



Community Preservation Committee

Regular

~ Minutes ~

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

Kevin Chaffee

Thursday, May 16, 2019

6:00 PM

See Agenda

I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on May 16, 2019 at See Agenda, City of Springfield, Springfield, MA.

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

II. Public Portion

III. Minutes

Springfield Community Preservation Committee
May 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm
John Shea Facility, Forest Park
Sumner Avenue, Springfield

Present: Lamar Cook, Gloria DeFillipo, Robert McCarroll, Terry Mitchell, Angela Robles
Terry Rodriguez, Ralph Slate
Absent: David Finn, Juanita Martinez

Mr. McCarroll began the meeting at 6:00 pm and gave an overview of stating that it is the second year of CPA. We are on schedule to raise a \$1.3 million as last year by the local tax levy. This year for the first time the Commonwealth has contributed two hundred fifty-five thousand dollars based on what was raised last year. The good news is that there is about \$1.5 million to recommend to the City Council. The bad news is that there are twenty-five finalists requesting approximately \$4.5 million.

Nine presenters will have five minutes, followed by questions from the CPC; eight more on June 4; and eight more in mid-June. The CPC will deliberate over the summer and have recommendations in September. City Council may approve recommendations. Approved projects will have contracts draw by the Law Department.

Angelina Park: Laura Walsh stated that the Park request was \$250,000 to complete renovation of which would focus on the renovation of the basketball court, installation of accessible playground elements, and installation of benches and trash receptacles. She also stated that this project could be completed in one year. Ms. DeFillipo questioned if the benches could be bought in bulk to bring down the price. Patrick Sullivan replied that this is the price from the states price agreement list. Ms. DeFillipo asked if these projects could be prioritized. She was told that they would be glad to give her the information. Ms. Walsh stated that once you get into construction you have to have engineered plans, and each project includes that. Mr. Slate questioned if they are just replacing the swings or the poles or putting in new poles with the accessories. Ms. Walsh explained that there will be a little bit of both, adding to what is there and updating the options so that there is play for everyone.

Atwater Park: Ms. Walsh reminded those present that this project had applied last year. Proposed improvements are renovation of the fountain, installation of benches, and landscape improvements. This has been a collaborative project for the neighborhood as it would brighten up the entry of the neighborhood. Restoration of the fountain is the biggest concern. Mr. McCarroll felt that a free flow fountain would be his recommendation. Ms. Walsh then stated that the final design would be up to the neighborhood as well as the budget. Mr. McCarroll stated that when he looks at the GIS map it almost looks like it was only a little triangle at one time with the road on all sides, and at some time the road was closed. He wanted to make sure that if the project were funded that we don't find out down the road that part of that land is really DPW and if they want it back because for traffic improvements. Mr. Slate asked if this is considered park land and how many benches were requested? Ms. Walsh replied that there is a request for three benches. Their request for funding is \$175,091.

Barrows Park: Ms. Walsh said Barrows Park is between Old Hill and Six Corners and the proposal is for benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, inclusive swings, playscape for children two years to five years old, new play panels for ages five and up, and a sign. Mr. McCarroll pointed out there was already a sign. Ms. Walsh stated that they are trying to make all of our park signs consistent. Their request for funding this project is \$250,000.

Hennessey Park: Ms. Walsh explained that the park is an open space with beautiful trees. Neighbors have asked for a gazebo like the one in Van Horn Park. New benches would encourage people to stay in the park. Chain link fencing along the border would be replaced with a wood guard rail that identifies that is a park. Hennessey Park is considered a passive park and cannot have a playground. Mr. McCarroll stated the northern half of that park came from land purchased through Urban Renewal, questioned if it is considered passive, and urged them to look into this matter. Ms. Walsh said she would look into it. Mr. McCarroll asked about the function of the gazebo. Ms. Walsh stated that neighbors asked for the gazebo. Ms. Walsh stated that if the neighbors wanted benches in the gazebo that they would do that. Their request for funding this project is \$210,000.

Hungry Hill Veterans Memorial Park: Ms. Walsh stated that this project was on an empty lot on the corner of Carew Street and Penacook Street. The land would be taken by the Park Department and declared as park land and would be maintained as open space inventory. In taking vacant lot which is subject to illegal dumping and turning it into a Memorial for the Veterans of the Hungry Hill Neighborhood. This would be a nice way to honor the Veterans and also reduce blight in this lot. The proposed project includes redeveloping the current vacant lot, installation of a memorial, benches, flag pole and landscaping. They are also proposing bollards that will be connected by chains along this lot. Their request for funding this project is \$190,000.

Nahorniak Park: Ms. Walsh addressed the need to renovate two tennis courts as well as move them about ten feet into the footprint of the park. One thing that tennis courts offer is that anyone of any ability can use them. The current courts are in poor condition. One of the benefits of this project is that during the design phase of previous phases we do have design documents from other tennis projects and all we would have to do is update them with current construction conditions and costs. This is a project that can move quickly through the construction phase. Ms. Walsh stated that we are just asking for the tennis court. Their request for funding is \$240,000.

Venture Pond: Ms. Walsh stated that the neighborhood recently had a cleanup. Venture Pond is a naturally occurring pond in Sixteen Acres off Wilbraham Road and Venture Drive. They would like to establish a walking path around the perimeter of the pond so that people could enjoy this resource. There is a deteriorated footpath and invasive species and overgrown

vegetation. The project would clean up those areas with the collaboration of sheriff's crews to help and to reduce the cost there and also it will be more environment friendly as we would be wood chipping on site and we use the wood chips on the footpath. We would like an entrance from Wilbraham Road to break up the long stretch that you are walking on from the Sixteen Acres Center toward WNEU. This could be a nice area for fishing and a boat dock in phase two. Ms. DeFillipo questioned if there would be an entrance on Wilbraham Road. Ms. Walsh did state that there would be an entrance on Wilbraham Road but we have to work with the DPW regarding fencing. Mr. McCarroll asked where the guard rails would go. Ms. Walsh stated that it would be a way to prevent people from parking too close to the wetlands there. Their request for this project is \$107,000.

Dog Park Feasibility Study: Councilor Orlando Ramos, chairman of the current Dog Park sub-committee, was joined by Councilor Marcus Williams and Hanna Orenstein of T. J. O'Connor. The committee was put together to identify locations that would be appropriate for a dog park and to identify possible funding mechanisms for construction. We realize that finding a location would be a time consuming endeavor because it is a volunteer board. The committee did identify the CPA as one of the possible funding mechanisms for the construction of our park. Ms. Orenstein stated that they estimate that there may be upward of 35,000 dogs in our city, many of which reside in apartment buildings or properties that have little or no space. Our animal control officers often encounter dog owners desire that let their dogs roam off leash and exercise in appropriate areas but we also encounter many owners who are concerned about roaming dogs and they don't want to encounter those dogs on their walk. Being able to refer these folks to a safe off leash area that is dedicated only for off leash are the tools that can mitigate the tensions between those two groups. Councilor Williams stated that it is important to realize that the \$75,000 requested has aspects of the feasibility, the pre-design phase, and the schematic design phase. For the pre-design we will be working with the city to obtain permits that are needed to construct a dog park. It would also lay out construction time lines that are essential. It provides the City a written description of what it entails to construct a dog park. Through our research we realize that there are large dogs and small dogs. One of the things the feasibility study would research is whether it makes sense to have is one dog park that has two different sizes for the dogs. He also stated that he sees this as a catalyst to get more dogs registered in Springfield. The park itself will only allow registered dogs. When it is time to come back for the construction phase there will probably be some staff time included. Mr. McCarroll mentioned that CPA cannot pay for operating costs. Mr. McCarroll also stated that studies that lead to projects are fine but studies that end up sitting on shelves are not. Mr. Slate asked the Councilors their feelings of the city regarding the funding of the construction of a Dog Park. The response was that they felt the city was in favor of this project. Plastic Park was one of the considerations for a dog park and hopefully the studies will look at that as a possibility.

Westminster Street Children's Park: Walter Kroll stated that this need came from the neighborhood, from neighborhood Council meetings, neighbors who live on the street with young children who said we don't have anywhere to bring our children. Pride is building a new station on State Street and it abuts this City property. This project originates from the neighborhood with the Neighborhood Council, partnering with Pride, along with other partners. The Park Department has become a part of this and they will take all of this over. This project is achievable and it's scaleable. This can happen in multi phases so don't get hung up with six phases because they well go as they get funded. Much of the materials we will use are reusable from other projects such as rod iron fencing. The design of this project comes from the neighborhood and also comes from the historic aspect of the neighborhood. The sensory garden will allow handicapped children to have a place to go. We will have a culinary garden and we

will have a tree program. The initial piece of the excavation and construction is paid for by Pride which will tie into State Street. This project is for children 12 years old and younger. Mr. Slate asked if this was a single building lot and Mr. Kroll stated that it was. Ms. DeFillipo suggested that it would be beneficial to name what would be most important to start. The request for this project is \$230,844.

PUBLIC SPEAK OUT: Kathy Brown from East Springfield thanked the CPC for the diligence and the amount of time they have put into reading all the requests received. She thanked them for being thoughtful and their trying to watch spending so that you can accommodate as many projects that you can appropriately. Colleen Moynihan representative for Venture Pond also thanked the Committee for their skills. Mary Ellen O'Brien of Hungry Hill Council thanked the Committee for all their work.

Ms. DeFillipo moved to approve minutes of the May 7 meeting; Mr. Cook seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Mr. McCarroll reported that Procurement is now drafting a contract for the staff consultant, but he doesn't know how long it will take at this time.

Mr. McCarroll stated that we now have two more projects under contract. Mr. McCarroll signed The Campanile Study. We are now down to four projects still to go under contract.

Ms. DeFillipo stated that a 13 ounce vinyl construction banner for mounting against a wall for outdoor use would catch a lot of wind. A 19 ounce vinyl banner is for long term outdoor use. Mr. McCarroll recommended the 19 ounce. Ms. DeFillipo read the cost would be \$418.00 for five banners noting that we only need four banners.

Mr. McCarroll stated that next month Lyndsay Hackett will put the FY20 budget before the City Council. Mr. McCarroll will let the CPC know the date.

Next Meeting: Will be on June 4 at 6 pm - Location will be announced.