

City of Portsmouth, NH
Blue Ribbon Committee
CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 24, 2018
Conference room A, City Hall

In attendance: Rick Becksted, Kathy Bergeron, Kathleen Boduch, Larry Cataldo, Chase Hagaman, Cliff Lazenby, Paul Mannle, Kelly Weinstein, other resident/neighborhood reps.
Absent: none

Kathy Bergeron called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as received.

CIP PLAN SUMMARY

Peter Stith gave a Power Point presentation outlining the CIP process. That presentation is available online at the Planning Office.

The citizen/resident application process for CIP projects was closed on October 10th. The suggestions will be sent to all the departments for priority setting and then forwarded to the Planning Board. All submissions will be heard by the Planning Board on November 15th. In December they will evaluate all the submissions, and they will be sent to the City Council. February is the next time for public comment.

The CIP review also looks at things that have been submitted over time and their progress. They are listed in the CIP document available at the Planning Department and the Portsmouth Library.

CIP requests have to address specific criteria: justification, costs, need, public value, etc. and are looked at regarding funding sources, policies and other factors.

All are prioritized based on timing 3 yrs...6 years etc.

CIP requests are submitted 3 months prior to budget process.

At the Nov 15 Planning Board meeting people may be allowed to comment on items. At work sessions comment may be permitted. That is a new consideration in the Planning Committee.

Questions:

Are 10 requests to the CIP is average and is there a consideration for balance of projects throughout the city?

Nancy C. Pluff, Deputy City Manager, replied that the city looks to that, makes it a priority when it can.

Is there a published time line that lets every person know the status of a request?

CIP is a plan. Budget is closed eventually but the plan is more fluid.

CIP things can get pushed back because they require multi-year allocations. It might seem that something is not being looked at but it might but out because of multi year allocations are needed.

What do residents need to know to get a CIP enacted? How can they know?

Reading/looking at the Budget and CIP documents are the ways to understand how it works and what has been done. The texts are large but manageable. Ms. Pluff said citizens should call City Hall to ask questions. They are there to serve.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING PERMIT TRIAL PROGRAM— Larry Cataldo reported on the prospects for the pilot neighborhood parking project in the Islington Creek Neighborhood. They have looked at the complaints. They know it should benefit the entire community, should not disrupt business, and should provide a positive community benefit. Current status: they are waiting to hear from the Traffic/Parking/ Safety and Committee. That meeting has been postponed while they redevelop some of the plan.

Doug Roberts, chair of that committee said that staff is looking at the comments from the two neighborhood meetings before they go forward with the pilot. They need more information and will update the plan and get back to the neighborhoods and finally take it to the T/P/S committee. Neither the Islington Creek neighborhood nor the South End has enough of a plan in place to begin getting signatures of support from the residents. When it is enacted it will not be an ordinance. As a pilot the City Council will approve it for a period of time, evaluate its effectiveness, and will then need to remote to keep or dismantle it.

QUESTION: Is there a requirement for homeowners and area commercial owners to be treated the same?

Islington Creek Committee wants it to include all streets except Bridge and Islington Streets because they are already regulated. They think two hour limits near businesses will work best. Rooming houses have had some problems because of inadequate parking. Heinemann is supportive and a good neighbor, providing parking for neighbors in off-hours.

Question: how will passes be handled. Doug Roberts replied that that has not been worked out yet. Consideration will have to be given to contractors and medical personnel. Thought to keep it a resident only. Could businesses get special passes for special events? Neighbors hate those.

Question: is the city trying to make the two pilot programs the same? Doug Roberts said that has not been decided. Somethings will apply to all, others will be different. Boundaries might change. Time limits might or not work. Dueling experiments make it hard to determine how it might actually work. How will it be measured? Maybe 6 months March through September would be good timing.

The P/T/S (Parking Traffic & Safety) Committee has to decide if the purpose of the trial is suitable for other neighborhoods. They must calculate the costs, consider any unforeseen consequences, determine if it has caused more problems.. what will the subscription rates be? How will it be enforced?

The city has consulted with other cities in taking this on. It's a big deal. Cliff. Hopes they will make the metrics clear in measuring success.

Public input: so much going on in the street construction in the Islington Street area that it may be a detriment to the real data. Employee parking is the city's issue. Not the residents'.

Larry Cataldo: In the Eleven city studies they have separate ordinances. We need a steering committee. Small meetings with neighbors. Will need volunteers to collect signatures. We will hope that the public benefit will be better for a majority of residents.

Public input: The City has exercised some control over downtown parking with the changed meter rates. Using Coast services will help. Chamber is working to understand the statistics. All agreed it is a comp, I cared matter.

Suggestion: Paul suggested the city meter whole neighborhoods but allow resident passes.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT review

It was successful with 19 neighborhoods participating. The police were fantastic. Next year they may have money in their budget for new signs. It was suggested that we get something in

writing for every neighborhood. And that we develop checklists to help organizers have what they need.

WARD 1 FORUM

Ward 1 Neighborhood Forum was held at the New Franklin School. There was good discussion about neighborhood concerns and some spill-over into city needs.

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORTS

SPINNAKER POINT—they were impressed with the turn out for National Night Out.

They are appreciative of the paving on Market Street extension and are glad they are finishing up.

LINCOLN AND MILLER STREET area residents have been fighting for better safety at that intersection and have finally gotten a crossing guard. The situation is much improved but not yet perfect. Drivers still go too fast near that area and harass the guard!

SOUTH END— is grappling with the plan for the parking pilot. They are also pleased that the Pleasant Street paving/ sewer/curbing project is nearing completion before the winter weather compromises the area.

Several changes were suggested for the Citywide Neighborhood Committee by-laws.

Kathleen moved and Kelly seconded that we adopt the changes. After brief discussion the changes were unanimously accepted.

2019 MEETING CALENDAR: tentative dates were discussed, Kathy will look into dates/venues and get back to everyone

Jan: CNC meeting

March—Neighborhood Ward forum

April:—CNC committee

May —Neighborhood ward forum

June preview to NNO

Planning NNO meeting

No aug

No sept

October:—CNC MEETING

No nov dec

Chase suggested we sponsor an Online Town Hall to encourage more participation at our meetings. It would invite those who cannot get out for meetings to contribute from home/ work/ where ever. Topics might include the school budget. Winter month might be a best time. Maybe a Legislative forum sometime near/in September might also draw residents to the meetings.

Candidates' forum, next September?

Rick Becksted - Note: the budget select committee used to work on the budget but this year they are inviting the entire council to give input. On November 1 they will discuss general government and police dept. budgets and on November 7th the fire dept. and school budgets.. meetings at 6:30.

There being no further business it was moved, seconded, and passed that we adjourn at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted
Kathleen Boduch, secretary