



Community Preservation Committee

Regular

~ Minutes ~

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

Kevin Chaffee

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

6:00 PM

Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology

I. Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on April 6, 2021 at Utilizing Remote Collaboration Technology, (Online), Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
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II. Public Portion

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order concerning the Open Meeting Law, the City of Springfield is providing public notice that this public meeting will be conducted utilizing remote collaboration technology. **To View/Listen to the public meeting:***

- <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldCommunityPreservationCommittee/>

Public comments on any CPA application can be mailed to Community Preservation Committee, City Hall Room 412, 36 Court Street, Springfield 01103 or e-mailed to cpc@springfieldcityhall.com

III. Minutes

Springfield Community Preservation Committee

April 6, 2021

Remote Meeting at 6:00 pm

A video recording of this meeting is available on the Springfield Community Preservation Facebook page

Present: Lamar Cook (Neighborhood Representative)- Gloria DeFillipo (Planning Board)-David Finn (Historical Commission) JuanitaMartinez (Conservation)-Terry Mitchell-(Neighborhood Representative)-Terry Rodriguez-(Park Commission) Ralph Slate-(Neighborhood Representative)-Willie Thomas-Housing Authority and Robert McCarroll-Chair (Springfield Preservation Trust, Inc.

5-Minute Presentations from 2021 Applicants:

Riverfront Planting Study - Acorn Street Tennis Courts - Cottage Hill Park-
Van Horn Park Carp Pond Study - Hubbard Park Tennis Courts & Parking Lot-
Magazine Park - Westminster Street Park Phase 2 - Forest Park Picnic Pavilion-
Forest Park Zoo Fence

Betsy Johnson: Riverfront Planting Study

This came about because Scott Hansen with the Planning Department twice a year works with the U-Mass professor Frank Slekers and his landscape design students to come up with planning designs for various neighborhoods and parks. Last fall he had students doing various projects in the downtown area. The Armory Quadrangle Civic Association which I am the current chair and work very closely with this project. Two of the students did a project and said this should be a CPA project. I included a before and after of the photos and basically was showing how their proposal was that the Riverfront Park is being compromised by

the fact that the area from the parks edge down to the river was not upgraded when the whole park was being renovated. I have spent a fair amount of time showing how their proposal was that the Riverfront Park is being compromised by the fact that the area from the parks edge down to the river was not upgraded when that whole park was being renovated. I have spent a fair amount of time watching grandchildren in the new playground structures in the park and found myself staring at the overgrown mess that is between the park and the river. These weeds, trees, just collect trash and they just don't allow the folks to even get down except in very minimal places down by the river. I contacted Patrick Sullivan and Laura Walsh and asked them if this something that the Parks Department would support by putting in a proposal. Riverfront Park is Armory, Quadrangle Civic Association which is downtown neighborhood council's largest park. Since its upgrade it has recreation facilities for children as well as still being a major site for performances and just passive recreation. It is also the park because it is the Nine Eleven Memorial and it does let you get close to the river

and see where visitors to Springfield are drawn to come. When the Parks Department does undertake of the upgrade which is otherwise funded and not needing CPA money and that's to get you from State Street down through a more pleasant journey down through the underpass now that the crossing of the railroad tracks is not particularly easy. When I spoke to the Parks Department I asked can't we just put in the CPA to clean this up and their response was no this is a complicated project that they need to hire a consultant to do an assessment of what is needed to remove the current vegetation and to create the kind of design that replenishes it with native plants and really looks at where can we add additional access for visitors of the park to get down to the water's edge. I'm looking forward to really having the river as being part of the park.

Robert then asked those present if they have a question to please raise your hand so I can recognize you.

Juanita said my question is about the budget. It states that \$80,000 is a request that is based on past experience. I understand that there is no budget basically. Betsy then stated that the budget would be to hire a consultant. Based on the Parks Department experience what it takes to hire a consultant could do this kind of assessment, planting redesign, access assessment and then what added to the budget was the recognition that there was going to be a host of different permitting that need to be investigated and sought after. We need someone who could have the expertise to go after those permits from both the federal government, potentially the Conservation Commission and Primarily from the Army Corp of Engineers and perhaps Fish and Wildlife Service. Juanita stated that this is a great project it needs some kind of a budget I think. Juanita then stated that she felt it was a little premature by having an application without a budget. Betsy stated that the budget is for a single contract for a consultant. Patrick stated that we could help her get that number down. Ralph stated that this proposal is for hiring a consultant to do a study to figure out what work needs to be done there would be physical work to be done with this proposal. Betsy then

stated that the physical work would be doing the detailed construction level design. Patrick then stated that depending on the design Ralph, there are certain sections that could be done by our sheriffs de-brushing crew and maybe in house. It all depends on that overall design and engineering and the permits that we receive. David asked have we identified the consultant and how have they given us the proposal? Betsy then stated similar to the other CPC proposals that I have been involved with working with the Park Department you get the award and then in our fees written and then put out. Patrick added that this is specialized work so we would do a separate RFB or an RFU for this project. We wouldn't use our current on call list. David then stated that I go back to the proposed budget but thank you. Gloria asked if it would be possible to at least try to get one or two quotes from a consultant so that we could have something to compare and

contrast? Patrick responded by asking is that giving a consultant an edge so that we receive the grant? We really can't do that because that would give them an unfair advantage over other firms that might be interested in bidding. We will be able to break that number down. Robert then asked Patrick if you were to get a recommendation and funding for \$80,000 and the RSU comes in with the consultants with \$70,000 do we get ten grand back? Patrick's answer was yes you do. Patrick also stated that everything is controlled by the Community Preservation Act committee.

At this time Robert asked does Riverfront Park have the same protection that any other park land? Meaning that if the city decides to dispose of it requires an act of the general court or is this disposable anytime the mayor or whatever the Riverfront Development Commission decides to do with it. Patrick stated that the last grant they received which was three years ago provided that protection. By state law required would be protected under the protection of the Commonwealth.

Robert then asked in terms of direct safe access to the water do you mean to view the water or to get down to water level. Betsy stated that you can get down to water level at the stairs. I think that is one of the things that I would hope that is in the RFP. Hopefully, the consultant would look at are their additional places

along there that would be good to have a way to access to have additional fishing for example. Based on the how far the level goes up and down and how far down should you let people to go? Ralph then asked the question could you give me examples of whether this is even feasible. Have other communities done something like this? Like when we cleaned up the Riverfront or is this going to be money where we spend \$80,000 and the Army Corp of engineers comes back and says well it turns out that you really can't do anything around the river front because it is federally protected we don't want to disturb the existing trees and that kind of thing. Patrick then stated that he applauded Ralph for bringing this up. I think it is going to be a very important first step it will give us that road map

to make the Riverfront more accessible. Just look at what Hartford has done and it is going to be a key component to leverage future state grants. I see it as a very important step to take. Becky then stated that yes there are other riverfronts other than Hartford who have been able to come up with having it wasted. Juanita then added that the Hartford doesn't have the steep banks that we have. The stairs could work in another place but it is a very steep bank the whole way down. Patrick stated that we want to stabilize that slope so it is important to do the study. I know people that fish there maybe there will be more outlooks. Juanita stated that the Army Corps and the Conservation Commission have to be involved.

Devin Streeter & Jynai McDonald: Acorn Street Tennis Courts

The Acorn Street tennis courts have not been properly maintained since at least 2017. Rendering them as useless. Our proposal consists of priorities and the Community Preservation Act. It meets open space and recreational priorities by renovating the neighborhood green space. The Acorn Street proposal improves and builds up the fundamental appearance in the spirit of the Bay area neighborhood. This proposal has a practical budget with a feasible timing frame. The project has two major expenditures: the tennis courts improvement and the park accessories such as tables, benches, trash cans and the gazebo. We are looking at the budget of being between \$46,000 to \$50,000. Jynai then spoke

about the demand in addition to a letter of support from the neighborhood council, a letter of support from the districts state senator and at one point a letter from the Park Commission. We also obtained as of today two hundred and twenty eight supporters through a petition. I also would like to speak on the Planning Board Summary which is on Open Space and Recovery plan from 2015 to 2022. They highlight how many youths live in each neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods of the Mason Square area have approximately eighty five hundred under the age of eighteen. The Planning Board

Summary also highlighted that there is some increase in the population has occurred particularly among minority groups and so the district has a high number of youth that has a minority communities and this is giving us an additional capacity issue. Hennessy Park does not have a playscape or any recreation. Gunn Square Park only has a playscape. There is also some concern because Acorn Street tennis court and the park is actually closed. The Springfield Planning Board summary on Open Space and Recovery that the city may be in violation by the Massachusetts General Law states that having open parks are available without restriction from dusk until dawn. In addition, according to this planning summary page 71 on the appendix that Acorn Street Park is still listed for use of baseball, tennis and physical education. So again it has been dilapidated since at least 2007 the courts have been there for thirty years and it is the non-use that we believe has left them with non- maintenance.

Devin then stated that in conclusion the high warranty was one of the reasons that we couldn't restore the tennis courts. If that was the case this committee should ask themselves why were the tennis courts allowed to remain unused for so many years. We are talking about fourteen years minimum with no use. We also want to know the highlight that this commission should not restore the tennis court which we highly oppose. Our plan is still inclusive what the park department claims to have planned for this space in the future, leaving this committee with the authority to approve our application with some modifications which is an allowable condition on the CPA approval. Thank you for your time and we appreciate you for being here today.

At this time Robert asked Mr. Slate if he had any further questions.

Ralph stated that his question is that there is a strong desire to have this park rehabilitated. My question is along the line of the tennis courts is there a desire to restore the tennis courts due to the demand of the neighborhood or is it simply a call to do something with what has become a neighborhood eyesore? Jynai stated that it's both. It is definitely a call to provide more access to the young

people and diversify the amount of recreation that they have available. Families may not be able to afford certain extracurricular activities. Tennis is a low cost activity and an affluent sport. The area is also listed under physical education. We are looking forward to also being a teaching court. It is also about restoring the sport, beautifying the area but making sure that we can offer different options for recreation for young people.

Lamar said I didn't see a letter of support from the Boys and Girls Club that is adjacent to this court. What is this process behind this project? They talked about to expand their building and potentially do some building on it. After seeing communications on that between the park commission and us we noticed that they actually have the same plans as the park commission which Patrick Sullivan did the outline in his letter when he spoke about rescinding the report. That is when we decided to incorporate those aspects into our projects which are the gazebo, the park tables, the benches and some trash cans.

Robert then addressed Gloria as she had some questions. Gloria stated that she had several questions. She began by asking Patrick to talk about the water table please so that I can better understand that. At this time Juanita asked if she could address that first? Robert told her that she should go ahead. Juanita began by saying yesterday when I was reading this by stating that there is a water table and there are wetlands around there but because that it already has concrete on it from the tennis courts there isn't really an involvement of water. There is water around there which is a big water system that goes through Blunt Park. There are no bogs around nor is the water table under there. Patrick then stated that over the last thirty five years we have had an environmental firm look at this area and it was probably thirty years ago when we were told that there is a boggy material

that is why the courts are sinking. It was estimated back then that it would be about \$200,000 to rebuild those courts to replace that material. When we got a call from Andrew Caid to do both courts and we were directed to put our efforts

towards the main courts of one park. We want to see the area restored we had worked out a plan with the Boys and Girls Club pre-Covid to do a wetland walk and there is a little pond adjacent to the courts sometimes with heavy rains some of those courts go under water. The system just can't take that amount of water in that system. If you were going to put courts back it would take building up the soils so it would be out of that flooding as it happens through different times of the year.

Jynai then stated that this was their sentiment exactly. We were in disbelief that there was a high water table issue and we have included pictures of the court in our application. What we are seeing is not that the court is sinking it is just from not being maintained. What we are seeing here is lack of maintenance.

Patrick then stated that the Park Department is fully supportive of open spaces. Because of the past histories of the studies that have been done we didn't want to mislead Miss McDonald and Mr. Streeter down a road of rebuilding these courts where we have looked at the money where we were told to put courts back in this area. Juanita then stated that a simple solution is to take a walk with Kevin Chaffee. Patrick stated that he has been in contact with Kevin on and off and I was just talking to him about making the area safe and what is the short term as well as the permits that we would need permits to remove the asphalt.

Robert then stated let's just assume that the soil condition makes rebuilding a tennis court that they are astronomically expensive. Are there other recreational things that can go there? For example a shuffleboard court, child play equipment could that go there or is the sub soil conditions until it is remedied makes this whole land not practably useable. Patrick stated that the wetland walk and tables and a play skate would be perfect for an area like that. By the study you could tell what you would have to do with the soil. You would want to build that play skate closer to the street in a safe zone and again you do have water that comes up

from there and there is a lot of water sitting in that property. Jynai then stated

that she would want to caution wanting to remedy green spaces with implementing play-scapes because that also poses as to how many people can go there and enjoy it. Verses a tennis court or some other recreational court is something that young people from toddlers to senior citizens could enjoy. With a playscape you more than likely are going to have people with very young children. This is one thing we are trying to solve is actually to provide youth under the age of eighteen and senior citizens the opportunity to have additional recreational space right in their own neighborhood. Kenesee Park has nothing because it is monuments or passive. Still in 2015 to 2022 the study is still categorized for use of facilities as baseball which I have never seen a baseball field there. Baseball, Tennis Court, and Physical Education I just want to seek caution and not be so quick to just throw in playscapes. Patrick stated that it is part of the Blunt Park apron so that's why it stated as recreation. At this time Gloria asked Patrick if it is possible to share with Jynai and Devon one of the reports that shows the water table and all that information? Patrick stated that he felt bad that I was out when they had contacted our office because a lot of this would have been resolved with a meeting with me. At this time Gloria asked aside from putting a tennis court or not because of the water table I think you are budgeting for what you wanted to do is not sufficient for the amount of work you want to do. So I would definitely hope that you would work with Patrick, meet with him and talk with him, see what he has to say and if necessary come back with a little bit of a change of the project so that we could look at and deliberate about it. At this time Lamar stated that there were two things that he believed that the budget is under. I have seen a lot of projects that come in for a lot less and for a lot more. The last budget was thirty years ago do you think that this would be better if we had another study? Patrick replied that yes because it is the first step. At this time Juanita stated that they really need to meet with the Conservation Commission. They are the final word as to what kind of soil or

So call the Conservation Commission and meet Kevin Chaffee and the paperwork we had seen yesterday didn't seem to have an issue there. Meeting with Kevin is ultimately the person you have to meet with anyway.

Robert then stated that Terry Rodrigues raised her hand and asked so did you have a concern because where did they fit into all of this? Jynai replied by stating their idea was the space of the gazebo and the park tables and the benches. So that is why we incorporated that into our plan so we could restore the tennis courts and maintain additional recreation space in addition to incorporating what their mission was for this space as well. Jynai did state that she did talk to them and the executive director was open to have a meeting with his board I think that the timing we were up against formalizing the support was not going to happen. At this time Willie stated that he thought the conversation was very informed and I would look forward to discuss this project once we had additional documentation as we mentioned this evening. If the concept is interesting I think there is a need for it there. I want to be sure to move forward knowing what we can and cannot do. I would look forward to meet with you again so we can discuss this project once we have received additional documentation and then we will take it from there.

At this time Robert asked, what will be the function of the gazebo and can we get a catalog picture of what you are talking about because you have a picture of your benches and your trash cans as well as your picnic tables. There is nothing that gives me an idea of the gazebo. The bigger question is can we get a catalog picture of what you're talking about. What is the function of the gazebo? Are there benches where people can sit? What are people supposed to do underneath the gazebo?

Jynai stated that considering that this was part of the city's plan I think it would be import for Patrick to address that. Patrick then stated that we haven't gotten that far with the design our plan is at the scamatic stage of that plan Bob. Robert then stated let's go back and ask what is the function of it? Jynai stated that it

could be used in several different ways. In speaking that we plan on using the tennis courts to be teaching courts and they could sit in the gazebo and having their lunch break or families are gathering there so they could enjoy each other. Just to have a place to sit and watch the people on the track and I do feel that it would be a beautiful addition. At this time Devin stated that with the wet land trails there it could be a start of the wet land trails the gazebo could actually act as mapping out the trail of the wetlands or at least give a description to the historical function as to why, what and where it was established. Patrick then asked that didn't the Girl Scouts use that for their summer programing Bob? Ralph asked Patrick I have never been to that park or have seen the tennis courts but is there a structure on the right? Or is it paved land or something like that? Patrick stated that the right of the courts is open space and the back corner is like a pond area if you will. There is a stream that flows through there that goes into Blunt Park. Robert stated that Carlyle Brook I think flows from Blunt Park through a corner of Acorn Park and then finally follows Roosevelt Avenue and it empties into Watershops Pond. Robert then asked once this space is fixed will there be a pathway or is their currently a path way to reach Reed Village? Clearly there is a lot of children that live in Reed Village so it would make sense that if there isn't a connection that there should be a connection to get to it quickly as opposed to up to Sycamore Street, and then Acorn Street. Is there a connection now or will there be a connection? Jynai stated that there is a connection. It does need a little cleaning up and it's awesome that you can walk down Reed Village down to Acorn Park. It needs a little cleaning up. Once people get accustomed to walking there you will see a decrease in undesired activity.

Robert stated that we look forward to the park folks and the neighborhood folks and the conservation commission sort of talking about options. As Gloria said that I would be receptive to getting a revised plan so that if some of your costs are unrealistically low, or if the tennis courts are going to be to cost \$200,000

maybe some other young person's activity that can be programed for this space that won't have the same cost because of soil conditions if that's the case. We are still in the process of meeting people I would like to suggest that if there is going to be additional information provided that we get it preferably by mid-May if possible. Patrick stated that he would make some calls if they could be of assistance to put their budget together.

Gerard O'Brien: Cottage Hill Square Park: I have taken an interest in the park and it is a passive park. The history is that when the Indian Orchard canal company started the Orchard in the 1850's acquired land and it has been a park since that time. In 1901 after fifty one years they bequeath it to the City of Springfield. It has been in the park system for 120 years. I got involved in 2012 with the park department and the Citizens Council and some residents and some businesses to erect a first sign ever and it was called College Hill Square Grove. We put up a little monument with a plaque with a history near the flower bed. Myself and some residents are trying to keep the flower bed going and watered since 2013. We are looking for some upgrades like a retaining wall. Basically we have different areas that we want to approve there. In addition to the flower bed wall would be improved. Since the sixties the tree replacement is one of those things that we want to do. There are remnants of thirty two different tree stumps and we have lost thirty two trees since the sixties. We haven't replaced any there. It is a passive park it is basically a park that people walk through, people play Frisbee and people just enjoy their families there. Tree replacement we are really would like to enhance I have been on board with Pat Sullivan and Laurel Walsh about this and I think that this a dream of theirs to try to improve this park also. We would like to get some tree ID tags we have eighteen different species in Cottage Hill. I thought it would be good if the residents and area schools walked through there they could identify and use it as a teaching school to learn

what trees and shrubs we have. There is a horse trough there that was made in 1891 and that is pretty well established. That is a Historic item that Harry Jenks

started a factory in Pawtucket Rhode Island. He only made some of these horse trough's and we need to have it refurbished. There are photos there that show the sidewalks are damaged from falling trees and what not. We need new walkways there. There are eleven benches there that need to replace some of the slats. I think Patrick wanted to put some newer benches there because they are more durable and less maintenance. In the middle of the park there is a cement circular with water in it. I think there may have been a fountain there. I think it would enhance in general a beautiful little park.

At this time Robert asked the committee if they had any questions. Gloria stated that you mentioned a retaining wall but I don't see that in the budget. Laura Walsh then said that she could answer that. Neighbors had asked if they could repair the retaining wall. In looking at that park with a consultant we think that a granite curb would be sufficient to maintain that planting bed. You don't need a full wall but the granite curb are in keeping of the history of the park. In 1902 The Park Department installed the sidewalks and the granite curb there and this would honor the history. Gloria then asked this is listed under Historic Preservation. What about the plantings do you have any idea that they are going to be historically correct? Laura stated that they would like to keep with historic plantings for that time period. Included in the budget is to have a historic preservation consultant to review the plan help us with the history of the park. One of the things we were thinking of putting in the center area the focal point is a park history signage panel talking about Indian Orchard neighborhood was really formed around this space and pay homage to that. Keeping in that theme and describe some focal points we would like those plants to keep in that time period. Ralph then wanted to clarify that this budget amount is for sort of a combination of a study and the work. Is that accurate? Laura stated that the budget is for design and construction and this allows us to take the schematic way

to planning to construction documents and implement the improvements of the walk way, benches and the landscaping. Also the water top there to maintain the planting bed, as well as the granite site of the curbing. Robert then asked if any of the committee had further questions. Ralph then said sort of the center space

there is there any way to figure out was it there originally. It seems obvious that there is central space looking over the schematic of it. There is usually a center space that's nothing. I have seen other parks in communities that sort of resemble this like a feature in that center space. Laura stated they have been trying to locate additional photos of what has been there. That would be the part of our Historic review and the Historic Consultant. The trees in this area have grown up so that doesn't necessarily make sense to put a fountain in there. We didn't identify any water that is interesting we would have to see it as well. We haven't been able to locate any pictures of what was there previously. That would be part of the design development.

Robert then stated that he had a few questions. He began by asking was the horse trough original to the park or is it the one that used to be on Oak Street opposite across the street of National House. Gerard then stated that it used to be in the National House and someone tried to steal it and confiscated it two or three times. I guess the city moved it up there. Patrick then stated that it was upon the Historical Commission that it was moved to that location. The other question is that the Historical signage if we are talking about the kind of signage that was done along the Riverwalk I would urge you to sharpen your pencil because you are carrying \$7,500 for a sign and I think that the one's at the Riverwalk were per sign far less expensive than that. Laura stated that they can look at the numbers again. Sometimes, when purchasing one sign there is a little difference in price. This will allow for graphic design portion as well as the fabrication and installation of the sign.

Zaida Govan: Hubbard Park Improvement Project: Zaida Govan stated they were going to work along with the Parks Department on Hubbard Park

improvement. They are going to be re-doing the tennis courts over there. They are also going to re-do the parking lot because it is an eyesore and a problem for a lot of our residents. That is one of the biggest complaints that when we have our resident complaints at the city council meetings. So I am really excited that we are going to be able to get that fixed. We also had complaints about the surrounding the park access roads but the Parks Department is going to

work on this without this grant. We need the money for the tennis courts and the parking lot. Laura agreed regarding the tennis courts and the parking lot.

Robert then stated that he would like to ask two questions. One is, are the tennis courts currently usable unlike the one we just saw in Acorn Park that is not usable at all. Were the people playing on them still? Zaida stated that she believed that they have been. The ground is a little bit worn and there are holes and they are usable but we would like to see them like they did the basketball courts. We want the park to match. Robert then stated that is more like a park department question. What is the normal life of the tennis court and when were these courts last improved? Patrick stated it was probably eight or nine years ago. We crack filled and cover coated them and we got the grant to get the splash pad. Usually, you get twenty five to thirty years but it depends about your foundation and your base if that is correct. You could get up to 25 to 30 years out of them. These are probably 35 to 40 years and they are beyond design life. So we would support the complete filling and the replacement of these courts.

Ralph stated that this is a question for Bob. Is paving a parking lot an allowable CPA expense? Robert stated that this is a good question Ralph we will consult with the coalition as to their thoughts on this. Once they have always said is CPA is rooted in recreation and in the land. That is why stadiums are specifically not allowed and things that deal with structures so you can't build a swimming pool building with CPA. We will check with the coalition and have an answer before we start deliberations. At this time Patrick stated that the last park renovation

was supposed to have been built to except pavement because that was our goal to pave it but there wasn't enough money in the grant so you won't have that huge expense but it will be ready to go when we receive payment. At this time Juanita stated that she sees the tennis courts I feel it is maintenance I question if it is covered under because it's not like building a new tennis court. Patrick stated that it is because we have to roll back the fence, we have to bring the equipment and you have to mill down to the original foundation and then bring in new

asphalt in. It is a complete restoration replacement of the courts. David then asked Patrick \$97,000 plus or minus for the tennis courts you are saying that is a twenty five year? Patrick stated that if they are done properly with minor re-color coating and lining your asphalt should go twenty five years or more. Robert asked how many courts are their? Laura stated that there were three. David stated that according to this budget of \$97,000 your definition is if they are done properly. I would be comfortable with the basic re-milling, putting new asphalt, painting the lines and putting in net posts in. I don't think we need to replace the fence. Laura then stated that the fence needs to be moved to access the courts to do the re-pavement and there are a few sections that need some addressing there are some ways around that. It could be possibly painted and some sections will have to be replaced in order to access the courts. Ralph stated that the courts were built around 1977 so they were not renovated since then. Acorn Street used HUD money. They were closed in 1987 when I started.

Cathy Mossie: Carp Pond Study: Cathy stated that she will defer and pass it on because they have more the expertise in this field that I am. They are the ones that have been more helpful to me bringing this together. Chris Seabrook began by stating that Carp Pond is a small pond located north of upper Van Horn Reservoir. It has suffered from a lot of sedimentation which has resulted in a loss of depth of the pond which in turn resulted in a lot of degradation. Since it is

north of Van Horn Reservoir incoming sediment is also being deposited from Carp Pond into upper Van Horn Reservoir. That is also is causing a little bit more water displacement into heavier motion. By conducting this survey we can estimate the current in original pond depths of patterns of sedimentation. This will help us to restore sediment capture function of the pond and help with the improvements of upper Van Horn Reservoir. We also want to restore recreation and fishing and there may be a place for kayaking in the upper part of the reservoir not in that specific pond but a place to kayak into the reservoir itself. Most importantly really study wet land and wildlife and habitat. So that's

what the study is really going to do and those efforts will help us to make some of those changes. Patrick stated that he wanted to give the committee some more information. We just completed a study of Armory Street which is considered a dam from the upper reservoir and we completed the renovation of the lower reservoir roughly two years ago. We are very interested in studying Carp Pond there will be a lot of federal and state money that is available by having this study to be completed for Carp Pond. We could also go in for a large state and federal grant to restore Armory Street Dam, the upper reservoir and Carp Pond. Juanita asked Patrick you just said the other ponds that would work to get Federal money are you doing studies on then as well? Patrick stated that they had just completed a study on Armory Street dam so by getting that study completed carp pond is the last piece of the puzzle and then we would be able to go in for a complete state or federal grant program so we could restore the ramp of Van Horn Park. Robert asked, in the past was Carp Pond actually a fishing pond because of the degradation that has gone by the boards? It was probably six to eight feet in the center and we would go fishing there. Robert asked is there also fishing there now at the reservoir now? Yes the upper reservoir the one that is off Armory Street, yes that is correct. Robert stated that in the application you talk about Carp Pond and if it is rehabilitated you speak about fishing and other activities. What are the passive activities are you thinking of? We would love to

see: we have Armory Street School and other schools up the street that anytime we can get kids to come down from our school system we could have them study around there water resources. This would help them connect with nature. That would be my biggest dream to get Springfield schools to study it and get a better experience right in their own backyard. Juanita then stated that there is a missing support from the Conservation Commission. There is no letter from them in the application. Patrick stated that if we have that same courtesy to in the next month to get that letter for support I would appreciate that opportunity. Robert then stated that he had a question on the budget. There is fifty thousand dollars

for permitting is that the consultants time for filling out all of the bureaucratic paperwork to get permitted? Is that the fee that the other agencies charge in order to issue the permit? Patrick stated that it's the time that goes into preparing the permits. That eventually goes into the Connected River so I believe that eventually you are going to need Army Corps permits for this project. Patrick stated that we will look into that number.

Walter Kroll: Magazine Park: James Johnston and I put this together. Magazine Park Renovation is the one we are focused on. This project isn't coming from the neighborhood it is coming from young families and teenagers can't use the park. It has come to be magnet for crime because instead of having a baseball field which is there but it is not usable for there for little league. There are no stands for families, there is nowhere to sit, there is a backstop but it really isn't a complete field. There are no places for families to hang out. There is an area with trees for people to hang out and do certain things that they shouldn't be doing. Families are not able to participate there. The basketball courts are in disarray. There is broken equipment, broken fencing. The last time this park had a major safe lift there is a sign there and Mike Albano was the mayor. That tells you that the last time Magazine Park had a major upgrade. Phase one we are

proposing a multilayer plan with us. Phase One: would be to upgrade the park, reseeding, grading, park benches, LED lighting and Security Cameras.

Phase Two: Would have a commissary, public bathrooms, and having something that is really alive. We think we could probably get some private money for scoreboard sponsorship. The whole purpose is to get young families and teenage kids somewhere they can play. Art Jones who was on our board, he used to coach baseball and he had a hard time because when his team was on the field there was no place for parents to sit. That is our goal is to make a major upgrade with things that can be implemented today and make an impact tomorrow. It abuts two large apartment complexes. There are people that will use the park if they feel comfortable by using it and if they had amenities to do so. The budget comes from parks the end game for this is to have a safer neighborhood with open play

areas for everyone in the neighborhood to use. James Johnson stated that he was thankful for the opportunity to listen to hear us out one of the big things is that the things that we recommended are the solutions to problems we have in the neighborhood. I directly go down there and actively involved meeting the people that use the park, when they can use the park. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the community. I clean up the park myself I have been doing it for the last three years along with other residents may live in an apartment building but if you put a rake down there or a trash bag they will help clean up and little kids are doing it to. Everyone in the community is being active. These things that were suggested will make a world of difference for the people who live there. Juanita then stated that you make a big difference cleaning it up. I applaud you! Terry began by stating that we don't have cameras in most of our parks because there is no one to monitor the cameras. As far as the bathrooms that creates havoc. You need to have someone that monitors the bathrooms and opening and closing the bathrooms so they are not being used for other stuff. We have had problems in other parts of the city with bathrooms being used for different stuff. James stated that we have heard that would be in

phase three that would be part of that phase. Part of the problem now is people go to the bathroom in the park anyway so we are trying to find a better way to make it a place for people that could to go to the park and share it. We don't want a security issue and that is part of the problem. Patrick stated that on the cameras we would do it the Pyncheon and Riverfront parks and it would be tied into the police department. Walter then asked if he could speak on Terry's concern? So what you are saying is that people will come down the streets and they come into our yards and that's the option. They go in between the houses or they go behind the churches. There are four churches within the eye distance in that park. They will use those areas to go to the bathroom this is what they are doing. When little children come out and they want to play in the park and they have the need to go to the bathroom are you saying that you don't want to have a bathroom so these little kids can use a bathroom? Name that is not what I am saying I'm saying we have had other issues with bathrooms in the parks. If they

aren't strictly monitored you have drug use going on, you have people being molested in the bathroom. Kids who are ten and eleven don't go to the park with their parents they go to the park by themselves. They do it my neighborhood. Terry I understand your concern but all good things there are a number of resources down the street for rehabilitation and stuff and they can tell you what drugs they are doing and what side of the park. I spoke to one of the guys today who works at one of the rehabs over at Magazine Commons he spoke to me about the same concerns you have. One of the parts of it is the police element that we have out in the McKnight neighborhood how they patrol around and we are concerned that things could happen anywhere, any neighborhood and not only in a park. Robert then stated that given that the restrooms are not part of this year's proposal I want I don't want to spend any more time talking about it. Moving on did someone have questions regarding the components of this year's proposal which is develop a master plan, renovate the baseball field, install playground equipment and install a variety of park amenities. David asked Walter

and James who is using the baseball field now and if it's renovated who will be using it? Name we have seen different people trying to use the field now and there is someone using the field for the youth league. My understanding is the coach it is still challenging because it can't be his home field and there isn't anywhere where the parents can sit. The hope is that if the fields are well done and the parents have a place to sit it become a more usable field and become a home field for youth teams. David then asked so you believe that if this field is renovated to your vision a youth team would in fact utilize it? Yes, what you have now is a person who is trying to use it because there is a backstop and a field there but I think you would have more people using it for amenities that other parks do. David then stated in fact if it was rehabilitated who is going to maintain it? Is there assurance that it would indeed be maintained? Patrick then stated that we need the proper installation on irrigation so that we can grow grass there and that is the biggest part of the larger fields we have irrigations systems built so you can water the infields down and be able to grow grass. The renovation will attract teams to want to play games there. David then stated that a lot of things

that come before us the requests are due to a lack of maintenance. That is my only concern that we are spending taxpayer dollars to something wonderful and ten years down the road we don't have the means to support it. Patrick stated that he respectively disagree with that. I think it is just the end of the useful life of the project of that we are complying for. Magazine Park has had some CGGB money and over the last ten years installed since the last renovation. We have done minor repairs to the play equipment; we have done upgrades to the splash pad we have vandalism in this park probably up to twenty five to thirty thousand dollars per year. We fixed the play equipment. Gloria asked could we fund a scoreboard? Robert stated there are two questions. There really is CPA eligible for that and I will put that on the list of things that I have to ask the coalition their thoughts. Obviously, if they say yes you can fund it whether we choose to recommend funding is our local decision. Once again because in the past we have

had discussions with the coalition on several things when it comes to several things when it comes to recreation and their mantra is it's rooted in the land not in the structures. Robert then asked Walter if he wanted to say something. Walter stated just to be clear none of the funding would be for the scoreboard. We are trying to get private sponsorship for it. Park amenities would be private funding so CPA funding would not be used for the scoreboard. Gloria then stated that she two questions and one is a request. You have park amenities and you have \$90,000 could you provide us with the breakdown within the next month? My request to Patrick I know what David was talking about maintaining the parks and there is a lot of CPA money going into restoring parks and beautifying the city and that is what we are supposed to and that is a positive thing. Is there discussion with the Mayor and the City Council about how they are going to help maintain all of this because this is a lot more work for the Park Department that has been put on the Park Department and are they looking into increasing your budget? Have there been discussions and honestly I think that it should happen. Patrick stated that at my budget hearing and I requested four additional staff per district. That would be an additional sixteen people for district. I requested

\$300,000 for additional maintenance equipment for the park system for those brokers to utilize. We also had a great meeting with the sheriff to continue the efforts that he has inmate crews across the city. Due to Covid they are going down to eight crews but we are maintaining our share which gives eight men daily to go the parks. We are all in the same line of thinking and I requested no additional funds. Ralph stated that he knew about the bleachers are a brick and mortar. I am fairly confident that they are not under CPA. I was looking up earlier whether or not bathrooms were allowable CPA expenditure and under CPA. It specifically states that an installation in an athletic field is not allowable because recreation use under the CPA does not include use of land for stadium or structure. That means that it may not be an allowable expense. The other

amenities are perfectly fine to top grade the play scape as well. Bob then stated that his question was on the LED lighting is that so the park can be used at night for night games or is that the park will be illuminated during the night to keep out undesirable activity? Patrick stated that it was for the later. We work with Eversource, hopefully for a donation towards that way. Robert stated the last thing was to follow up to Gloria. You gave us a breakdown of the cost: how many benches, trash cans and what do you mean by plantings. This will help us have an idea of exactly what it is that you are looking for. Is this the park that has CDBG money or is the Westminster Street Playground? This is the one with CDBG we are asking for \$250 and one hundred would be coming that would be for joining LED lighting and cameras. Robert stated that you would be wiser to go to your other funding sources for those things that are less CPA eligible and concentrate on with us on the things that are rooted in recreation as to oppose or we have to keep the low lives out of the park in order to have recreation you know. One is direct - fix the ball field and keep misbehaving out perhaps PCG money could help with that. Patrick stated that they can break down the budget for you.

Walter Kroll: Westminster Street Children's Park : Walter Kroll stated we applied last year and you were gracious enough to award us and it is going forward. They are breaking ground we are working with Pat and his team. COVID was a little rough in getting this thing started but it's all pushing forward. Unfortunately, the original budget was \$315,000 has become \$475,000. So most of the increased costs have been able to be covered except for three items. What we are asking for is an additional \$30,000 essentially for the entry way arch, picnic table and the sentry playground item. The key elements of the park are all the other items in increased cost have come forward and have been able to offset cover. It is still a great project and again partnered with Pride and Bob Bolduc and his team have covered most of the costs, parks has really worked hard on this. All

the work is ready to go and that these are three items that couldn't get covered. Robert addressed Walter and Pat stating that included in your original application, some of these illustrations of these three components can you tell us what the arch is going to look like and what are these things going to look like? The other question, the park is going to be done by the end of May. Are these three items not going to be installed until you get the additional money? Laura then explained that in the construction phase we are doing all the footings for these materials and everything that is underground to support them, if and when the funding becomes available. We can put these items in as stand-alone pieces. It could happen any time. Robert stated that you know our slow time line. Patrick stated that he would like the committee to know that the additional money came from our recreation savings. Juanita stated that this is a wonderful project.

Laura Walsh: Forest Park Picnic Pavilion: Laura began by stating that this is located in Forest Park, just past the Rose Garden in the back of the zoo. What we are hoping to do is to make it a little bit more accessible anytime in the spring and summer months and into the fall you will see families using that picnic grove. We just want to make it a more accessible area as well as an attractive area. Included in the costs this is a \$247,000 project and that includes the design so

that we can take our plan that is included in the application. Bringing that to a construction level and will also construct a new pavilion with picnic tables, trash barrels and an accessible walk way to the rose garden and the picnic area. It will help stabilize the area and it is part of the park that is constantly in use and we want to make sure that people can use it safely and hopefully will last for years to come. Patrick stated that it is a popular area to have small birthday parties, family cookouts and it's of grave concern because the current one is in very poor condition and we have been asked by our building commissioner to remove it because it is in dangerous condition.

Robert stated that it is called a fix-it pavilion and in the presentation and the application says "Springfield residents will benefit from the proposal as covered picnic spaces limited in Forest Park but the numerous limitations people standing and walking in the Pavilion and the sight plan shows six outside picnic tables. It seems if there would be no picnic tables within the Pavilion. I go back to the question what is the use of this Pavilion? Patrick responded by saying the families put their tables in there, it's undercover and they set up their food and so forth. Juanita stated that the pavilion on a weekend is always full. They bring their tables and they decorate it and have parties inside. That is probably the most used place in the park. If you have been there early in the morning people will sit there so that they have it in the afternoon.

Robert also stated that the photographs of the falling down pavilion at least to my mind looks a little more rustic where this one looks more angular. I'm wondering if it is possible to make it look like a rustic pavilion that would have been in the park in the nineteen twenties. As opposed to something that looks like you got it from one of those companies that advertise sheds. Patrick stated that nothing will be thrown away from this pavilion. Laura stated that these are just kind of conceptual at this point that's where you get details on a smaller project, what is possible and what it will look like in the end. Ralph stated to try hard to come up with something that has a rustic look that incorporates timbers like that rather than a milled modern look. The question I have, does anybody know about the history of this specific pavilion was this thing done twenty years ago? Patrick stated that

he felt it was a WPA project. When we first started Bob sat at the meeting and if this is approved we would love to have two or three of you sit down with the review committee as we develop the design. Ralph then stated that the overall question is there any value if this is a WPA project and you are looking at eighty or ninety years old or so. Is this something that could be renovated and moved somewhere else. Patrick then stated we are salvaging any timbers that can be salvaged. Ralph stated that there is a difference in salvaging timbers and

restoring the structure. Do we have any idea of what it would take to salvage this structure? People will be saying what a shame it's going to be gone now. Patrick stated that I think we are going to bring it back to that same look and we will be grateful. I just don't have any funds to even study a design. Robert then stated that the building could be replicated wherever because I think you are moving it away from the ravine. What we want to see is something that looks like that as opposed to a contemporary building.

Laura Walsh: Forest Park Zoo Fence: Laura began by stating across the way from the picnic grove you can see the back side of the zoo. Part of the fence that is there now is about 1800 linear feet of chain link fence with wooden privacy slats and it has reached its useful life. We are looking to replace that fence and replace the fencing with an ornamental style fence that meets all the requirements of the USDA for the public's safety. It is also in keeping with the aesthetic of Forest Park. It is a straight forward project. The fence is roughly thirty seven years old and in my opinion it is dangerous just because of its age and we are trying to contain and keep safe. Laura then showed the fence on screen for those present. Patrick stated that there is a foundation wall underground that goes around the zoo so it is attached to the wall. This new fence would attach to the wall. Robert stated that his question would be the current fence has slats where the proposed fence you can actually see through. Is there a slat there so the visitors couldn't see the zoo for free or was it to make sure poking things at the animals? Both Patrick and Laura stated the later. Robert added open fence

as long as the vertical posts are close together accomplishes that same goal. Gloria stated that she is wondering is there a possibility of other fence work given that the request is \$244,750. I'm wondering if there are other alternatives. David asked Patrick is the fence comprised in any way? Patrick stated that no we maintain it by keeping it safe to protect the animals. It is getting to the point that

in another year or two we would have to put chain-link and probably not find slated fence again. Ralph stated that the money on the zoo is not necessarily CP eligible. How is a fence around a zoo CP eligible? Patrick answered by stating it keeps the animals from the picnic grove.

Robert then stated that we are going to move to the next business which is the Historic Home plaques: Karen had it on the screen so those present could see it. The first one is 11x14 and we also have a 12x 12. So there is one with green lettering and a green border and the other one is light clay or a light tan with a brown border. Juanita asked Karen what is it made of? Juanita also stated that at one point you said it had a life expectancy of twelve years. Karen responded seven to ten and it depends on if it is covered or not. Juanita asked if they have metal ones or are they too expensive. Karen responded that we have stayed away from metal and I could look into that. Karen did share this design with the office of Planning and Development and trying to get an idea of what they thought since it is their project. The question asked was how long are they supposed to keep the signs up once they paint their home again. Robert stated that we are not going to be driving the East Forest Park reading garden sign in ten years to see if it is still up or faded. As long as these plaques are made someone needs to go out and pay the payments when the homeowner is done and calling for the last payment and the check is done my feeling is Planning and Economic Development has the signs give them to the homeowner. Make sure they are up before the final check is given. Ralph then added that I think if the language says exterior renovation is smaller the homeowners would want to put these signs up. If we make the historic part larger, keep the CPA logo, the logo is attractive and I think if the focus is on the sign is the name of the property and being funded is

smaller than there won't be any complaints people will want these signs. Gloria stated that she agrees with Ralph. Robert feels that the signs need to be readable from the public sidewalk. The city is better served by making the name of the

house more prominent so that when someone is walking by oh look at the smith house rather than oh look this was funded by the CPA. Robert's feeling at this time is that I am happy with the design, in the appearance and in the wording. So I would be quite happy to appoint a committee of one or two people to work with Karen to decide on the ultimate font size and the ultimate color of the background and of lettering I don't want to take a lot of Committee time on this. David volunteered as did Ralph to work with Karen. Ralph and David will be the committee to work with Karen to do the final tweaking of the sign and then we will order it. Planning needs to tell us who the recipients are. They called me last week to tell me that they have twenty five to thirty applications. Some were not eligible. The ones that were eligible were chosen by lottery. They now have to work with the individual homeowner. The program is on its way.

Robert then stated that we have been here more than two hours at this point or do we want to adjourn?

Administrator Updates

Karen stated that in a recent email, Phil Dromey (Deputy Director for the Office of Planning and Economic Development, OPED) expressed they would not be applying this year for another round of funding for the historic homes program. They want to have a better grasp of the overall process and the work entailed to be completed. It was an extremely time-consuming process and the Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) doesn't have the time or staffing to attempt expansion of the program. (Karen) I know many people are disappointed in that and I received many calls throughout the city and other historic areas asking if the program would be expanded.

Trinity House: Bob and Karen met with the grantee to review the questions about our preservation consultant. The project will be completed as outlined and

the chimney will need to be raised and the NRD form that Alan from the Historic Commission will review.

Brooking School: The ground breaking ceremony for the Brooking School took place on March 27th and Bob attended and CPA was acknowledged. Home City Development sent the mockup of the plaque to be installed in the main lobby of the ground floor that looks like our banner here.

Two signs are up at the museum for the Kilroy House and the George Walter Vincent Smith.

Accept the Minutes: Gloria and Juanita made the motion to accept the minutes:

Vote To Accept The Minutes: Gloria DeFilipo-yes, Ralph Slate-yes, David Finn-yes, Juanita Martinez-yes, Terry Rodriguez-yes, Lamar Cook-yes, Willie Thomas-yes, and Robert-yes.

Next Meeting is April 27th