

PLANNING & ZONING PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES, 17 SEP 2019, 6:30 P.M., CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 110 RIVER STREET

- A. Call to Order** was at 6:36 pm.
- B. Roll Call:** S. Marlow, J. Quish, J. Griffith, D. Sulkis
Absent: J. Kader, P. Kearney
- C. Review update of Action Plan Items from POCD 2022 (Continued)**

Chairman Quish asked the board to review the minutes from the previous meeting in July. He, **Mr. Marlow, Mr. Griffith,** and **Mr. Sulkis** discussed the new POCD webpage and ideas for activating use of both the webpage and Dropbox resource. **Chairman Quish** had a question arising from the POCD Action Plan spreadsheet regarding Open Space. **Mr. Sulkis** provided an overview of the procedure for allocating Open Spaces and how Open Spaces are identified on the Zoning Map. Mr. Sulkis also explained that Open Spaces are deeded in perpetuity and have value in creating green areas in the City. He noted that Steve Johnson (the City's Open Space and Natural Resource Agent) could explain the varieties of Open Space in more detail when he sat in on a future POCD meeting. **Mr. Griffith** explained requirements in the Community Rating System (CRS) that Open Spaces located in flood zones help the City meet. He described the City's attempts to enhance its score in FEMA's assessment of flood mitigation, resulting in higher discounts on flood insurance for the City's shoreline homeowners. There was a consensus that Open Spaces might work better on a dedicated Open Space map with various categories. There was an examination of the treatment of the topic in the 2022 POCD document, where an Open Space document already exists.

The group moved on to a discussion of Eisenhower Park. **Mr. Sulkis** said there was a separate, standalone plan for Eisenhower Park that was used to make recent improvements, including a new playground, improved parking, pickle ball courts, and a dog park. **Chairman Quish** wondered if a dedicated POCD section for Eisenhower Park would generate comment and engagement. **Mr. Sulkis** said Recreation Director Paul Piscatelli could apprise the subcommittee of progress on parks in general, which was treated as a separate topic in the 2022 POCD. **Mr. Griffith** noted that even when projects have not been started, they should be tracked as a placeholder, using the example of the planned Police Department building. **Mr. Sulkis** reminded the group that this is not an implementation plan, it's a high level document.

The next topic was the proposed reconfiguration of Fowler Field. **Chairman Quish** asked about the Yale Design Workshop study done on the area. **Mr. Sulkis** said he remembered there were hearings on the topic, and that they were contentious. The group discussed how to approach issues that tended to generate strong emotional responses in the community and strategies for including other stakeholders.

Mr. Quish made the motion to adjourn. **Mr. Marlow** seconded.

- G. Adjournment** was at 7:22 pm.
- H. Next Meeting – 15 October 2019**

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