

January 24, 2023

Re The Newburyport Park Reorganization Plan

Dear President Shand and City Council Members,

We write as the Board Members of the newly formed non-profit organization Port Parks Alliance (“PPA”) referenced in the Mayor’s Park Reorganization Plan dated January 24, 2023.

We came together over the past few months with the intention of creating a non-profit that could support Newburyport’s parks in a similar fashion to that of other local “friends” organizations such as the Newburyport Education Foundation. The specific need for fundraising crystallized as it became increasingly apparent that the Parks Conservancy would cease to exist.

The mission of the PPA is to collaborate with the City of Newburyport and its stakeholders to support the care, preservation, and enhancement of Newburyport parks. More specifically, we plan to bolster the missions of the Newburyport Parks Department and Parks Commission, as set out in the 10-year Strategic Plan adopted on January 23, 2023, through:

- Independent capital improvement fundraising;
- organizing of volunteers; and
- education and advocacy.

The PPA will operate with full transparency with respect to acceptance and allocation of donations, including submitting all donations in excess of \$500 to the City Council for acceptance. The PPA has its own tax identification number and will not have any formal relationship with the Morrill Foundation. We are in the process of completing incorporation and 501(c)(3) filings. The PPA Treasurer, Jim McCarthy, is in discussion with the City’s Parks Manager and Finance Director to collaborate on processes for accounting and tracking of all donations from receipt through communicating gratitude and outcomes back to donors.

We have held a handful of informal meetings to date with a number of Newburyport residents interested in supporting the city’s park. We anticipate establishing formal meetings and group membership in the coming months once our formation paperwork is finalized, as well as launching a website and beginning fundraising and volunteerism activities.

With this context and background, we each reviewed the current version of the Mayor’s Newburyport Parks Reorganization Plan, in particular references to the PPA. We believe the Reorganization Plan sets out responsibilities and activities for the PPA that align with the organization’s mission and that the PPA would be well-suited to carry out. We stand ready to work with the Parks Commission, Mayor’s office, and City staff as outlined in the Reorganization Plan should the Plan be approved by the City Council.

Sincerely,

Andrea Eigerman, President

Jim McCarthy, Treasurer

Stacey Macmillan, Secretary



City of Newburyport
Department of Public Services

January 24, 2023

To President Shand and Respected Members of the Newburyport City Council:

I, Jamie Tuccolo, Acting Director for the Department of Public Services, am writing to you in support of the Parks Department Reorganizational Plan. Under this plan the Parks Department will become a division within DPS thus allowing both departments to utilize equipment as well as personnel, materials etc.

This merger will lead to a more efficient work schedule to address not only issues that may arise but maintenance of all City owned properties under each department.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Jamie Tuccolo

Acting Director, Department of Public Services



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
(978) 465-4400

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Newburyport City Council

FROM: Andrew R. Port, Director of Planning & Development

CC: Sean R. Reardon, Mayor
Andrew Levine, Chief of Staff
Kim Turner, Special Projects Manager

RE: Proposed Parks Reorganization Plan

DATE: January 24, 2023

I am in receipt of the proposed Parks Reorganization Plan presented to the Parks Commission on 1/23/2023, which I understand is to be submitted to the Council on 1/30/23 for referral to Committee and subsequent review. I have discussed aspects of this plan, and the capacity and needs of this department overall, with the Mayor and his Administration during the past few months. As Director, I can verify that there is adequate “bandwidth” in the Staff Planner position within this Department to assist the Commission in the manner presented within the proposed plan and presentation.

It is my understanding that various other activities associated with the Parks Department/Division will be handled by others (*e.g. operations, routine inspections and maintenance, procurement, contract management, budget assistance, work orders, meeting agendas and minutes, and pro forma permits and reservations*). I also anticipate that large capital projects (*e.g. Market Landing Park, Bartlett Mall, etc.*) will continue to be overseen by existing staff (*e.g. Planning Director, Manager of Special Projects, Senior Project Manager*), and that larger or more complicated grant applications would be overseen, or assisted, by the City’s Grants Manager and/or Special Projects Manager. These areas are indeed better suited to existing/alternative staff positions focused on these particular areas, and with the relevant expertise (*e.g. bidding, construction management, etc.*).

There is a beneficial relationship between long-term planning efforts undertaken by this Department (*in conjunction with others*) and the type of coordination and assistance our staff planner can provide to the Parks Commission here. For example, we have routinely overseen periodic updates to the City’s Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) along with other long-range planning documents (*several of which are required for access to state and federal funding programs*). Assistance with monitoring, implementation and update of the Commission’s 10-Year Strategic Plan would be consistent with existing planning and project management work in this Department and the Staff Planner’s job description, as would the correlation with managing and tracking related yearly CIP requests. On a parallel track, the Staff Planner already assists the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) in its yearly review of grant applications and funding recommendations to the Council, many of

which involve improvements to the City's park facilities. Improved coordination would likely result from integration of these continually evolving project listings and priorities, associated funding timelines, etc.

Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions regarding the potential role of this Department in any Parks Reorganization Plan ultimately implemented, and/or other planning work managed by Department staff.

City of Newburyport
Parks Department
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

January 13, 2023

Newburyport City Council
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport MA 01950

Dear Councilors:

I am writing this letter in support of the Parks Department transition plan placing the Parks Department under the Department of Public Services.

In the planning process of creating this plan it became more and more evident to me that this is the proper place for a municipal Parks Department within City Government. The process involved at the beginning with Paradigm Consulting showed me that the proper place for our department is within the DPS. The ability for the Parks Department to utilize not only the administrative staff of DPS and the labor force, but also the use of aligned equipment and supplies, showed me the need for this transition.

The synergy that will come with this transition plan will propel the Parks Department from a small entity to one that can take on larger capital projects within the parks, higher quality work as well as a collaboration of likeminded individuals that have a common goal in mind, to serve the residents of the City of Newburyport.

I continue to strive to make people aware of the need for maintenance in the city's parks. With the funding of the Bartlet Mall Renovation and the soon to be Market Landing Park there has been a substantial investment in the City's Park system. With the changing demographics of the City and a higher level of expectations for quality there is a great need for maintenance. This transition will be a catalyst to improve this need within the Park system.

Sincerely,

Michael P Hennessey

Parks Manager, City of Newburyport

24 January 2023

Newburyport City Council
City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Re: Parks Reorganization Plan

To President Heather Shand and Members of the City Council:

On January 23, the Parks Commission voted to support Mayor Reardon's Parks Reorganization Plan. This vote reflects the opinion of the Parks Commission that the plan ensures for the effective protection, management, and maintenance of Newburyport's parks now and for generations to come.

Over the past several months, the Parks Commission has held a series of Special Meetings to develop a 10-Year Strategic Vision for Newburyport's Parks. This vision is designed to work in tandem with the Parks Reorganization Plan. Where the Reorganization Plan details an efficient organizational structure for the support and management of our parks, our Strategic Vision provides a clear direction for what we hope our parks can be now and in the future. Central to this vision is a set of six Core Values that reflects the Parks Commission's priorities and guides our decision-making. These Core Values are:

1. Environmental Conservation
2. Health & Wellness
3. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
4. Community Engagement & Communication
5. Economic Vitality, Planning & Stability
6. Historic Preservation

The newly proposed organizational structure will relieve the Parks Commission of some of its more mundane tasks (permitting, reservations, fees), and allow us to focus on more visionary projects and initiatives (adult parks programming, climate resiliency, universal accessibility, historic preservation). It is our belief that Parks Reorganization, combined with our 10-Year Strategic Vision and Core Values, will serve to provide the best possible parks experience for our diverse community of park users.

Sincerely,

Ted Boretti
Chair, Newburyport Parks Commission



January 25, 2023

Dear Council President Shand and City Council Members,

I am writing to show our support for Mayor Reardon's Parks Reorganization Plan. The Youth Services Department is prepared to take on the adult recreation programming that was running through the Parks Department previously.

These programs will fall under our Rec & Enrichment Division. Associate Director, Joe Pauline, has a history of programming for all ages. He looks forward to rebuilding the programming that has been offered in the past as well as begin to look forward to new partnerships. We have the necessary platform of our registration system to make this a seamless transition and believe we can easily work with outside vendors to continue programming. Our goal will be to work with the Parks Commission to expand programming over the next few years to create healthy opportunities to all of our City's residents. We are committed, like our youth programs, to making all programs accessible and inclusive to all and to reflect the diversity of our community.

Please let me know if I can provide any more information.

Thank you!

Andrea Egmont
Director of Youth and Recreation Services
City of Newburyport
978-465-4434 ext 1351
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

www.newburyportyouthservices.com

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