



Lowell City Council

Parks & Recreation SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: June 29, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack St., Lowell, Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Mercier, C. Gitschier and C. Leahy.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Mercier called meeting to order noting attendees and outlined motion referred to subcommittee.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Mercier introduced Matt LeLacheur of the Lowell Athletic and Activities Foundation who provided a presentation on redevelopment of Cawley Stadium and Martin Complex. Mr. LeLacheur noted other members of the foundation and members Sue Cawley Ryan and Marisol Nobrega. Mr. LeLacheur outlined the lists of projects contained in the presentation: parking lot; bus facility; walk of fame; the hub; playground; woodlands; wetlands; and aquatic center. Mr. LeLacheur provided schematics of proposed field house noting that the project goes beyond just service the high school and connects much green space. Mr. LeLacheur noted costs and payments were substantial but project would be done over time through phases. Mr. LeLacheur noted that there would need to be a custody/control agreement with outside entity to ensure projects moves forward and is properly maintained. Mr. LeLacheur noted that City must show commitment for private funding to open up. Mr. LeLacheur commented on naming rights as well as land acquisitions. Marisol Nobrega commented on the importance of the project for the youth of the City and requested support. C. Mercier noted foundation members not present in the Chamber. C. Leahy noted the presentation and commented that parking lot is scheduled to be done as part of water project on Douglas Road. C. Leahy noted that parks should have an open concept. C. Gitschier noted that costs are high for this project and the City has so much more pressing issues with infrastructure and buildings throughout City that is not feasible to take on this type of project at this time. C. Leahy appreciated the realistic approach



but noted there are partnerships that can be developed and option available. Mr. LeLachuer noted nothing can start until there is an agreement to have a care and control agreement between City and another entity. C. Mercier noted some realities with the project but pursuing dreams is not futile and she would bring message forward. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Leahy to have City Manager and administration explore the feasibility of City and another entity enter into a care/custody agreement for the purpose of the redevelopment of the Cawley Stadium/Martin Complex. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas. So voted.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Gitschier. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
