



City of New Bedford

Community Preservation Committee

133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Telephone: (508) 979.1488

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
MAYOR

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

January 29, 2019

Main Library- 3rd Floor Meeting Room
613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Janine da Silva, Chair
Ross Nunes, Vice-Chair
Jessica Bailey, Clerk
Arthur Glassman

Sylvia Gomes
Christopher Amaral
Paula Robinson-Deare
Paul Pacheco

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Tim Walsh

STAFF:

Anne Louro, *Preservation Planner*

Call to Order

Jan da Silva, CPC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Call the Roll. A formal roll call was conducted confirming members present and absent as stated above.

Brief Introduction to CPA and the CPC

A. Louro gave a brief presentation describing the Community Preservation Act, the FY19 application process and funds available.

Public Hearings

Project Presentations by FY19 CPA Applicants

MOTION to open the public hearing.

Moved by S. Gomes and seconded by J. Bailey

Motion carried.

Buttonwood Trails

Richard Leary, President of the Friends of Buttonwood Park, presented the application which would fund one phase in the creation of trails in the north section of Buttonwood Park.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Leary the \$30,000 listed in the application was the FY18 CPA \$26,000 and \$4,000 from the Friends; these funds are to be used for the engineering study. This phase is estimated at \$90,000. The entire project cost is \$750,000 to \$1million. The project will be implemented in phases. The Friends plan to seek additional CPA funding in future years.

In response to J. Bailey, Mr. Leary stated the engineering study is process. The study will define what will be built, how it will be built, material list, etc. The \$90,000 phase cost was determined by the landscape architect which they believe will be in line with the engineering study cost determination. The bridge is the priority if this phase needed to be broken down into smaller phases. Mr. Leary will provide the budget breakdown to Anne Louro.

In response to J. da Silva, Mr. Leary stated the paths proposed are all interior path, some connect to the perimeter path. The construction of the path to the bridge would be made handicap accessible.

In response to J. Bailey, Mr. Leary stated the path to the bridge from the perimeter path would be created as part of this project. The Friends plan to utilize the use of volunteer labor to begin work on the preliminary pathway to and from the bridge. It would not be handicap accessible but would establish a path to be used.

In response to J. da Silva, Mr. Leary stated no paths exist to the proposed bridge.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the application, nor in opposition to application.

Rural Cemetery Gravestone Conservation

Chair Janine da Silva recused herself from the presentation due to a conflict of interest, as Ms. Da Silva is a board member of the New Bedford Preservation Society and indicated that the Clerk would chair the matter.

Mark Fuller, President of the New Bedford Preservation Society, presented the application which would fund the restoration of gravestones and markers in the oldest section of Rural Cemetery.

In response to P. Pacheco, Mr. Fuller stated the conservator will determine which stones will be restored first based upon the study and the amount of funding. The early section or oldest section will be the focus of this phase.

In response to A. Glassman, Mr. Fuller stated the Society is searching for other grant funding to match the CPA funds. The City will also provide services. A matching grant will be submitted in March.

In response to J. Bailey, Mr. Fuller confirmed the consultant's report recommended the conservation be done in batches of 200 stones to be cost-effective and the CPA funding ask was based upon this recommendation.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Fuller stated the NB Preservation Society hosts annual tours as well as private tours by outside groups. The tour will allow the Society to do more tours. The Society plans to highlight the Abolitionist and Civil War history. The tours are open to the public for a small fee. Future phases funding would be sought from the CPA fund.

In response to C. Amaral, Mr. Fuller confirmed this project will preserve not replace the stones.

In response to A. Glassman, Mr. Fuller stated the project can move forward with a lesser amount from the CPA fund. The estimate is \$200 per stone but it could vary depending upon the condition of the stones.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the application, nor in opposition to application.

Chair Janine da Silva rejoined the committee at this time.

Sassaquin Pond "Jellyfish" Filtration System

Mike Frey, Sassaquin Betterment Alliance, presented the application which would fund the purchase and installation of a "jellyfish" filtration system at Sassaquin Pond.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Frey stated the City has a recommendation pending to purchase another system but the City Council vote has not happened as of the date of this meeting. Anne Louro stated the Mayor and CFO presented to the City Council a number of projects which could be funded by free cash, this filter was one of the items. The Finance Committee has not met in 2019 to discuss the recommended projects and it is anticipated the vote will take place at a future meeting.

Dennis Audette, member of the Sassaquin Betterment Alliance, was invited to speak. He stated, according to the Mayor's press release, the funding was to dredge the Sassaquin Pond not to purchase a jellyfish.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Mr. Frey stated the placement of the jellyfish manages the storm water runoff when it goes into the drains before the runoff can enter the pond. There are no plans to solve the issue of storm water runoff, but the filters clean the runoff before entering the pond.

Mike Bartlett, resident of Sassaquin Pond, stated he participated in three studies of the pond's water quality. The runoff is nutrient loaded which impacts the pond. Without intervention, the nutrient load continues to increase. The studies determined nine filtration systems are recommended. This filter would be the second to be installed.

In response to A. Glassman, Mr. Frey stated the maintenance of the systems and the booms around the storm drains are the responsibility of Department of Public Infrastructure.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Frey stated the city closed off the public access due to lack of bathroom facilities and several drownings. There is fishing access to the pond. Public access to the pond still exists however the water quality and lack of facilities inhibit full use.

In response P. Robinson-Deare, Mr. Frey stated they would provide statistics as to how much water the filtration system can improve the water quality however it would be for each location rather than the whole pond.

In response to J. Bailey, Mr. Frey confirmed there are three inputs which are the dirtiest: one has a filter, one will cost \$500,000, and the third is the project under consideration. There are six other inputs which also need filtration systems.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Frey stated the local representatives have been searching for additional funding. The full details are in the project application.

In response to P. Pacheco, Mr. Frey was not sure of the life expectancy of the filters. The engineer who would have the answer was not able to attend.

Public Comment

Jeff Miller, 37-year resident of Sassaquin Pond area and member of Sassaquin Betterment Alliance, spoke in favor of the project.

Sgt. Sean Gannon Memorial Playground

Mike Tavares, Treasurer of the Sgt. Sean Gannon Memorial Playground Committee, presented the application which would fund the creation of the playground at Campbell School.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Tavares stated the annual maintenance cost would be about \$6,500 for the wood fiber surfacing. The committee will continue to fundraiser to cover those costs.

In response to P. Pacheco, Mr. Tavares stated the closest park is Brooklawn Park about two miles away. In addition, Ashley School has a small playground. None of the parks are within walking distance of the neighborhood. There are 271 students at Campbell School.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Tavares stated the neighborhood is very supportive of the playground. Mr. and Mrs. Gannon still live across from the school.

In response to P. Pacheco, Mr. Tavares stated since May 2018, they have raised \$101,000 with another \$25,000 anticipated to be received from Southcoast Health from the sale of t-shirts.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Mr. Tavares stated the maintenance will be for the wood fiber surfacing. In addition, there is rubber surfacing, similar to the Buttonwood Park playground.

In response to J. Bailey, Mr. Tavares confirmed the amounts raised to date.

In response to S. Gomes, Mr. Tavares stated he would submit revised balances.

In response to J. da Silva, Mr. Tavares stated the swings have been included in the \$200,000 budget. If they raise additional funds, they will add to the playground.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Mr. Tavares showed the site slide which showed the scale of the project. The City will assist with site preparation.

Public Comment

Mrs. Denise Gannon, Sgt. Gannon's mother, submitted a statement in support of the playground. This letter was read into the minutes by a member of the playground committee on her behalf.

Brooke, a student at Campbell School, asked when the playground would be built. Mr. Tavares stated the committee plans for a June groundbreaking with the students and have the playground completed by the end of August.

Zeiterion Theatre Marquee

Nicole Merusi, Development Director, presented the application which would fund the construction and installation of the Zeiterion Marquee.

In response to S. Gomes, Ms. Merusi stated they have raised funds toward their overall goal in private funds. They are waiting final design drawings for final figures in order to allocate the funds raised towards this particular project.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Merusi stated the CPA fund request will be used to match the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. The Zeiterion does not anticipate requesting additional CPA funding for this part of the capital improvements. The timeline is flexible but the Zeiterion is committed to having the marquee installed by 2020. This project is the first step in the capital campaign, so it is a goal to have this phase completed.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Merusi stated the funds requested are for the marquee only but not the vertical name sign. It is part of the master plan.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered or recorded in favor of the application, nor in opposition to application.

City of New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches

Mary Rapoza, Director of PBR, presented the four applications for City park improvements.

Brooklawn Park Rehabilitation

Ms. Rapoza presented the application which would fund the rehabilitation of the tennis courts and fund a circulation study.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza confirmed the circulation plan would be an RFP and completed by an outside consultant. The cost would be \$45,000.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the breakdown in costs for this project also includes fencing.

In response to S. Gomes, Ms. Rapoza stated the tennis courts would be spring 2020. The basketball courts funded by a FY18 CPA grant will be completed in spring 2019.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the Brooklawn Park courts were the best city courts until the renovations of the Buttonwood Park courts in October 2019. The US Tennis Association looked at the city courts and recommended three courts be rehabilitated at Brooklawn Park.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Ms. Rapoza stated, with confirmation from J. da Silva, the park is 82 acres.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated the tennis courts could be completed in Fall 2019 if funding allows.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the master plan would begin immediately.

In response to A. Louro, Ms. Rapoza confirmed the contract used for Buttonwood Park would not be able to be used due to procurement laws.

Public Comment

Richard Leary, citizen of New Bedford, spoke in favor of the project. He stated the renovation at Buttonwood Park was an outstanding job.

Buttonwood Parking Lot

Ms. Rapoza presented the application which would fund the rehabilitation of the Buttonwood Parking lot.

In response to S. Gomes, Ms. Rapoza stated the increase in parking will not lead to increase in runoff due to the installation of a drainage system to divert runoff from the pond.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated the lighting issue might have been addressed by the new lights on the Senior Center.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated the federal funds to rebuild the dam on Fuller Parkway would compliment this project as the dredging would help the health of the pond. In addition, they are addressing many different fronts to alleviate the water quality issues.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated if funding approved, the project would go out to bid and potentially could begin in Spring 2020. The project will include the picnic area south of the Senior Center and green space to the north of the Senior Center.

In response to P. Pacheco, Ms. Rapoza confirmed the runoff runs north to south across the parking lot. No runoff comes across from the parkway cutting through the park. The erosion south of the Senior Center is due entirely to parking lot runoff.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the grade would be changed and design of picnic area would be considered. The Brownell Avenue side of the pond is currently being internally considered.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Ms. Rapoza stated the number of parking spots and other details will be determined during the design process. The drawing presented is a concept drawing only.

Public Comment

Richard Leary, President of the Friends of Buttonwood Park, spoke in favor of the project as it will rehabilitate the area in keeping with other surrounding sections of the park as well as reduce the runoff issue into the pond. He expressed his opposition to the current lighting installed on the Buttonwood Senior Center.

Hank Riley, city resident, spoke about his reservations about the potential increase in parking. He also expressed a desire to see softer lines and landscaping in the design. Ms. Rapoza stated there will be a public design meeting needed if the CPA funding was approved.

Fort Taber Terreplein

Ms. Rapoza presented the application which would fund the terreplein roof bid documents, construction documents and other documents needed for the rehabilitation of Fort Taber.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza confirmed the funding is for the bid documents, cost estimates, and other documents which would provide the phases of work for the rehabilitation.

In response to S. Gomes, Anne Louro stated Ft. Adams' project was larger so not possible to compare two forts. The last study stated the overall project would be close to \$10million.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the vegetation maintenance is undertaken bi-annually by Department of Public Infrastructure.

In response to P. Robinson-Deare, Ms. Rapoza stated the terreplein roof will be rebuilt in more modern system, but the exterior would not change. The project would fall within the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Hazelwood Park Rehabilitation

Ms. Rapoza presented the application which would fund the completion of the master plan which would include the renovation of the bowling green, tennis courts, and fencing.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated the Friends have \$50,000 and a commitment for another \$50,000 for restoration of the greens.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the budget breakdowns is the additional \$228,000 is for tennis courts (\$53K-\$54K), fencing, plant materials, ADA walkway, picnic areas, and cement pads for grills. The amphitheater will potentially be completely internally.

In response to J. Bailey, Ms. Rapoza stated the increase in the line item for the bowling green from FY18 \$32,000 to FY19 \$250,00 was due to review of the greens by experts. The City is in discussions with croquet groups and Bowls USA about the use of the bowling greens by teams from throughout the northeast. The agreement would include clinics and be income producing for the department. Bowling is a very accessible sport for all ages and would be promoted as such by the City.

In response to J. da Silva, Ms. Rapoza stated the maintenance would be approximately \$8k - \$10k yearly. The groups would raise funds to cover the costs.

In response to S. Gomes, Ms. Rapoza stated she would defer to the Friends group as to the priority within the individual parks' project. She views them as the stewards as the park. For the overall projects, Ms. Rapoza stated the terreplein roof, Buttonwood Parking lot, planning process at Brooklawn, and Hazelwood Park would be the priorities.

Public Comments

Paul Deare, city resident and a member of the Hazelwood Park Friends group, spoke in favor of the project stating the Friends group has a consistent priority in the bowling green due to the strong interest in the sport by people of all ages.

MOTION to close the public hearing.

Moved by S. Gomes and seconded by A. Glassman

Motion carried.

WORK SESSION

No other business.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by J. Bailey and seconded by A. Glassman. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits

- Agenda
- Application Presentations

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Bailey

CPC Coordinator

Approved 5.28.2019