

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING POCD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.

Call to Order was at 6:35 pm.

Roll Call: J. Castignoli, P. Kearney, J. Mortimer, D. Sulkis, M. Greene

Absent: J. Kader, J. Quish

Invited guests: C. Ailing, C. Cappiali, C. Williams, R. Keeler (Conservation Committee members)

Topic for discussion: Open Space (OS)

Mr. Sulkis opened the meeting in Chairman Quish's absence

Mr. Keeler, Conservation Committee (CC) chairman, said that the committee decided to participate in the POCD meeting a few days earlier so he was less prepared than he would have liked, but that the group had reviewed the 2012 POCD report. He asked about the process.

Mr. Sulkis said the POCD subcommittee was methodically reviewing chapters and that the Open Space (OS) and Recreation chapter was discussed a few months ago. He displayed the Action Plan at end of the document and described the color coding which indicated the removal of some completed items, presence of some ongoing items, and the addition of some new items. He and Ms. Cappiali discussed the completion of the OS inventory by Steve Johnson. Open Space the tax incentives, and other considerations that sometimes resulted in parcels being donated to the city. **Ms. Kearney** assumed that the main source for information about plans for donated parcels would be the mayor's office or board of aldermen and that OS Agent Jeremy Grant would be aware of plans for specific targets OS parcels. **Mr. Keeler** said he will discuss how the OS grant fund operates with Mr. Grant at this month's CC meeting. In the past.

There ensued a wide-ranging discussion of city-owned parcels that the group was aware of, including the recently acquired parcel on Tudor Road and the recently improved Wilcox Park. The CC members said they will try to schedule a site visit to the Tudor Street parcel. **Mr. Mortimer** discussed the implications of wetlands in OS. **Mr. Castignoli** noted the need for OS in the Devon section of the city where there is so much density.

Ms. Kearney asked about definition of OS; **Ms. Ailing** said that while technically golf courses and graveyards are a kind of open space, she thinks of it as the deliberate holding of a passive recreational area where nature isn't affected by development. Mr. Keeler said Mondo Ponds type areas are an OS paradigm. **Ms. Kearney** thought there should be a property management plan to attempt to push back against invasive species, human-created disturbances such as ATVs, and proactive care of the land. She speculated that volunteers might be maintain under supervision. There was general agreement that this is a huge job. **Mr. Keeler** pointed to successful community efforts such as the beach planting at Silver Sands Park.

Mr. Sulkis stressed that there will be an opportunity react to the next POCD revision before it is completed. **Ms. Ailing** said most of what's in the current document should stay in, with her highest priorities being land management goals and the OS map update. There was discussion of reaction to reported encroachment of OS by abutters.

Mr. Sulkis provided an overview of the POCD statutory process and asked for any other topics for discussion. **Mr. Keeler** thanked the subcommittee for inviting them and said he will add agenda items to CC's next meeting for further discussion. **Mr. Mortimer** and **Ms. Kearney** expressed appreciation for participation by the CC and other city boards and commissions. **Ms. Cappiali** asked for text and map revisions when available. **Mr. Sulkis** said he would forward a copy of the spreadsheet showing the status of items under consideration.

City Planner Update: None.

Member Suggestions: None

Approval of Minutes of 5-26-21 was unanimous.

Adjournment was at 7:31, next meeting is June 23rd.