

January 23, 2020 Special Meeting - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board

Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – October 22, 2020

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Deborah Masterson, Claudia Thompson, Sophia Emperador, Jennifer Letourneau, Candace Young and Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton, Ann Roosevelt, David Lyons, Adam Corbeil,

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Jean Rogers, Tim Puopolo and Vincent Falcione

Others in Attendance:

Jan Devereux, Kara Falise – DPW, Kevin Berttell – Stantec, Duke Bitsko – Hatch, Anthony Galluccio – Resident, Resident/Coach A, Resident/Coach B

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Meeting Minutes

David Kaplan moved, and Janet Burns seconded the motion to review and approve the November 2019 minutes at the March 2020 meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 2: Glacken Field Redesign Review

Proposals to construct two new Little League Baseball Diamonds and new Tot Lot within Fresh Pond Reservation between Glacken Slope and Huron Avenue

[Note: Board and public comments [to follow each presentation and issue]

Glacken Field and Tot Lot Renovation Project: The revised design for Glacken field was presented by Kara Falise (DPW) and Kevin Berttell (Stantec). see the link below to view the presentation.

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Agendas/2020/Glacken_Meeting_FPAB_CDPW_1232020.pdf

Kara reviewed the need to prioritize Glacken Field renovation to accommodate the West Cambridge Little League (WCLL) relocation as a result of the Tobin School Construction Project. The league currently has 3 fields at Callahan Playground to the rear of Tobin. Only 2 fields can be accommodated in the Glacken footprint. Under a separate contract the concrete bleachers will be removed.

Kara addressed the following concerns raised at the November FPMP Advisory Board meeting by the Board.

(1) Relating to providing a sufficient buffer between the fields and the slope, Glacken Slope Restoration will be added to the Glacken Field Project. (See description of Phase VI of the Glacken Slope Restoration below.)

(2) Field lighting unanimously opposed by the Board has been removed from the plan.

(3) No pesticides and only low Nitrogen fertilizer will be applied to the playing fields. DPW will do maintenance of the field areas and tot lot.

(4) The rear section of the loop path around the ball fields has been kept at 10 feet wide and in asphalt to accommodate an easement the electric company has to service the switch gear box for Haggerty School.

A new plan was added to extend a sidewalk along Glacken to connect to the existing separated sidewalk and bike path along the Parkway. The proposal is for a 12' wide porous asphalt multiuse path on reservation green space.

Kara mentioned the Project open house is being held on February 13th at the Haggerty School.

Kevin Berttell (Stantec) made the formal design presentation to the Board discussing the details of the Glacken Field and Tot Lot Restoration Projects.

Duke Bitsko presented the slope restoration project which will be designated Phase VI of the Glacken Slope Restoration.

Glacken Slope Restoration Project: The proposed Glacken Slope Restoration Project was presented by Duke Bitsko (Hatch). Please use the link below to access the presentation.

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Agendas/2020/fpab_presentationhatch_1232020.pdf

Duke discussed the City Tree Removal Ordinance and the plan for the Glacken Slope Restoration Project is to remove a total of 54 Black Locust trees which are an invasive tree. The removal of the trees requires a DPW permit and will need to go to the Con Com for approval as well. He also presented three different options for the buffer between the ball field and the slope all of which included a 5' black chain link fence.

There were many comments from the Fresh Pond Advisory Board and are summarized: 1) There is a lot of community and Board support for the pathway around the ball fields: it should be a maximum of 8' wide (vs 10'), be porous pavement and not plowed in winter months; 2) the buffer/fencing option 1 (4' separation between fence and pathway) is the preferred option; 3) not lighting the fields is good; 4) additional outdoor seating is preferred; 5) locate the port-o-potty outside of the Fresh Pond contributing drainage area (watershed); and 6) use the Fresh Pond Master Plan Plant list for all plantings including trees with the exception of the playing turf.

The public comments are summarized: 1) want the perimeter pathway for: emergency and maintenance access, use by kids, parents and grandparents; 2) Should have lighting – safety,

practice and WC Little league will be the only league in Cambridge without lighting; 3) no need for parking changes; and 4) need better access to the fields from Huron Avenue.

The following motions were voted on after all the presentations, questions and comments on the Glacken field and slope projects, as well as, the Board and public comments:

Deborah Masterson moved and Janice Snow seconded the motion to select Option 1 from the presentation made on January 23, 2020 for the 5' tall black chain link fencing, keeping the fence line adjacent to the planned perimeter pathway to separate the ball fields from the Glacken Slope restoration area. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Deborah Masterson moved and Claudia Thompson seconded the motion to recommend that the planned perimeter pathway be no wider than 8' for the northern section of path abutting the slope roughly – between the tot lot west to the Eversource transformer. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Deborah Masterson moved and Candace Young seconded the motion to only use plants included in the recently updated Fresh Pond Master Plan plant list for the Glacken Field Project with the exception of turf for fields. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Deborah Masterson moved and Claudia Thompson seconded the motion to support the revitalization of the wooded slope area behind Glacken Field which includes the removal of invasive Black Locust trees for the purposes of soil and canopy restoration with native tree, mid, and understory plantings for future forest resiliency and improved ecological value. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Janice Snow moved and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to exclude any lighting on the planned Glacken Field Restoration Project. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3: Preliminary Agenda for March 19, 2020 Advisory Board Meeting Golf Course; Watershed Manager Report; Project Updates

Deborah Masterson moved, and Janet Burns seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.