



Special Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park

October 20, 2015 – 7:10 PM – **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber – Room 213

**MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A
DOG PARK**

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2015

TIME: 7:10 P.M.

**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL
BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON; EMMANUEL MACIEL, ANIMAL
CONTROL; MARY RAPOZA; JANICE ROGERS, ANIMAL COALITION**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR DEBORA COELHO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; DR. DEBORAH
GERGKE, VETERINARIAN**

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Councillor Carney called the Dog Park Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. A Communication from Councillor Coelho explaining her absence was read into the record and was received and placed on file Manny Maciel and seconded by Mary Rapoza.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that the Special Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park consider asking Matthew A. Morrissey, Executive Director, Economic Development Council to explore the possibility of locating the proposed Dog Park at the Acushnet Riverwalk, near Sawyer Street, this location is visible and easily accessible; and further, requesting that the money used to create this Dog Park be taken from the 2.9 million dollars obtained by the Economic Development Council through the Harbor Trustee Council for the Riverwalk Project, so that no taxpayer money would be used; and further, requesting that a study be conducted to see if this proposition is doable (Ref'd 9/27/12, 11/29/12-tabled) was removed from the table by Manny Maciel and seconded by Mary Rapoza. (1)

On motion by Manny Maciel and seconded by Mary Rapoza, the Committee VOTED: To take “No Further Action” on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Bousquet, Martins, Morad, Lopes and Winterson, requesting, that the lot across from the High School between Ruggles and Greenwood Streets to be transformed into a dog park with the appropriate fencing, key system, play areas, trash barrels, doggie bags, stands and benches, and that this dog park be named after “Captain Jack Peterson” long time talk radio announcer friend, animal advocate, and resident of New Bedford; and further, that the City establish an account for Peterson Park, so that people can make a donation in Jack Peterson’s name in order to support the development and construction, as well as the care and maintenance of the Dog Park. (Ref'd 8/21/14, 7/9/15-Refer to Committee on Memorials and Dedications) (2)

A brief discussion acknowledged that the item was referred to the Committee on Memorials and Dedications and that it no longer belonged in this Committee.

On motion by Manny Maciel and seconded by Mary Rapoza, the Committee VOTED: to take “No Further Action” on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Carney, requesting that the Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park meet to discuss preliminary design work of placing a dog park in New Bedford, due to the potential grant the City might be awarded for the creation of a dog park (Ref'd 4/23/15, 7/9/15- Refer to Recreation Department) was received and placed on file by Manny Maciel and seconded by Mary Rapoza. (3)

Mary Rapoza gave a review of the two RFPs that were received. The first was received from MILA Landscaping, Studio 560, Suite 403, Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02140. They have been in the area for ten (10) years, lots of experience in designing Urban Parks and Pocket Parks. This is their first attempt at a Dog Park, but they have brought in an expert with Dog Parks to assist if they receive the award. They did meet all of the RFP requirements.

The second submission was from Pressley Associates, 135-136 Lewis Wharf, Boston, MA 02110. A nationally known designer out of Boston, designed the Fall River Heritage Park, they have been around for thirty-eight (38) years. They have designed a number of Dog Parks and they have met all of the RFP requirements.

Both would hold public hearings to get community input on the park design. They will hold 2 Community Meetings; they will meet with the Committee itself and do a walkthrough of the area with members. They would provide a 25% concept design and bring back to the community for further input. They would take that feedback and then create 100% of a design.

The City's budget for the design is \$21,000 and \$240,000 for the building. The DPI will do the building.

Councillor Bousquet asked if Mary Rapoza had a company she would like to work with and she said she liked them both and that she was presently surprised when such a renowned company such as Pressley submitted themselves for consideration. This would be a good image company for the city; but that the decision was up to the Committee as a whole.

Councillor Carney stated having reviewed the report she liked some of the previous designs by Pressley.

On motion by Manny Maciel and seconded by Janice Rogers the Committee VOTED: To award the contract to Pressley Associates. This motion passed on voice vote.

On motion by Manny Maciel and seconded by Janice Rogers the Committee VOTED: To table the main motion in order to keep it in Committee. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Manny Maciel and seconded by Janice Rogers, the Committee VOTED: To Waive the reading on items four (4), five (5) and six (6) and follow the Chair's recommendation and take “No Further Action” on these matters at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Lawrence, Bousquet, Gomes, Lopes, Duarte and Alves, requesting, that the City Council re-visit the idea of establishing a Fog Park in the City of New Bedford, where it is needed, for the benefit of the may pets who need a safe, supervised area to exercise.(Ref'd 6/14/12) (4)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Related Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, requesting that the next Special Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park meeting that the entire City Council be invited to address their concerns to the Committee. (Ref'd 6/14/12, 11/29/12-2/21/13-tabled) (5)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Councillor Martins to Councillor Gonsalves, relative to the location of a future Dog Park in the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 1/22/13) (6)

Manny Maciel made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mary Rapoza.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees