

16 Preston Road, #1
Somerville, MA 02143

18 October 2012

Board of Aldermen
c/o John Long, City Clerk
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: requesting reconsideration of resolution #193830 "not to allow skateboard shows or competitions at Kelley Park"

Honorable Members of the Board,


With this letter, I would like to publicly declare my support for allowing appropriately permitted skateboard shows, competitions, and the like in Somerville's parks and open spaces. As someone who has advocated for the past eight years for open space for all in Somerville, I am very excited about programing that has the capacity to bring 250 young people out to a park. I applaud the efforts of the skateboarding community to promote and educate the next generation about responsible enjoyment of their sport, and I am eager to see the larger community and the city government continue to support these efforts.

Having been through the Board of Alderman's very thorough and fair permitting process many times, I understand the purpose of this process to be precisely to allow an entire facility to be dedicated to a single event during the permitted time. When I was the Chairperson of the Somerville Dog Owners Group, for example we were granted permits to hold dog-training clinics at Leathers Park, Nunziato Field, Perry Park, and Powder House Park. In Nunziato Field, in particular, I remember that people who had been playing frisbee in the park graciously ended their game when our clinic began because we had been able to show them that we had a permit from the City for our event.

I am confident that any complaints that members of the Board may have received were due to misunderstandings and miscommunication, and that, going forward, the skateboarding community, their partners among local organizations and businesses, the City and the local neighborhood can all work together to accommodate permitted skateboarding shows and competitions in our parks and open spaces. For example a flyer about an upcoming permitted event, produced by the event organizers and posted at the park by the City, could help notify the public about the upcoming event.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Biscoe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michele Biscoe