

**PLANNING & ZONING PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) REMOTE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
21 APRIL 2020, 7:20 PM**

Call to Order by Chairman Quish was at 7:20 pm.

Roll Call: B. Broesder, J. Castignoli, P. Kearney, J. Quish / (STAFF) J. Griffith, D. Sulkis, M. Greene

Minutes were approved unanimously; no public comments were made.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Mr. Sulkis displayed a memo that updates developments against the existing plan of conservation and development. He said he met with now-retired Recreation Director Paul Piscatelli whose personal future recommendations included:

- better signage for locating Gulf Beach
- dredging the pond at Eisenhower Park
- creating an outdoor amphitheater at Fowler or Eisenhower (included in 2022 POCD)
- building an indoor recreational facility idea next to natatorium on former Milford Academy site for aerobic, Pilates, and other fitness classes
- additional community gardens in the east and west sides of the city

Mr. Broesder asked about expansion of dog parks and community garden; Mr. Sulkis said Mr. Piscatelli said resources are needed to staff and extend these amenities in other locations. Mr. Quish asked if the POCD subcommittee had ever pitched ideas directly to Board of Aldermen for funding. Mr. Castignoli, Ms. Kearney and Mr. Sulkis discussed funding of park fees. Mr. Sulkis said Wolf Park in Shelton was researched as a possible model, where there is a fee structure similar to a club membership and revenue makes amenities self-sufficient. To implement a similar plan at Eisenhower Park, there was a need to relocate the community gardens, a move that proved politically unpopular at the time. He said that some of the Eisenhower goals were implemented such as an accessible playground and dog park improvements. Ms. Kearney suggested that an amphitheater alone might generate revenue. She also suggested trail markers and signage for hikers to match existing trail brochures. Mr. Quish asked about the PA 490 provision program and an update on the list of participants. There was discussion of the Open Space Agent position. Mr. Quish said this section of the old POCD seems solid but asked Mr. Sulkis to update sections 6, 7 and 8. He said the group should email Mr. Sulkis with suggested updates and changes. Mr. Castignoli asked that completed items be removed. Mr. Broesder suggested submitting comments via Google Docs® for group revision and editing. Mr. Sulkis will check if it can be used.

COASTAL RESOURCES

Mr. Sulkis said UConn has done lots of mapping with future projections for flooding and he will share more than what is currently in the Dropbox. He said he attended some of the UConn presentations; the group expressed a desire to have an expert join the meeting via video. Ms. Kearney thought 7 items in action plan were very generic. Mr. Broesder and Mr. Kader discussed purchase of at-risk parcels by city. Mr. Sulkis said a program was run by Community Development Office, and he will ask for results. Mr. Sulkis displayed the action plan for Coastal Resources. He referred to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Kearney said she was in favor or pursuing water quality goals and strong use of soil erosion and controls via the Inland Wetlands Agency. Mr. Kader expressed concern about avoiding contamination of LI Sound. Mr. Sulkis noted that the city is fortunate to have a federal lab near the harbor. The group discussed assessing sea rise, noting that a UConn expert could advise about projected shoreline changes.

AGRICULTURE

Ms. Kearney noted previous discussion of this topic on 2/18 and asked if a list of farms using a PA farm credit had been obtained; Mr. Sulkis said he asked the acting assessor about it, but was told that the ongoing evaluation preempted researching this question until later. The group noted that some pages are truncated in the old POCD document. They said they wished to encourage local food resources, particularly in light of the current pandemic. Mr. Quish said he wished the group could encourage incentives. Mr. Sulkis said Mary Treat could be brought in as a farm expert; that she has shared her knowledge in past POCD processes. Ms. Kearney spoke about food redirection to pantries and wondered if the city had or should develop an economic disaster plan. Mr. Sulkis said Bill Richards has been involved in flood preparedness. Mr. Broesder wondered if there could be more coordination of federal programs. Mr. Sulkis said he can ask for expertise from CT Department of Agriculture. Mr. Quish said there should be consideration of changing the regulations' definition of a farm such that smaller acreage could be converted to food production.

Approval of 2/18/20 Minutes was unanimous.

Adjournment was at 8:35

Next Meeting 19 May 2020

Attest: M.E. Greene, Rec. Sec'y