

March 16, 2016

City of Portsmouth Citywide Neighborhood Committee

Call to Order: 7:00

Cliff: Attendance sheet going around. Agendas going around, please look at the minutes from the past meeting. Cristy: Motion, Marie: Second, All in Favor

Cliff: Talked about Ward liaisons. Councilors are designated to each ward. The idea is that person would be conduit to the ward. Will become more apparent as time goes on. Worked with mayor to schedule neighborhood outreach meetings. Will start with Ward 3, with as many city councilors and city staff as we can get there. Will have Questions and Answers session with each ward. Hope to get them all in in 2016 and make part of regular schedule.

Sara m. Why did we start with Ward 3?

Cliff: Mostly because they haven't had a councilor in a long time. Lots of healthy discussion can go on. With Peverly hill road. Website has the ward maps.

Marie Kelleher: Will not be there for May

Cliff: Any other questions

Larry Cataldo: Do we have enough information about what can be discussed at the outreach. We should know what is happening.

Cristy Cardoso: That is the reason for the outreach. We will go out to hear the issues. Get input.

Cliff: Quick update on CIP. Last year we put together an analysis of 17 years of CIPs Explained CIP and how it works. . Now has a priority section, why they are doing it sooner, what ward, funding-where the money comes from.

Roger: What is this CIP, what did this committee do?

Cliff: People were asking questions, was it being spread amongst the city.

Kathy: Also put more funding source info on so people would know where the money would come from

Cliff: Metric will make people aware, we excluded things applied to the entire city, bridges, schools, roadways, repaving, wastewater treatment, sewer separation. Realized there was an imbalance. 2017 has quite a bit of projects in Ward 3.

Roger: Asked what we do.

Kathy: Our job is to get info out to residents, and find a better way to have communication. We organized a CIP 101 meeting with city staff, well attended and they explained how it worked.

Cristy: Need to look at other improvements. 1. Residents could submit projects. That addition stops the idea that you need to have a loud voice. 2. It allows for priority grades for each project which did not exist prior. All the info is laid out. Stops neighborhoods for feeling like they were fighting.

Cliff: You have a start, a resident can look at priorities, can start a good conversation.

Sara M: Where did our request go? Request for paving.

Kathy: Call Public Works

Cristy: Call and ask where it will be on the schedule.

John: Talked to pavement manager. Was supposed to be done in 2012.

Cliff: Peter Rice came in and gave a fascinating presentation on pavement

Roger: Where on city website is this

Cliff: Look on sub page Plan Portsmouth – 5 years are on website, 10 years at Library.

Cliff: Any other questions.

John: Concerning ball field added to CIP. Where did that come from?

Paul: All the contractors have been using it as their lay down, in exchange for filling and grading it as a field.

John: Is it artificial turf? Cancer risk

Paul: It is moved up 2017.

Jim: Explained that many people came to a public meeting to ask for the ball field to be built.

Jim: Will get fees form use of fields along with the need from playing fields.

Paul: It was originally replacement field for softball field,

Jim: This is still being talked about , if you have research, concerns please bring them forward.

(Person who came in with Jim): So the CIP is less than 5% of the budget of the total city budget.

Cliff: Time to elect a vice chair, explained role. Kathy Bergeron

Motion: Cristy made a motion

Paul Second

All in favor.

Cliff: Our steering committee will increase by one member. Our typical process will be to have Larry come to a few meetings and then we can nominate in May. This is our first full steering committee.

John: What is the steering committee

Cliff: Out of the bylaws. Blue Ribbon Committee, This meeting is an open meeting with representatives from neighborhoods. Open meetings are committee as a whole, Steering committee is a group that is leadership. We will have an additional steering committee meeting outside general meetings

Jim: Brought someone from Jones Avenue, have a group interested to form a committee

Jim Splaine: He just came from Pease Development meeting and pleased that much of the work can be done by marine for sewerage treatment plant.

John: Jim, your ordinance regarding demolition, what has happened to that.

Jim: It can be brought back any time. City manager is looking at it, it will not go away.

John: it effects all of us. Identified himself as a member of the HDC, thinks that it is very important and we should support.

Jim: Wants the ordinance to create more transparency

John: Thinks that this is a good for the city as a whole

Kathy: Worried about judgement of taste

John: Won't be taste police

Cristy: Housing is limited. And there are derelict homes that could be torn down

Discussion on tear down ordinance among attendees.

Jim: There is no bad part of Portsmouth. Disagrees with some of what we say.

Paul: Part of the variance side, hardship, was to protect property owners. If zoning did not change it is a self-created hardship. Just his observation.

Cliff: Paul please talk about West End Dialogue

Paul: 7 or 8 groups, took apart form based zoning, will not look like anything downtown. His group wants it to look very different than downtown. Max 20,000 SF. Very good process, a lot of people from the neighborhood. About 60 assigned to groups.

Cliff: What happens after presentation?

Paul: Doesn't think the planning board will listen.

John: Agrees that not much is done

Paul: A great opportunity to meet neighbors, many people dropped out because they were frustrated with no outcome from the process.

Cliff: Time for Neighborhood Reports.

Sara: The upside of the upset in our neighborhood is that we have met lots of neighbors

John: All very concerned about the bridge entering New Franklin. City does not take care of walkways to the street. Feels like they have not taken care of that, shrubbery.

Cristy: Use Click and Fix

Discussion on merits of click n fix.

Larry: Islington Creek – had a meeting with the three city councilors. 20 people showed up. Primary concerns – resident parking permits. More people looking for parking. 2nd concern was parking garage and how that will fit into the neighborhood. Should look at parking if it is an enforcement issue or not. Brewster Street Rooming House – coming back, hoping that it will be better.

Cliff: Went to Parking Director Presentation. Talked about resident parking program, hoping to have him to come in May.

Cliff – lots of new things happening. Demand based parking, apps with open spaces.

Jones Avenue,

Concerns in their neighborhood. About development of dump area (area at end of Jones Ave), passive recreation. Used to be a dump, then an ash dump, Don't believe that they need signs or portable toilets. Lots of dog walkers that don't respect other people's properties.

John: Police have looked the other way. Think that they purposely have ignored their calls. Forestry Center is having problems with drug and homeless people.

Roger: Leave it for people in the city – taking care of the dogs is a problem. Need to control. Wildlife corridor, goes over to creek farm. Lots of coyote, turkey, deer. We need to think of conservation.

Roger: Looked into DES, EPA, National Heritage, 19 species that are threatened or endangered. City wants to expand the site with more trails, mow the grass over the fence.

Jim: Took their side, Jim thinks that money should be spent cleaning up the area on Sagamore Creek. Jim used to go to the dump, throw paint, trash. Use is good, but we do not need to advertise it. Looking to put neighborhood group together. They don't understand that this is a dump, and very hazardous. Should not be built on a hazardous waste site, also have ash waste.

Cristy: Advice that is always good – Although our first instinct is not how do we stop this, avenues exist for framing the outcome to what you want. Path of less resistance. It sounds like there are several ways that it can be framed.

Roger: Looking at 126,000 vehicles per year. Need to try to stop traffic.

Paul: Met with DPW on sidewalks, curbing took away parking. Nbhd is up in arms about the road between Borthwick and Islington St. Will increase traffic on Islington Street.

Cristy – Will speak for Marie Kelleher. Continuing to work on traffic issues, met with city and Banfield Nbhd for master plan for Banfield Rd. Meeting devolved because people were under the impression they were there about Water Country. Hoping that the city rep system will work for them. Hoping that Water Country will step up to help. The city didn't have an answer yet.

Atlantic Heights, doing a spring clean up early, work with public works, so by the time street sweeper come, they are more effective.

Paul: Motion to Adjourn

Cristy: Seconded

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm