



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 22, 2016
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Lafuente	Chair	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Alderman Mark Niedergang, Alderman John Connolly, Alderman Lance Davis, Ed Bean - Finance, Michael Glavin - OSPCD, Stan Koty - DPW, Brad Rawson - OSPCD, Arn Frazen - OSPCD, Emily Monea - CPA, Jill Lathan - Recreation, Peter Forcellese Jr. - Treasury, Tim Snyder- Mayor's Office, Rose Durham - Clerk of Committees

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Alderman Lafuente and adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Document List:

- Green and Open Somerville (with 200539)
- CPA (with 200654)

Approval of the January 25, 2016 Minutes

RESULT: ACCEPTED

199527: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$550,000 in a bond for betterments and improvements to the East Broadway streetscape.

Mr. Rawson will come back with a revised proposal.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

200659: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$50,000 from the MA Office of Public Safety for Police Dept. staffing.

RESULT:

APPROVED

200660: Requesting the acceptance of a \$28,920 grant from the DPH First Responder Naloxone (Narcan) Grant Program for the Police Dept.

RESULT:

APPROVED

200539: Requesting authorization to borrow \$9,425,000 in a bond, and appropriate the same amount for the renovation of Lincoln Park.

Chairman Lafuente allowed the public to weigh in on this matter and express their concerns regarding the composition of the field, i.e., grass vs. turf. Resident Chauncey Wood spoke about his preference for turf. Members of the audience who favored grass, chose not to make any comments. Mr. Rawson spoke about the condition of the fields that needed to be taken off-line. Consultant Cherie Ruane, from Spurr Design Studio, gave a PowerPoint presentation and distributed copies to the committee members. She outlined the various areas of the new design for children of all ages, as well as for adults. There will be seating, community gardens, a water source and will be handicap accessible. Additionally, there will be an off-leash recreation area that will be fenced in and have seating. The bid document for Lincoln Park will be put out this week and the city is trying to keep the project competitive and attractive for contractors. The plan is to break ground the day after schools close for the summer. Mr. Rawson stated the city engineer, the DPW and Rob King have all participated and provided ongoing dialog on this project. The Treasurer's Office is exploring the possibility of using water and sewer enterprise funds to help fund this project.

President White will call for a special meeting to provide the BOA with the full presentation to allow the members to understand and ask questions about the design for Lincoln Park. Alderman McLaughlin asked about the city's ability to maintain the grassy area and asked how the city plans to accommodate the youth organizations that use the field during the construction period. Ms. Lathan spoke about activities happening during the summer at Lincoln Park. Members asked questions about the various types of grass seed, the cost estimate of the project and the contingency amount, securing public input and the ability of the DPW to maintain lighting. Ms. Ruane said that she is confident that they have a good profile for the project and feels that the cost number is conservative, adding that the cost includes a Clerk of the Works position. There will also be an onsite project manager.

Chairman Lafuente requested that the Mayor's Master Field Plan be made available to the entire BOA as soon as possible.

This item was discharged from the Finance Committee during the February 25, 2016 BOA meeting so that it may be included on the agenda of the BOA's Special Meeting, scheduled for March 2, 2016.

RESULT:

DISCHARGED W/NO RECOMMENDATION

200656: Requesting to appropriate \$67,015 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the

installation of indoor turf at the Founders Memorial Ice Rink

Ms. Lathan responded to questions about putting turf in the rink after the hockey season is over. The committee asked for a document in writing with estimates supporting this request. The document should include losses vs. Gains, an explanation of why putting turf over the ice would work, what she hopes to gain from this request and financial data.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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200654: Requesting to transfer CPA funds totaling \$1,875,867 from the CPA Fund Budgeted Reserve and the CPA Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to designated CPA reserves per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Monea distributed information for the FY-16 CPA fund revenue.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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200655: Requesting to appropriate \$1,584,675 from the CPA Fund Community Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Monea stated the Affordable Housing Trust Fund has been around for approximately 25 years and that funds are granted through their own competitive process.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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200657: Requesting to appropriate \$15,490 from the CPA Fund Undesignated Fund Balance for the administrative and operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Monea said that FY-16 revenue is 15% higher. The requested funds would be used for studies and if the entire amount is not spent, the remaining funds would be used for future projects.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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200755: Requesting the transfer of \$90,000 from the DPW Sanitation Rubbish Removal Account to the DPW Lights and Lines Overtime Account to balance the account.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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