




CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Strategic Planning and Community Development
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

FROM: Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director 

DATE: December 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Request to appropriate \$400,000 in capital funds from the Assembly Square Stabilization Fund for Dickerman Playground renovation

The Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development (OSPCD) respectfully requests that you forward to the Board of Aldermen a request to appropriate \$400,000 in capital funds from the Assembly Square Stabilization Fund for Dickerman Playground renovation. This past June, the Board of Aldermen authorized the administration to apply for three (3) PARC grants in the combined amount of \$1,043,200. The City was successful in receiving all three grants, specifically \$256,000 for renovation at Dickerman Playground.

BACKGROUND

The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission is eligible to participate in the program.

On June 10, 2010, the Board of Aldermen authorized OSPCD to seek funding and enter into any understandings or assurances with the Commonwealth to receive funds to renovate Dickerman Playground. On October 21, 2010, the City was notified that it had won this PARC acquisition grant. This was a highly competitive year for these grants; the State saw applications double from 2009 to 2010. Somerville was one of only two communities statewide to receive multiple PARC grants this year.

Dickerman Playground construction costs have been estimated at \$400,000. As part of the requirements of a PARC renovation grant, the City needs to begin construction no earlier than July 1, 2011. The State will reimburse 64% of construction costs, or \$256,000. The City is responsible for the remaining 36% municipal share of the PARC grant, or \$144,000. As part of the grant requirements, the City must appropriate funds for the entire cost of the project. All construction work

must be completed and closed out by June 1, 2012. As part of the PARC grant requirements, Dickerman Playground must be dedicated to open space and recreational use in perpetuity, protected under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. As part of the grant requirements, the City must vote to appropriate \$400,000 in capital funds. Two other Board Actions (dedication of parkland in perpetuity and acceptance of the PARC grant) are also required and are being submitted to you for the Board of Aldermen's consideration on December 16. Attached please find a copy of the Board Order that encompasses these actions.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Aldermen appropriate \$400,000 in capital funds from the Assembly Square Stabilization Fund for Dickerman Playground renovation and adopt the attached Order.

Attachments:

A – Dickerman Playground Board Order & Background