



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for October 20, 2022

Present: Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Forrest Tiedeman, Ryan Sloan, Craig Molway and Eugenia Gibbons (*arrived at point indicated)

Absent: Paul Moore

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the remote public meeting at 7:30pm. All members participated remotely.

Minutes

September 15, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

*Ms. Gibbons arrived at this point

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the September 15, 2022 minutes, as written.
Second by Mr. Tiedeman.**

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons - abstain, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Craig Molway- abstain, Paul Moore – absent, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Ryan Sloan- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.

4-0 in favor (Ms. Gibbons and Mr. Molway abstained)

Discussion:

Pond Management – funding, pond issues and related items- Mr. Paiewonsky and staff had prepared an outline document for pond management. Mr. Paiewonsky went over the document and discussed different tasks items with the commission members.

Ms. Gibbons expressed interest in working on task #2 (Prepare summary of 5-year costs for annual pond treatment and water chestnut removal.)
of the outline. Preparing an actual cost budget for monitoring water bodies in the City.

Mr. Sloan suggested adding a breakout section under goals for successes or progress toward goals on each waterbody. An example would be starting the multi-year mechanical harvesting treatment at Ell pond for the water chestnut management.

Mr. Molway stated that he is interested in task #6 (Identify / Document / Prepare Grants for State/Federal/Private Opportunities) invasive species management was a hot topic at a

recent Open Space and Recreation Plan meeting. This could have potential to allow for more funding opportunities if invasive species management is included in that plan. Greater emphasis or priority is placed on things listed in that plan.

Discussion on budget process. Commission needs to get our annual budget request to the city Auditor's office, ideally by December. Discussion on speaking to individual City Councilors about the pond management issues, particularly if one of the waterbodies is in their ward.

Ms. Gibbons suggested that staff should set up a meeting with the DPW, Parks Department and the Mayor to discuss the pond management plan.

Mr. Tiedeman stated that he was also interested in helping with task#6. Looking for contracts to back up budget request amounts.

Mr. Molway stated that the M03 club is also looking for community service volunteer hours.

Parks Admin Approval – Ell pond Vegetation pruning- Staff prepared a draft administrative approval letter and explained that the Melrose Parks department is looking to trim and prune pondside vegetation on the Gazebo end of the pond to create more views of the pond from that area. Limitations such as no ground disturbance and types of vegetation authorized for cutting discussed.

Flagg Acres Fall Trail Cleanup day – 9am-12 noon, Saturday November 5 – Mr. Paiewonsky and Mr. Molway will post announcement about the event online. Staff will prepare an announcement and share it with the email list as well.

Flagg Acres Memorial Bench- Staff updated the Commission members on the status of this project. Staff met with the landscaper and one of the donors earlier this month to determine an appropriate location for the bench. The bench was recently installed and photos of the bench were shared with the Commission members.

Potential land donation –The City Solicitor received an estimate for a title search on the parcels.

Mr. Sloan stated that tonight was his last meeting as a member of the Commission.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn
8:45PM adjourn

Approved

Date.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law, ' G.L. 39, 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.