



Community Preservation Committee

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Regular

~ Minutes ~

Kathy Calvanese

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

6:00 PM

Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology

I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on March 5, 2024 at Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology, (Online), Springfield, MA.

1. Statement

Springfield Community Preservation Committee

March 5, 2024

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order concerning the Open Meeting Law, the Springfield Community Preservation Committee will continue to meet remotely until further notice. A full video recording of this meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Springfield> <<http://www.facebook.com/Springfield>>

CommunityPreservationCommittee/

Telephone 413-530-1268. Public comments regarding any of the 2024 projects will be accepted until April 30, 2024

and be mailed to Community Preservation Committee, City Hall, 36 Court Street, Springfield, 01103 or e-mail to:

cpc@springfieldcityhall.com

Present: Clinton Harris (Park Department Representative), Robert McCarroll (Springfield Preservation Trust), Steven Bosworth (Neighborhood Representative), Gloria DeFilippo (Planning Board Representative) -Juanita Martinez (Conservation Commission Representative) -Judy Crowell (Historical Commission), Willie Thomas (Housing Authority) Yolanda Cancel (Neighborhood Representative)

Absent: Rhonda Sherrell - (Neighborhood Representative)

Call to Order

Interviews with 2024 CPA Applicants

1. Marshall Roy Park - East Springfield Neighborhood Council
2. Clarendon Triangle Fountain - McKnight Neighborhood Council
3. Buckingham Triangle Fountain - McKnight Neighborhood Council
4. Treetop Park - Outer Belt Civic Association
5. Forest Park Fitness Course - Forest Park Civic Association
6. Forest Park Clay Tennis Courts - DPBRM on behalf of Springfield Tennis Club
7. Van Sickle Softball Diamond - DPBRM
8. Invasive Plant Control-Regreen Springfield
9. Forest Park Arboretum Enhancement-Regreen Springfield
10. Poor Brook Expeditionary Trail-Regreen Springfield
11. Lake Lorraine Nature Trail-Regreen Springfield
12. Glendell Park Vegetation restoration-Regreen Springfield

Approve Minutes of January 2 (no February meeting scheduled)

Discussion to have MA Audubon hold the Abbey Brook Acquisition Conservation Restriction.

Contract Extension Requests: Consider policy on six months extension requests

Administrator's Updates

Other Matters

Focus Springfield
Next Meeting March 19

1) Marshall Roy Park - Park Enhancements

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$300,000

Presenter: Kathy Brown & Marie Kosci of East Springfield Neighborhood Council

Grassroots project from the community and partnered with the Parks Department. Includes a 24x36 pavilion and all ability swings. Additional landscaping and cushiony bounce material under the swings. The pavilion will be connected by walking path, exercise equipment and splash pad. Park is well utilized and the pavilion will enhance the use and overlook the current play area.

2) Clarendon Triangle Fountain - Triangle Beautification

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$150,000

Presenter: Walter Kroll, McKnight Neighborhood Council

Triangle beautification for the space is a neighborhood request and includes a pollinator garden, plantings, fountain repair, landscaping and enhancement of the streetscape. This triangle is one of eight open space areas originally donated in the late 1800's by a local McKnight family who developed the neighborhood. This LHD is known worldwide to urban-planners as one of the first planned residential neighborhoods in the United States, with parks and fountains integrated throughout the neighborhood.

3) Buckingham Triangle Fountain - Triangle Beautification

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$205,000

Presenter: Walter Kroll, McKnight Neighborhood Council

A larger triangle that allows for more activity. Request for restoration of the fountain, plumbing, and drainage; and the addition of flower beds with native and other perennial plantings that will bloom from early spring to late fall. The Buckingham Park grounds are the largest green space of the three fountain locations, and this project will also include benches surrounding the fountain and a walkway which will make the park accessible to a wider range of residents. McKnight Council Park Committee will assist in the plant choices and maintaining the beds in collaboration with the Parks Department.

4) Treetop Park - Park Enhancements

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$250,000

Presenter: Walter Gould, Outer Belt Civic Association

Opened in July 2009 with active soccer fields and play area with a jungle gym and slide. The proposed park improvements include installation of a stone dust surface walking path and accessible ADA swing set. Neighborhood uses the park extensively, especially for soccer games. Gated park, applying for an ARPA grant for solar lights.

5) Forest Park Fitness Course - Update fitness center

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$300,000

Presenter: Steve Posner, Forest Park Civic Association

Proposed improvements include design and construction to renovate the broken fitness station with new accessible surfacing and exercise equipment. The equipment will be varied to offer both strength & conditioning and cardiovascular style equipment that can be used throughout the year. An accessible walkway to the fitness course will be constructed to connect the exercise station with the main walking path around the Forest Park ballfields. Instructional and safety signs.

6) Forest Park Clay Tennis Courts - Restore two clay courts

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$300,000

Presenter: Mary Martin, Springfield Tennis Club

Forest Park offers eight red-clay surface tennis courts, established in the late 1800's. This application focuses on activities to renovate two of the clay courts, the standalone courts closest to Sumner Avenue, to improve playing conditions. Specifically, the project will address court drainage, surfacing, equipment, fencing, access and site amenities. Improvements through this grant will renovate a popular recreation element within Springfield's largest park. Courts are open to the public.

7) Van Sickle Softball Diamond - Dugouts, fencing, field upgrades.

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$300,000

Presenter: Roberto Fontanez, Old Timers Softball league and Laura Walsh, DPBRM, support by Representative Carlos Gonzalez

Adjacent to Abbey Brook and School Department land, Housing Authority ownership will need to be secured. The field is well used by local leagues and is in need of upgrades. Field is currently maintained in the park budget. The park will be open to students during the school day. Old timers league uses the field on Saturdays from April- October and maintains the area when games are scheduled.

Enhancements and public safety to dugouts, fencing, seating, trash reciprocals.

8) Invasive Plant Control-in Springfield's public parks, greenspace and conservation lands

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$55,000

Presenter: David Bloniarz, Regreen Springfield

Transitioned away from chemical control to mechanical control and newer eradication methods, vinegar and natural managing of attacking the knotweed. Chemical control requires a five year plan and a new schedule is in process for only specific areas of Springfield. Operations begin in April to identify areas that need eradication and removal begins in the fall. Community outreach is part of the program. Program covers park or conservation commission land but not on land owned by the school, police, etc.

9) Forest Park Arboretum Enhancement-document 100 new trees and GIS mapping

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$58,000

Presenter: David Bloniarz, Regreen Springfield

Applied and received arboretum level 3 designation. Trees were tagged and inventoried. Looking to document 100 new trees and GIS map to program as a learning tool about the trees for the general public. A walk and talk tour of the trees and recorded for use by park staff. The role of trees in the urban landscape. Teaching about trees as a tool for the ecosystem of Springfield.

10) . Poor Brook Expeditionary Trail-creation of sustainable trail and signage

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$37,000

Presenter: David Bloniarz, Regreen Springfield

Includes discovery stations. Located in the Delta Hills Conservation Area. Includes the creation of sustainable trail designs that minimize ecological impact, the installation of informational signage about local flora and fauna, and the implementation of measures to prevent erosion and protect sensitive habitats. Preservation of the area includes removal of invasive species (not maintenance).

11) Lake Lorraine Nature Trail-Study to develop a restoration plan for walking trails

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$28,000

Presenter: David Bloniarz, Regreen Springfield and IO residents Samantha Eanes and Nate Eanes

Proposal to develop a comprehensive plan for the restoration of existing walking trails and the establishment of new trails at Lake Lorraine and the shoreline areas along the lake. Prioritize equitable access to the lake which is inaccessible to some residents. Several homeowners have put up fencing on

conservation property and some own the property to the water's edge. One gate is always locked and the trail is closed off, the goal is to make it a neighborhood asset for the public. Community workshops are planned for neighborhood input.

12) Glendell Park -Restore the park's vegetation

CPA Program Area: Recreation CPA Request: \$13,000

Presenter: David Bloniarz, Regreen Springfield and Nate from the forestry division

A historic park that has served the Springfield community for over a century. The recent decline in its vegetation, particularly its once-thriving trees, has diminished its ecological health and aesthetic value. The project aims to reverse this trend by restoring the park's native vegetation, thereby enhancing its role as a green oasis in an urban environment. Proposal includes involving high school aged youth and neighborhood residents in the planting process and educating the next generation on the importance of environmental conservation. Students from the Springfield Water and Sewer pipeline program will plant the trees and pollinator and perennial gardens. Glendell Park is not included in the GIS plan for parks and will need to be verified that it is park land and not DPW property.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of January 2, 2024 Minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Gloria and seconded by Clinton. All in favor, yes. Motion passed.

Abbey Brook Conservation Project. Open Space acquired with CPA funds needs a conservation restriction to protect the land. The city will be responsible for maintenance but the steward monitors the property for compliance. Discussions with representatives of Mass Audubon took place over the course of a few months.

Motion by Gloria to select Mass Audubon for stewardship of the Abbey Brook Conservation Area and to hold the Conservation Restriction. Second by Steve. All in favor.

It is very common for nonprofits to require a Stewardship/endowment fee when they are asked to hold a CR on municipal land acquired with CPA funds. There is a cost to the land trust, whether it be insurance, annual monitoring and/or enforcement action, if ever necessary. Mass Audubon provided a cost proposal for \$11,053.96. This one time cost for oversight can be paid in one of four ways:

- 1) Mass Audubon absorbs the cost as an in-kind contribution. \$11,053.96
- 2) Responsibility for the cost is borne by the City and comes out of the CPA grant.
- 3) The Committee allocates additional funds to cover the fee
- 4) The city uses another source of funding to cover the cost.

All possibilities are being considered at this time.

Contract Extension Requests: Consider a new policy on six month extension requests

Motion by Gloria to authorize the Chair to sign a one time extension for up to six months without a committee vote. Second by Willie. Motion passed with Clinton voting no.

Second discussion: to integrate an automatic 6 month extension into a contract is being reviewed by the law department. Once the committee makes its recommendations this year, the grantees will be contacted to confirm a completion date before the contract is signed. Changes to the initial date will not require a committee vote.

Administrator's Updates

The creation of new **Local Historic Districts (LHD)** have been on pause since July 2024 and waiting for the Office of Planning and Economic Development to provide a new process. In the meantime, some of our contracts include the condition that they become a LHD or put a preservation restriction on the

property. A PR is a lengthy and costly process and not the first choice. The Chair will attend a future SHC meeting to discuss options for city departments.

PVPC Consultant Services Insurance Issue

The PVPC met with their insurance carrier; and if the city will agree to Additional Insured coverage up to \$100,000 (rather than \$1M), there will be no premium cost. If the City wants the Additional Insured coverage beyond \$100,000, they will need to add at least \$1,000 in direct costs if the contract goes over two policy terms (\$500/premium year). The law department is reviewing. This policy change may affect any city department that uses PVPC services but as a reminder, the current OPED contract only includes verification of employee coverage (up to \$1M) without the additional insured certificate.

HHRP grantee with additional ARPA grant. The homeowner received an exterior home repair grant through ARPA funds, and in addition was a lottery winner in the historic home restoration program. A petition for approval of the work was presented to the SHC by the housing office since it is located in a LHD. The petitioner was given approval and a certificate was issued. The work the CPA grant would've covered is already part of the city grant.

Motion made by Yolanda to return the lottery winner's funds (\$5,200.00) to the Undesignated Reserve second by Gloria. Motion passed.

FocusSpringfield

No update on the CPA project videos. A schedule of videos to follow soon. Committee members are not obligated to participate on video if they choose not to.

The second set of interviews will take place at the next scheduled meeting on March 19.

Adjourned 9 pm