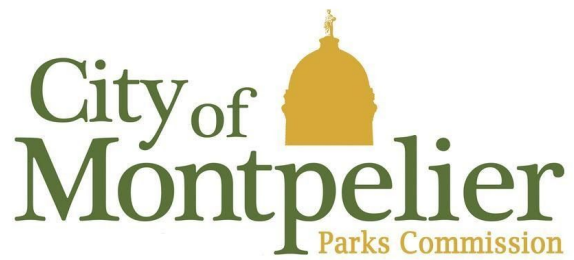
- 7:00 Staff update
- Morse Farm trail area - need for signage for what's open/closed
 - Questions about Friends of the Winooski grant for road work
 - Frozen Onion: Onion River Outdoors seeks permission to host fat bike event in North Branch Park on trails open to winter biking.
 - Route won't connect into Hubbard, will stay on North Branch Side, may try to stage at North Branch Nature Center, for a warm space. NBNC will check the dates.
 - Revenue generated would go towards grooming bike approved trails, revenue anticipated from entrance fees (\$35) and demos by donation
 - Ideal Dates Feb 15 or 16
 - Route would be one (approx. 4 mile) or two (approx. 7 mile) race, all from North Branch Nature Center and North Branch Park. 7-mile option expected to take about 1-hr.
 - Notify trail users that day - Bill Koch League, others

- Would like permission to have fire (in a ring) on east side of N. Branch Winooski (near volleyball court area)
- Spread word about races through parks commission, front porch forum, etc.
- Donation would be made to the city and earmarked for this purpose
- Make sure it is a community event, not just a marketing opportunity for a single business but a community benefit connected with public lands. Encouraged to invite other businesses and nonprofits to have a presence at event.
- Dan moves to approve the request to use North Branch Park for the Frozen Onion event on Feb 15 or 16, Carolyn seconds. Motion passes.

7:25 Greenprint map layers - data we have, data we want, begin to prioritize (Shelby, Alec)

- Easily available maps via Shelby:
 - Wetland
 - Core Habitat
 - Deer Wintering Areas
 - Species of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Climate Resilience
- Not included here:
 - Connectivity a) between existing parkland (both in Montpelier and outside city limits), and b) perimeter lands ("ring around Montpelier")
 - Access from neighborhoods
 - Views and Vistas
 - Neighborhood boundaries (planning and zoning map is by neighborhood)
 - Access across roadways or other significant dividers
 - Who's outside 10-minute walk
 - Household income vs. distance to parks
 - Existing trails/shared use paths and where connections could fit in
 - City ownership and/or right of way
 - Existing trails and parks
- What we want to see in our parks
 - Family oriented parks
 - ADA access
 - More aggressive pedestrian crossings near parks
- Priorities
 - Access: Where people *don't* have access, and we can provide it, especially as it relates to income/property value
 - Open space: Where it is feasible (or potential future open space)
 - Environmental considerations
 - Connectivity: Between existing parks/Trails/Multi-use paths
- → Shelby and Alec to map the four priorities above, and bring to next meeting for further discussion

8:05 Adjourn



Kassia Randzio, Chair
Carolyn Grodinsky
Dan Dickerson
Shelby Perry

Geoff Beyer, Parks Director
Alec Ellsworth, Parks Caretaker

Upcoming Meetings:

- **February 4:** Parks' Greenprint Discussion, 6-8pm, Police Station
- **February 18:** Monthly Parks Commission Meeting, 6-8pm, Police Station

Unfinished Business

- Hubbard Park vegetation management
- Hubbard road mitigation
- Pump track progress, more complete site plan
- ADA improvements to Hubbard Park
- Budget
- Spring Hollow easement opportunity
- Kids mountain bike trail location - specifics

Policies in Progress

- Memorial policy
- MOU for groups doing work in city parks (standards/policies)