

## **Community Preservation Committee**

January 29, 2014

City Council Chambers

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chair Judith Grohe at 7:05 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Judith Grohe, Paul Healy, Bob Uhlig and Don Little. Kate Newhall-Smith, Geordie Vining, Lisë Reid, Donna Holaday, Ethan Manning and Andy Port were also in attendance.

### **3. Minutes**

Mike Dissette moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2013 meeting as amended. Don Little seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **4. Coalition Dues**

Mike Dissette moved to approve an expenditure of \$2,875 for 2014 Community Preservation Coalition dues. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **5. Discussion of Available Funds**

Kate Newhall-Smith reviewed the status of the CPA account. The State match for FY 2015 is being estimated at 26% or \$169,852. This anticipated match when combined with estimated surcharge revenues of \$653,278 results in a total revenue estimate for FY 2015 of \$823,130. Undesignated funds total \$796,798. The undesignated funds and estimated revenue total \$1,619,928. This figure must be reduced by \$321,006 in obligations for bond payments and administrative expenses, bringing the amount available for appropriation in the upcoming grant cycle to \$1,298,922.

Another \$399,861 exists in unexpended project funds. These funds are technically not available for award but the projects have been completed. Geordie Vining said this money was for the files for the two open space projects for which other grants were later received. He will write letters to the files in order that the accounting might be officially completed. Paul Healy said he thought this money was to be put in the open space reserves. Andy Port said that while this might have been the expectation, it would not be legally required. Mike Dissette said in his recollection the return of the reimbursement grants to the open space reserve was a condition of the appropriations. He said the expectation was a factor in the committee's later deliberations and recommendations and different awards might have been made if it was believed the funds were not being returned to the open space reserves. Paul Healy said if it were found that an automatic return of this money to the open space reserves was not required, it would be within the right of the committee to choose to direct it there at this time.

If it were assumed the \$399,861 would be considered undesignated funds and not open space reserves, the amount that would be available for award in the upcoming grant cycle would

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total \$1,698,783. The reserve accounts are not reflected in this number. Neither is an additional \$500,000 that has been appropriated for certain projects but has not yet been distributed. The open space reserves total \$453,600 and the affordable housing reserves total \$34,200. Ethan Manning said the fund balance is good for the City's bond rating.

**6. Discussion of the City's Priority Projects**

Mayor Holaday said the city is experiencing a crisis situation with regards to field space. Two baseball fields have been lost due to the construction of the new elementary school. Neither the City nor the taxpayers would be able to take on additional debt at this time. She asked the CPC to bond \$1.5 million for a multi-sport field at the high school. The Institution for Savings has pledged \$500,000 for the turf and other donations total nearly \$10,000. The north stands would be demolished to make room for the field. These stands are in poor condition and are not able to be used. The CPC could decide to bond the entire amount or pay cash for some portion of the project.

Lisë Reid said some of the existing fields are not safe. Some leagues are being turned away and some high school teams have been forced to use fields in other towns. The new field would be a key part of solving the need for field space throughout the city. Andy Port said the Open Space and Recreation Plan indicated the need for recreational facilities has risen above the need for open space.

Additional CPA funds will be sought for the Cherry Hill soccer fields during the upcoming grant cycle but applications will not be submitted at this time for the fields at the Nock Middle School or Fuller Field. Paul Healy asked if any open space opportunities might be suitable for recreation. Mayor Holaday said the City already own fields that simply need to be improved. Lisë Reid said efforts are being made to better manage the existing fields and to ensuring that user fees are directed towards field maintenance. Mayor Holaday asked the CPC to take the application out of cycle so the demolition work might be done during the summer.

**7. Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting of the CPC will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Applications for funding are due on Thursday, February 13.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.