

Notes from CPA Committee Meeting -5/28/14 @5:30pm-Ackerman Room

CPA Committee Members Present:

Bill Bibbins (Historical Commission)
Ellen Shachter (Resident)
Kevin A. Foster (Resident)
Steven Winter (Planning Board)
Lisa Peterson (Deputy City Manager/Chair CPAC)
Louis DePasquale (Assistant City Manager for Finance)

Attendees:

Karen Preval (Senior Management Analyst-City Managers' Office)
Jeana Franconi (Budget Director-Budget Office)
Angela Pierre (Budget Analyst –Budget Office)
Charles Sullivan (Executive Director-Historical Commission)
Chris Cotter (Director of Housing Division-CDD)
Nancy Schlacter (Executive Director-Human Rights)
Taha Jennings (Assistant to the City Manager-City Manager's Office)
Jennifer Letourneau (Executive Director –Conservation Commission)

- The meeting convened at 5:40 p.m., Deputy City Manager (Committee Chair) Lisa Peterson asked all committee members and staff to introduce themselves.
- Introduction of the new CPA Committee member Steve Winter, who is a representative of the Planning Board.
- Ms. Peterson stated that she wanted to use this meeting as an organizing session to talk about the history of CPA projects and to organize the time and location of the next CPA committee meetings and hearings. She announced that the next committee hearing was already scheduled on June 19th, in which community members would have the opportunity to request FY15 projects to be funded by CPA. City staff would also put in their request for projects to be funded by CPA. She also stated that the first week of August would be a good time to have the CPA percentage allocation meeting. She then asked Louis Depasquale to do an overview of the CPA finances.
- Louis Depasquale (Assistant City Manager for Finance) provided update information regarding CPA finances, including last year's financial information, the current financial position and anticipated CPA funding for FY15. He stated that, to date, a total of \$131 million has been allocated through CPA funding, with \$105m going toward housing, \$13m for historic preservation projects and \$13m for open space projects. The CPA fund balance is approximately \$3.7m and the expected FY15 allocation will be \$12.5m. The projected state match from last year declined from 27% to 23%.

- Director of Housing Division at CDD, Chris Cotter gave an update on housing projects. He talked about focusing on preserving the affordability housing units and rehab of affordable units. He also spoke about a few recent and upcoming acquisitions on Putnam Ave, Bishop Allen apartments, units near Kendall Square, Rindge Ave., Fresh Pond apartments. He stated that there was a back log of more than 1,000 applicants applying for housing.
- Kevin Foster asked a question in relation to what the backlog is for the public housing waiting list.
- Chris Cotter said that there are over 9,000 families on the CHA list. In the Housing Division, there are 1,000 applicants looking for rental units. There was not as large a waiting list for new ownership units.
- Charles Sullivan gave a history of CPA and discussed the current projects that are underway, such as the Cambridge Common which will start construction in June, former Police headquarters received \$500K toward exterior restoration with the Cambridge Housing Authority, City Hall restoration project will be out to bid in the near future, the Blacksmith house, handicap accessibility project, Brattle House, Longy School masonry work, Cambridge Historical Society renovation, and the Magazine Beach Powder House, envelope restoration is out to bid.
- Taha Jennings- gave an update on projects funded with FY13 CPA funds. He noted that in FY13 that CPA funds allowed a greater flexibility with included recreational funding for parks and playgrounds. The open space projects funded through FY14 CPA funds are: renovation of Hurley Street Park; renovation of Elm/Hampshire Plaza and Bishop Allen and Main Street Plaza; replacement of the basketball and tennis courts at Glacken Field and Pemberton Field; accessibility improvements to the Graham and Parks School playground; improvements to the Pacific Street Park off leash area; renovations to the Haggerty School Playground; and renovations to Sacramento field. Additional funds will be needed for the Pacific Street off leash area improvements as well as for renovations to Sacramento Field.
- Jennifer Letourneau stated that the Kingsley Park Restoration Project has been designed and the first phase is under construction.
- Kevin Foster asked a question about getting feedback from residents in a community after we have funded an open space project. He inquired if the previously funded Cambridgeport park projects are being used more by people.
- Ms. Peterson and Taha both responded that the City is waiting for the residents to have a chance to use the open space area for a full summer and then look at ways of evaluating the renovated parks and getting feedback from residents on their experience with new open spaces.
- Steven Winter had a question about the Sacramento place connecting the field. He inquired about the right of way at the end of Sacramento Field.
- Ms. Peterson and Taha explained that this area will need to be looked at as part of any park renovation.

- Ms. Peterson announced that on June 19, 2014, at the City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, a CPA public hearing will be held in which the public, boards, commissions and staff will have an opportunity to suggest projects for CPA funding.
- Ms. Peterson discussed the dates, times and purpose for the upcoming meetings and noted that recommendations to the City Council would be submitted September 15, 2014.
- The following meetings were confirmed for the summer and fall: August 5, 2014 at 6:00pm at the Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave. - public meeting to hear the public's percentage allocation recommendations; September 9, 2014 at 6:00pm in the Ackerman Room, City Hall - committee meeting to vote on the percentage allocation to projects.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.