

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 2, 2016, 8:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
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*NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.*

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by Alderman At Large William A. White Jr.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. Roll Call  
200859  
(ID:13505)

Call of the Roll.

President White explained the lead-up to this meeting. The Committee on Finance had discussed the Lincoln Park bond in the context of renovations there. Questions were raised about whether artificial or natural turf should be used, and what impact that choice would have on the availability of sufficient fields citywide. The Board decided it would be wise to hear the Mayor's Fields Plan to see how the city could balance the need for playing fields with the maintenance schedule required by natural turf. There were additional concerns about the renovation timeline and bidding process.

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

**CITATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2. Mayor's Request 200539 (ID:13180) Requesting authorization to borrow \$9,425,000 in a bond, and appropriate the same amount for the renovation of Lincoln Park.
- Alderman Heuston clarified that the Mayor's Fields Plan, being presented by the city in draft form this evening, will guide the Board, but that the only item before it now is the Lincoln Park renovation, using natural turf. Voting it down wouldn't necessarily mean that the Park would be redesigned with artificial turf. The renovation is not just an athletic field but a full service park, with a major infrastructure project to alleviate neighborhood flooding.
- RESULT: APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]**  
**AYES:** Connolly, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr., McLaughlin, Heuston, McWatters, Lafuente, Niedergang, Davis, Ballantyne

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

3. Mayor's Communication 200860 (ID:13504) Conveying a Presentation from SPCD, Recreation, and SomerStat on Fields.
- Director of Transportation Brad Rawson introduced the Mayor's Fields Plan presentation. He said that while the Plan is still being finalized, the plan for the fields is to achieve, accessibility, functionality, fiscal responsibility, safety and environmental sustainability.
- Director of Recreation and Youth Jill Lathan discussed the guidelines and procedures for permitting the city's athletic fields. Alderman Niedergang asked about permitting at Dilboy Auxiliary fields and Draw 7 Park. Ms. Lathan responded that Dilboy Auxiliary is part of the Dilboy complex and is already a permitted field, and that Draw 7 is something we are continually working on with DCR. Mr. Rawson said the city hoped to restore the Draw 7 playing surface which was damaged during the city's emergency use of it as a snow farm facility last winter, but no time line has been established yet.
- Managing Analyst Emily Monea presented data showing field usage, field sizes, and peak times of usage. There is a full year of data on city-owned and managed fields, but not the DCR fields including Foss and Draw 7. The vast majority of users are youth and Somerville residents. The athletic field usage is high and growing. Our fields are used 90% of the time by Somerville residents. Alderman Ballantyne, Alderman Heuston, Alderman Niedergang and Alderman LaFuente expressed concerns about the number of hours (500 hours down from 1,500 before construction) available for utilization after renovation.

3. Mayor's Communication 200860 (ID:13504) Conveying a Presentation from SPCD, Recreation, and SomerStat on Fields.

CONTINUED

Senior Planner for Landscape Design Luisa Oliveira went over strategies to renovate existing athletic fields by redesign or adding lighting, which increases capacity. Adding new athletic fields would also add capacity. If the demand cannot be met, usage will have to be limited to specific sports and hours. When renovating an existing field the number one decision is natural grass or artificial turf. Natural grass reduces capacity while artificial turf maintains current capacity.

Alderman Heuston questioned if Dilboy will be striped for use when Lincoln Park is down. Ms. Monea said it would, and it would accommodate a large number of displaced users. Ms. Oliveira then outlined the remaining steps in the Mayor's Fields Plan.

On March 9 there will be a community meeting for the final Athletic Field Master Plan presentation.

**RESULT: PLACED ON FILE**

**FOLLOWUP:** Open Space, Environment and Energy Special Committee

## COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

### NEW BUSINESS

### SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

### LATE ITEMS

4. Resolution 200861 (ID:13513) By Ald. McLaughlin That the Administration ensure that teams and groups that have been permitted to use Lincoln Park are relocated to other parks while Lincoln Park is renovated.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:25 PM.