



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Thursday, April 18, 2024

6:00 PM

Virtual

The meeting took place virtually via Zoom and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Mbah and adjourned at 6:48 PM on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors Wilson, Strezo and Mbah), none against and 2 absent (Councilors Scott and Sait).

Others present:

Luisa Oliveira – Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry, Kim Hutter – Legislative Liaison, Peter Forcellese – Legislative Clerk.

Roll Call

Present: City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah, City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo and City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson

Absent: Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait and Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Space, Environment and Energy Committee Meeting of November 20, 2023. [23-1711](#)

Accepted

Aye: City Councilor At Large Mbah, City Councilor At Large Strezo and City Councilor At Large Wilson

Absent: Ward Five City Councilor Sait and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

2. That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment provide this Council with any updated plans and timelines for a municipal composting program. [24-0042](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Davis and Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

3. That the Administration explain the issues that are preventing Reavis Field from opening and how the process may be expedited. [24-0086](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Ewen-Campen

Kept in committee

4. That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry report to this Council’s Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy on the status of the parks and open spaces that have been completed or are under construction and planning as part of redevelopment projects. [24-0091](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Mbah and Councilor Burnley Jr.
Recommended to be marked work completed
5. That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment work with this Council and Green and Open Somerville to develop a job description for an Invasive Species position to spearhead outreach, education, and citywide invasive plant species removal and to allocate funding for such a position in the FY 2025 budget. [24-0106](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Sait, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen
Kept in committee
6. That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment update this Council on the design, cost, and implementation timeline for the city's composting program. [24-0370](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr.
Kept in committee
7. Green & Open Somerville and Earthwise Aware submitting comments re: invasive plant species. [24-0457](#)
- Kept in committee
8. That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the condition of Conway Field and the displacement of infill that is occurring there during extreme rainfall events, as well as the schedule for regular grooming and maintenance of the City’s artificial turf athletic fields. [24-0472](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Wilson and Councilor Scott
Recommended to be marked work completed

Referenced Documents:

- OSEE - 2024-04-18 DPW Memo (with 24-0472)
- OSEE - 2024-04-18 Citywide Composting Program (with 24-0042, 24-0370)