

## **November 19, 2015 - Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

Submitted: Jennifer Letourneau/Sam Corda – March 17, 2016

### Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair); Jennifer Letourneau; David Kaplan, Deborah Masterson; Susan Agger; Jim Barton; Doug Brown; Paul Ryder; Janet Burns; Claudia Thompson; Lauren McPherson

### Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Ann Roosevelt

### Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda; Tim MacDonald; Vinnie Falcione; Jamie O'Connell, Julie Coffey; Martine Wong

### City Manager's Office/Community Development Department in Attendance:

Taha Jennings

### Public in Attendance:

Martha Stearns; Bud Scheffy

Meeting opened at 6:05PM

Meeting Minutes: J. Letourneau/S. Corda

### **Item 1: Review Agenda**

Added introduction of New Conservation Commission Representative to the Board (below)

### **Item 2: Introduction of new Advisory Board member Lauren McPherson-Siegrist**

Lauren McPherson-Siegrist was introduced by Jennifer Letourneau. Lauren is a chemist and was recently appointed to the Conservation Commission where she replaced Albe Simenas, a former Advisory Board member. A warm welcome was given to Lauren.

### **Item 3: Meeting Minutes**

Paul Ryder moved and Jim Barton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting as amended (typographical edits and add last bullet in Item 12). The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The September 17, 2015 minutes will be reviewed and resubmitted at the March 17, 2016 meeting for approval.

### **Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report**

***Kingsley Park Project Report:*** Discovery Zone Update – the original Mitch Ryerson design for the play structure has been revised based on comments from the Advisory Board and Michael Muehe. The “bridge” has been eliminated, the overall size of the play structure was reduced. Log sizes ranging from 20 to 6 inches in diameter, will be made from local black locust trees. A transfer platform to the structure was added for ADA compliance. Claudia Thompson moved and Paul Ryder seconded the motion to approve the revised play structure design. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

There was discussion as to renaming the discovery zone. After some debate Paul Ryder moved and Deb Masterson seconded the motion to rename the discovery zone the “Forest Playscape”. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

***Drainage/Community Garden Project Update:*** A draft planting plan was sent out for comment and the project information was also handed out. A planting plan review meeting will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Please submit any comments to Dave by the end of December 2015. The community garden plots have been increased to 27 from 18 and will be accessible. We are advancing this project to coincide with the larger DCR Greenway project. The DCR is having a 25% design public meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### **Item 5: Landscape Maintenance Update**

***Volunteer projects:*** Weekly weeding’s are on-going at the Concord Avenue side of Black’s Nook with Mark’s class at the Fayerweather Street School. Other areas continue to be weeded by the Friends group.

***Trees:*** Air spading elm trees and new tree plantings continue using the City Contract.

***Reservation "winterization":*** The irrigation system has been winterized. Evergreens susceptible to winter freeze burn including rhododendrons, inkberry and small pines are being sprayed with anti-desiccant. We will be mowing Butterfly Meadow in December and performing leaf management on paths and grassy areas. The CWD is also working on a Vegetation Management Plan with our consultant to determine the BMPs to deal with the upcoming state nutrient management regulations including phosphorous limitations. This information will inform the second phase of our Landscape Maintenance Plan as well.

#### **Item 6: Report on 2015 Cambridge Public Schools Ecology Education projects at the Reservation**

Susan Agger, the CPS teacher in charge of the Maynard Ecology Center reported that students have been and continue to collect a variety of baseline plant data she hopes this will prove useful for the Reservation’s vegetation management plan. Sixth graders have been creating a biodiversity index for the wildflower meadow attempting to identify sensitive and non-sensitive areas. Susan asked if there are questions that the students could collect data to answer to support management such as collecting biodiversity data in mowed versus un-mowed areas. The Board and Water Department noted that first, the data should be archived because it may be pertinent in the future to evaluate the benefits, for example, of mowing vs. not mowing of wildflower areas, the survivability of the Kingsley Park bio-swale, to help ensure that the Master Plan implementation and other work by Water Department and the education program goals are headed in the right direction. Students might learn techniques for identifying, counting particular butterfly species. The information could be stored on or linked to the CWD web site allowing volunteers to suggest the types of data for students to collect and store, as well as, linking information from other entities that could be used as a reference for data collection (e.g. The University of Rhode Island Biodiversity data)

Julie and Martine from the Water department have also been working with students at the Tobin School to teach them about the water system and watershed.

**Item 7: FY17 Budgeting & Review Process related to Master Plan Projects**

*Glacken Slope - Phase 5:* July 2016 construction begins.

*Kingsley Park - phases 2 and 3:* deferred beyond FY17

*Drainage/Community Garden Project:* Complete design and bid by July 2016 and then start construction which is expected in 2017.

*Huron Avenue Pine Forest:* Existing Conditions report/preliminary engineering RFP has not yet been done.

*Black's Nook:* Proposed limnological and sediment study will be the first step (FPRMP Sec. 7E). The success of Black's Nook will require the protection of its open water habitat.

**Item 8: Proposed Ordinance Changes – Approved**

Sam handed out the City Council approved ordinance changes (Chapter 6.04 Animal Control Regulations)

**Item 9: March 17, 2016 Preliminary Agenda**

Fresh Pond Day Planning; Ordinance 6.04 Implementation Update, walk about, setting 2016-2017 meeting schedule, Coming Master Plan Projects

**Item 10: Public Comment**

None

Jim Barton moved and Janet Burns seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.