

PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2026

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:02 PM after initial technical difficulties with audio and Zoom connectivity. Chair Councilor Schachter confirmed all attendees could hear and participate.

Attendance

Committee Members Present:

- Chair Councilor Allie Schachter
- Councilor Becca Brown McKnight (remote)
- Councilor Carter Neubieser (remote)

City Staff and Participants:

- City Attorney Office representatives ((including City Attorney Brown (Zoom) and Attorney Emmett Wood)
- Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, Parks & Central Facilities Division Director, Deryk Roach
- Burlington Community and Economic Development Office leadership (CEDO) Directory Kara Alnasrawi & Samantha McGinnis (CSMP)
- Burlington City Arts Director Doreen Kraft
- CAO Katherine Schad

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Councilor McKnight and seconded by Chair Schachter. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Summary

Public comment opened at approximately 12:03 PM. Several members participated both in person and via Zoom.

Sheltering on Public Lands Policy Briefing

Attorney Wood gave a comprehensive overview of the City's Shelter on Public Lands policy, including its origins in the settlement agreement resulting from the *Croteau v. Burlington* lawsuit. Key points included:

- Background on Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment claims raised in the lawsuit.
- Requirements for due process, including consistent notice and storage of personal property.
- Clarification that camping is prohibited across City parks and public lands, aside from staffed campgrounds.
- Explanation of triage procedures used due to staffing constraints, distinguishing environmental hazards, safety concerns, and general encampments.
- Importance of consistency in enforcement to avoid creating implied property rights or permissive conditions.

Committee Questions & Discussion

Committee members engaged in an extensive discussion focused on resource constraints, enforcement consistency, and long-term strategies. Key discussion points included:

- Need for increased staffing for Parks, DPW, and outreach teams.
- Clarification that the City cannot restrict rights granted in the existing policy without ACLU approval.
- Acknowledgment of the significant statewide components of homelessness, addiction, and mental health systems.
- Consideration of temporary sanctioned camping areas and legal implications for City liability.
- Recognition of the need for improved communication between Council and Administration.
- Public advocacy suggestions related to state-level funding and policy changes.

Closing & Adjournment

Public comment was closed at 12:38 PM. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM. Chair Schachter thanked all attendees for their participation and noted that the next meeting will continue pending agenda items not reached during this session.