

March 17, 2016 - Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – May 19, 2016

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Deborah Masterson; Susan Agger, Jim Barton, Doug Brown, Janet Burns

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Ann Roosevelt, Jenifer Letourneau, Paul Ryder, Claudia Thompson, Lauren McPherson-Siegrist

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Tim MacDonald, Vinnie Falcione, Martine Wong

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

Taha Jennings

Public in Attendance:

None:

Meeting opened at 6:07 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Added City Manager Rossi Retirement announcement

Item 2: Planning for informal reception for Paul Ryder at the May meeting

Mr. Ryder is retiring this spring (April 2016) and the Board would like to have a very informal reception for him recognizing his many years of excellent service to the Advisory Board. A discussion ensued as to the details of the reception.

Item 3: Meeting Minutes

Dave Kaplan moved and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 meeting as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Deb Masterson moved and Janet Burns seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting as amended (typo and word change "Master" to "Management" in Item 5 and changed "August" to "July" in Item 7). The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3A: City Manager Rossi Retirement

As Rich Rossi has always been a proponent of the Water Department and the Fresh Pond Reservation and was a key supporter of the Master Plan Process, the Advisory Board would like to acknowledge his significant contributions to Fresh Pond Reservation in a formal letter. Several Members will draft this letter to be sent in the future to City Manager Rossi.

Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report

Kingsley Park Project Report: Working with Contractor on punch list items such as, plant replacements and seasonal maintenance.

Drainage and Community Garden Project Update: The 75% planting plan has been completed. Several members of the Board will be walking the site to review the plan. They will be looking at “specimen” trees to keep, reviewing trees in general, as well as magnolias and other plantings during the walk.

Revised City Animal Control Ordinance: The Water Board has approved the list of water department staff positions at the reservation that can help to enforce the Water Board Policies and City Dog Ordinances pertaining to property under the jurisdiction of the Water Board. This same request will be sent to the Police Commissioner for approval as well. Once approved the enforcement by the designees can start. Individual training will be performed, prior to the start of enforcement.

Item 5: Glacken Slope Phase 5

There was a public meeting on “Glacken Slope Phase 5” on February 25, 2016. This design includes two additional features. The first was the addition of outside seating just before the intersection of the perimeter path and golf course access path adjacent to the golf course club house; the second being the addition of a “cobble swale” at the toe of the steep slope, adjacent to the perimeter path.

There was discussion about the Carol R. Johnson Associates (CRJA) “Design Guidelines Appendix to the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan” as to whether these guidelines were approved by the Advisory Board in 2004. After quite a bit of research it was determined that the document was not approved by the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board. In addition the document was incorrectly titled as it was not part of the Master Plan approved by City council in 2001. This was related to the discussion to determine the relevance of this document to outside seating guidelines for Fresh Pond Reservation.

Dave Kaplan then gave a presentation on Glacken Slope Phase 5 specifically relating to the changes proposed from the original design several years ago. In general, the pathway width will be 14', 12' of porous pavement and a 2' shoulder. The perimeter path elevation will be raised approximately one foot and the long-term temporary fencing will be consistent with previous projects.

There was much discussion about the outside seating and a vote was taken as follows:

Susan Agger moved and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to have the outdoor seating for the Glacken Slope Phase 5 Project: be limited to a single bench located at the base of the slope closest to the golf course, be of a design height to make it easy to stand up, have a back, have arms for leverage, be capable of seating at least three people and be ~8-10' in length. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The “cobble swale” change was then discussed. The “cobble swale” was added to capture any particulate runoff to ultimately protect the functionality and reduce the maintenance of the porous pavement perimeter path. This recommended change was developed after reviewing the technical successes of the previous phases of the Glacken Slope Restoration Project.

After much debate, regarding the formal nature of the structure in a natural area, the “cobble swale” was accepted by the Advisory Board as the most technically sound and manageable solution to the erosion, runoff and maintenance problems encountered on Glacken Slope.

Item 6: Landscape Maintenance Update

Landscape Contract: We only received one bid from the existing landscape contractor and there are two subcontractors. We are reviewing and will soon make a recommendation to Purchasing.

30th Annual City Run Road Race: the 30th annual City Run will be on April 3, 2016 and we are performing the usual clean up prior to the road race.

Item 7: High Priority Master Plan Projects Awaiting Preliminary Study

Black's Nook Limnology and Dredging Study: The Board would like a Blacks Nook general phased approach plan at the September 2016 meeting, if that is possible.

Huron Avenue Pine Forest: there is a need to develop a plan for the pine forest particularly as the proposed bike path will bring construction and more users to the area. This should include: an existing conditions report; pilot efforts (if any), design approach and construction phasing.

Item 8: Pilot Signage Program: History sign in Kingsley Park Area

Janice Snow gave a brief history of Charles Kingsley. He was an original water board member for about 39 years (1865 to 1904) and he was known as the “father of the water works”. He was written up in the New York Times and was known as a Cambridge philanthropist. It was suggested that we include in a sign in a developed area near Kingsley Park a brief history of Charles Kingsley’s contribution to the protection of our water system.

Item 9: Fresh Pond Day, June 11, 2016, Planning and Volunteering

Martine Wong has been organizing Fresh Pond Day and asked for volunteers. Janice Snow will be sending around a signup sheet for Board Members; Susan Agger volunteered as she has in the past to display Maynard Ecology Center materials. Some suggestions for Fresh Pond Day were as follows: We should publicize (1) the current Glacken Slope Phase 5 project, 2) the work of the Cambridge Water Department and the Fresh Pond Advisory Board, and (3) upcoming restoration projects at Fresh Pond Reservation. It was also suggested that the bicycle parade should be shorter in length and time.

Item 9A: 20016-2017 Meeting Schedule

The meeting dates will be set at the May 19th meeting. The September meeting will be either the 15th (the 3rd Thursday of the month) or the 22nd. Other regularly scheduled meetings are expected to be November 17 (2016), March 16 and May 18 (2017). We may schedule a 5th optional meeting to review project designs.

Item 10: September 2016 Preliminary Agenda

Coming Master Plan Projects and Vegetation Management plan.

Item 11: Public Comment

None

Deborah Masterson moved and Jim Barton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.