



# Community Preservation Committee

Regular

~ Minutes ~

36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Kevin Chaffee

Monday, November 5, 2018

6:00 PM

City Hall--Room 220

## I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on November 5, 2018 at City Hall--Room 220, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|---------------|-------|--------|---------|
|---------------|-------|--------|---------|

## II. Public Portion

### 1. Minutes

**Springfield Community Preservation Committee**  
**Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:00pm**  
**City Hall Room 220**  
**36 Court Street, Springfield**

**Present:** Juanita Martinez, Robert McCarroll, Terry Mitchell, Ralph Slate

**Absent:** Gloria DeFillipo, Angela Robles, Steve Shultis and Lamar Cook

Mr. McCarroll began the public hearing at 6:00 pm. He gave an overview of CPA. City Council passed the ordinance that created the committee in early 2017. The full committee of nine people was appointed in April and spent most of 2017 drafting a Community Preservation. In January 2018, we issued a call for proposals. Thirty-two proposals were submitted and 31 seemed to be CPA eligible. CPA can deal with areas of Community Housing which has income restrictions, with Historic Resources which is defined as properties that are on the State Register of Historic Places, and with Open Space and Recreational uses. Open Spaces under the state law are spaces such as woodlands, farm lands, wetlands, stream embankments, dunes, and recreational uses. Thirty-one applicants were invited to fill out and submit final proposals. Twenty-six full applications came in at the end of May, and 24 were considered to be in proper form and accepted. One of the twenty-four dropped out. The CPC met with all of the applicants over the summer and started deliberation process this fall and have recently submitted to the City Council recommendations for this calendar year 2018 which was to fund 13 projects which came to one million two hundred and seventy dollars. Tonight, the CPC is starting start the process for calendar year 2019 which will be giving out the money that is currently being collected through the end of June of 2019. The CPC will be tweaking the Community Preservation Plan which will look at what the priorities are and going through the same process of going through preliminary applications and finally going through final applications and sending them to the City Council which is the body that has the authority to either fund or not fund the recommended projects.

At this time Mr. McCarroll invited those present to explain what they felt their needs were. He mentioned that the CPC is also accepting written comments through the end of November.

**Public Hearing:**

Zaida Govan from the Indian Orchard Citizens Council thanked the CPC for allotting monies to improve Godfrey Triangle and mentioned that she would like to see improvements to the Myrtle Street Park.

Mary Ellen O'Brien from the Hungry Hill Neighborhood Council explained that they didn't apply last year because they didn't know what the process was in applying for assistance. However, this year they want to become more involved. They have three projects. One is a small parcel of land on Penacook Street that has been an eyesore for many years. They don't have specific plans but would like to see something better, perhaps a green space. She did say she would also like to see a monument for those who served put there if that were possible. Secondly was improvement to Freeman Park. There are two baseball diamonds and a basketball court. It pretty much closed down. Thirdly was improvement to the pond in Van Hon Park. Mr. McCarroll suggested that they speak with the Park Department since it controls two of the spaces. Also, as far as the land on the corner of Carew and Penacook Street it should be ultimately park land and who is going to own it and maintain it. CPA can help with recreation active or passive but there has to be a recreation component. CPA is not just a street beautification program.

Michael Fenton addressed the Committee stating that the meeting tonight was to address the comments of the 2019 process. Mr. McCarroll then stated that if we hear of a general need we can modify the current plan to include new activities that we didn't have last year. Mr. Fenton took the opportunity to thank the Committee for their volunteer service. Mr. Fenton wanted to put a discussion on the table to the CPC process next year. His suggested what is being put forward is endorsed by Parks and Buildings and there may be value to also have a meeting with Pat Sullivan and applicants for the next cycle just to address those ones in and of themselves. Working with Mr. Tulley there is a time constraint as to what projects he can commit to. Mr. Fenton wanted to know if this is something that the CPC would do next year because some applicants that didn't receive funding need to know to improve their applications.

Mr. McCarroll responded that when we sent out e-mail notices to applicants In the coming year the CPC will have staff assistance otherwise it is the volunteer CPC members doing everything. There were some that we said it was not as pressing as some other things, there are others we said they should reduce their costs and there were a couple of applications that we just said you are not CPA eligible. Following up with previous applicants is probably something we want to do. Mr. Slate agreed with this determination. Mr. Fenton did state that balancing all those priorities and because the City Council is going to have to look at these he felt that they should get very high praise. Mr. Fenton suggested at this time that we consider that next year we invite those applicants to a meeting stating that if they are interested in talking about their application of last year and why we didn't do it. Maybe we could improve it to get you funded. Simply put, we don't want to discourage anyone from applying in the future. Mr. Slate agreed with this

suggestion. Mr. McCarroll stated that he didn't realize that there might be a capacity issue on the park side. We don't want neighborhoods turned away because of capacity.

Mr. McCarroll read a letter written by Roberta Kilkeny from McKnight. This letter will be attached to the notes of this meeting. Ms. Govan then offered a suggestion that the Committee may need some technical assistance and possibly an administrative staff that could possibly help with technical assistance so that next year when they submit their application they would have a better chance at getting their request to go through. The technical assistant could probably assist private groups to garner their hopes so their request could go through.

Mr. McCarroll stated that the Committee is going to keep open dialogue because there are so few in the audience tonight and just a reminder that we are accepting written comments on these through the end of November. Mr. McCarroll explained that at every meeting there is a public speak out. Anyone that wants to come to us and speak to us briefly is more than welcome to do that. Mr. Slate stated that some people thought that the CPC is there to do projects. He wondered if there is a group that can be hired by using administrative funds to give presentations and ideas.

Mr. McCarroll stated that he sent out an invite for tonight's meeting to all seventeen neighborhoods.

Ms. Martinez stated that the projects that we didn't fund wasn't the lack of understanding. It simply didn't fit the criteria. She also feels that once the public sees what has been accomplished throughout the city through the newspaper or television, people will see it because this isn't a one shot deal, this will be going on yearly.

Mr. McCarroll thought it would be a good idea that when CPC makes the call for proposals in January and February it could pay out of our administrative budget for an ad that goes into Mass Live or the Republican. Mr. McCarroll also stated that there is a statewide coalition that has a very good website so if you google Community Preservation Coalition they have a variety of helpful things you can search for CPA projects for the last 17 years. You search by your area of interest. They also have issues where they talk about the three eligible areas and how CPA money can be spent.

Mr. McCarroll stated that he met with the City Council Eco Dev Sub Committee. They had some general questions such as procedural concerns which he is trying to get an answer for them from the Statewide Coalition. They had very few concerns on some projects and there were some projects that they had significant concerns.

Mr. McCarroll stated that he met with the Budget Financial people and City Solicitor. The City Solicitor will be drawing up contracts that we will sign for whatever projects the City Council approves. He raised two issues on two proposals which was the McKnight CPC and the Springfield Historic Preservation Trust Fund. His concern was more of why we were funding nongovernment organizations to give the money out as opposed to a City agency doing it. He wants to research what is happening out there in CPA.

Mr. McCarroll updated getting staff support. It looks as if we are heading toward getting someone that has the skill set that we have described in the job description. However, they will be a private consultant who works on an hourly basis as the need arises as opposed to a part time municipal employee. Finding a location to house them became the issue.

City Council meets November 19 at 6:30 pm and CPC members should attend.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday December 4 at 6:00 pm. Location to be announced.