

Attachment G

Official Review and Public Comments

City of Lawrence, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR Michael J. Sullivan

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island St
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: City of Lawrence Open Space Plan

Dear Kathryn:

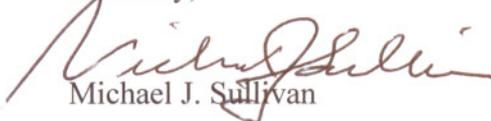
I have completed my review of the 2009 Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence and am writing this letter to express my acceptance and endorsement of the Plan.

The goals and action plan stated in the plan reflects the interests of our community especially in the current fiscal climate of the country, Commonwealth, and Lawrence. It is important to engage the City's residents in structured programmatic stewardship of our parks and open space as well as provide the resources necessary to maintain them. I have been pleased, in my tenure as mayor, to have new parks completed, renovated existing parks, and have added trail connections and community gardens to the fabric of the City. However, more can still be done to increase the open space available to residents and to maximize the activity in the parks.

The City has a good relationship with its nonprofit and business partners in the community. The goals in the 2009 Open Space Plan include strengthening those relationships both formally and informally through parks programming, inventories of the parks, and continued investment in park amenities. A result of increased activity and maintenance of the parks is, I hope, an increased atmosphere of safety in the City.

Although I have come to the end of my term as Mayor of the City of Lawrence, I look forward to only good things in the future for this City and its parks.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Sullivan



Kathryn Prybylski
Project Manager
Groundwork Lawrence, Inc.
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

RE: Regional Review of Draft City of Lawrence OS&R Plan 2009

Dear Ms. Prybylski:

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) has reviewed the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan, and we commend the Groundwork Lawrence staff, the Lawrence Community Development Department, and the Lawrence Conservation Commission for a job exceptionally well done. This comprehensive plan represents an extensive updating of the City's 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and provides a wealth of new information on the City's current open space and recreation facilities, natural resources, community character, socioeconomic conditions, land use, and public infrastructure. Used in conjunction with the City Master Plan, this new Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an invaluable local and regional planning tool for many years to come.

We take note of and applaud the very open, public process which you and your Planning Team followed in updating the plan. The participation of multiple city departments and boards, as well as nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups, demonstrates a broad base of stakeholder investment in and support for the plan. This should prove extremely helpful in the months and years ahead as the City works to implement the plan.

We also are pleased to note the Planning Team's thoughtful development and clear articulation of a set of **realistic** plan goals and associated actions. All too often, local open space plans contain a long 'wish list' of generalized goals and actions that fail to recognize and address the specific priority needs of a community. Without clear focus and direction, these plans cannot inspire and elicit the community interest and commitment that are needed to successfully implement a plan. In contrast, the Lawrence Planning Team has made a concerted effort to identify the City's major open space and recreation needs over the next five years, and to design a 5-Year Action Plan that responds to these needs. The prescribed actions appear doable and, if implemented, promise to expand and improve the City's natural resource base and to positively change the lives of City residents.

We commend the City also for its recognition of the *intermunicipal* aspects of open space planning and natural resources protection, and of the value in exploring joint open space and recreation opportunities with neighboring communities, MVPC, and other Merrimack Valley entities. Our own Trails Planning staff has begun working with Lawrence, North Andover, and Andover trail advocates on several important regional greenway/trail planning projects, including the intermunicipal Shawsheen River Greenway project, and we look forward to assisting in the implementation of these projects and the 5-Year Action Plan as a whole as our resources permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your updated plan. Your Planning Team and advisors, many of whom are unpaid volunteers who gave generously of their time and expertise, have done a truly fine job and deserve the appreciation of the entire Lawrence community.

The MVPC regional planning staff would welcome the opportunity to partner with the City on the plan's implementation. Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Alan Macintosh
Assistant Director/Environmental Program Manager

Robert Lavoie
Chairman

Joseph Sullivan
Vice Chairman

Rob Phillips
Secretary

Mathilda Evangelista
Assistant Secretary

Robert Snow
Treasurer

David Powell
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Administrative Assistant

Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty

Land Use Planner

Daniel A. McCarthy

December 18, 2009

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island St.
Lawrence, MA 01840

Re: City of Lawrence Open Space Plan

Dear Kathryn:

As the Chairperson of the Lawrence Planning Board, I have completed my review of the 2009 Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence.

The goals and action plan stated in the plan reflects the interests of our community sufficiently and efficiently. The City of Lawrence has been successful in recent years in adding new Open Space parks and trails for its residents. While there is still continued demand for new park space and amenities, this plan reflects the equal need for increased programming, attention and maintenance in our existing parks. Better utilization of our existing parks can provide recreation, respite and a learning experience for our youth and adults.

One programs discussed in the Open Space Plan that I feel is an important priority is a city-wide tree survey with a strong focus on assessing our old growth trees in the North and South Common and Den Rock Park. Our tree resources are vitally important to the health of the City. Establishing a baseline of tree health and a management plan is necessary for efficient protection and replanting.

The other program that is needed in the community is the establishment of jobs for youth and young adults. There is a continued demand for jobs for youth and increased maintenance in the parks. Job training in parks and trails works in many communities; Lawrence, with its young population, should also be able to maximize this resource to meet some needs for maintenance in parks and public space.

I look forward to seeing these goals realized and to evaluate their progress over the next five years.

Yours truly,

Lesly Melendez
Chairman

12/17/09

Dear Kathryn,

Attached are a few comments, questions and suggestions pertaining to the Open Space Plan 2009. I hope you can follow my rather unique format.

A big concern for myself and also my organization, the Lawrence Environmental Action Group, is the prospects for the city owned land abutting the water treatment plant and running down to the Boys & Girls Club. Unfortunately this choice slice of beautiful river front property is not mentioned at all in the 2009 plan. It is an ideal site for open space enhancement. Do you know if the city has any plans at all for this land?

I would really appreciate meeting with you to discuss some of our concerns.

I expect that the Lawrence Environmental Action Group (LEAG) will be submitting a formal comment on the plan by December, 23 2009.

Many thanks for your good efforts on the 2009 Plan!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rich", written in dark ink.

Richard McCarthy

To: Kathryn Prybylski, Groundwork Lawrence

Re: Open Space Plan 2009, December 16, 2009

Comments, Questions, and Suggestions

Goal 1. Increase Regular Maintenance etc.

Action 2. Conduct a city wide tree survey...etc.

Questions: 1. Doesn't the tree survey done just a few years ago apply?

2. How does a tree survey relate to maintenance?

Goal 3. Decrease dependence and burden on the DPW etc.

Action 4. Inventory... on the age and health of trees in Common.

Question: Wasn't this done a few years ago in the tree survey?

Goal 6: Increase pedestrian & biking activity.

Action 6. Suggestion. Add "expansion of State River Front Park walkway up and Into Andover."

Goal 7. Reclaim vacant lots etc. ...and other underutilized lands.

Action 2. Suggestion. Add; "including city owned land on the north side of the Merrimack above the dam including the unused water treatment plant land and also the land running east from the plant to the Boy's Club."

Goal 8 . Increase access to waterfront resources... through enhancement and protection.

Action 1. Questions: Natural Resource Management Plan – Who would do it etc.?

Action 3. Comment:

The Shawsheen River in Lawrence is now very clean. The Shawsheen River Watershed Association does yearly cleanups. Also the Clean River Project organization has done an excellent job cleaning the Merrimack River in Lawrence above the dam. These volunteer organizations certainly should be supported and applauded by both the city government and citizenry.

Suggestion: Reference these groups in this action statement.

Action 4. Add: "expansion of State River Front Park up and into the Andover Merrimack River trail system."

Add an Action 5 as follows: "Include the Merrimack River bank land on the north side of the river from the Boy's Club to the Water Department's pumping station for enhancement and protection by officially including it in the open space inventory."

Submitted by: Richard McCarthy, President, Lawrence Environmental Group, Inc

4 Bicknell Terrace, Lawrence, MA 01841

lawrenceenvironmentalactiongroup@live.com

Eileen Margaret
113A Beacon Ave. Lawrence Ma. 01843
Email: eileen-margaret@yahoo.com

December, 6 2009

Dear Ms. Kathryn Prybylski

Thank you for helping to make Lawrence better. Lawrence needs a plastic field for sports like soccer. A perfect for a plastic field is across the street from the South Lawrence East School on Osgood Street. A plastic field could be shared by Lawrence High School and my soccer team.

Thank you for your help for a plastic sports field for the children of Lawrence.

Sincerely,

Eileen Margaret

YDO Soccer



Lawrence High Campus • 70-71 N Parish Road • Lawrence, MA 01843

Timothy Finn
Supervisor of Athletics

Ms. Kathryn Prybylski, Manager
Ground Work Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840-1835
(978) 974-0770

December 9, 2009

RE: Open Space Plan for Lawrence

Ms. Prybylski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Open Space Plan for the City of Lawrence. It is important that our children, athletes, schools and sports leagues have safe and accessible open space to exercise, compete and play.

The site of the former Kane School on Osgood Street, between Exeter and East Cambridge streets is an ideal open space to upgrade to a recreational area. The best use would be a level, plastic turf covered field that the Lawrence High School athletic teams could use for practice and share with several of the youth and sports leagues in Lawrence.

Several sports, such as soccer, softball, lacrosse, baseball, football and others would be able to share a multi-lined field that would be viable for play earlier in the spring than the grass fields. A plastic field would allow more of the city's youth to play sports with less down time, even after wet weather.

That site on Osgood Street, between Exeter and East Cambridge streets, would allow thousands of students from both the South Lawrence East School and the Lawrence High School to use it during the day. Also, a plastic turf field would be a viable option for thousands more of the city's children to utilize on weekends for organized soccer, little league, youth football and other forms of recreation.

Thank you to Groundwork Lawrence for your help to make a plastic turf sports area a reality.

Sincerely,



Timothy Finn

Timothy Finn

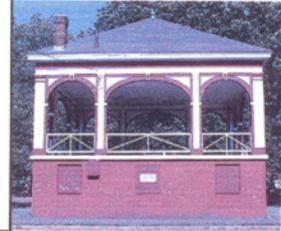
DEC 12 2009

Telephone: 978-722-8473 • Fax: 978-722-8500 • E-mail: tfinn@lawrence.k12.ma.us



South Common Central Neighborhood Association

74 Salem Street #4
Lawrence, MA 01843



Kathryn Prybylski
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island St.
Lawrence, MA 01840

Dear Ms Prybylski,

We, members and attenders of the South Common Central Neighborhood Association, are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include a facility to store equipment, house restrooms, and offer a concession stand. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A multipurpose storage facility would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility at the South Lawrence East School's ballfield in the final Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Jessica Winiiecki, President

Name

Street Address

Jessica Winiiecki

88 Bailey St.

PATRICK O'CONNOR

46 SALEM ST

JAMES BOWES

74 SALEM ST.

Lisa woodard

423 Pelham St, Methuen

Charles woodard

423 PELHAM ST METHUEN

Genevieve Llanos

52 Foster St Law Ma.

Tom Chayllet

85 Market St.

Cheryl Gaudette

85 Market St.

Gloria Dunbury

83 Market St.

David Duncan

58 Greenfield St.

Carol Zahn

62 Springfield St.

~~Theresa Lynne~~

~~DK Dan Rivera~~

~~Jimmie Marshall~~

~~Mary Valavust~~

~~Sophie Verbeux~~

~~Catherine McCarty~~

~~John R. O'Sullivan~~

~~Dubur Medun~~

ARTHUR KILLOURIE

~~Sharon Hession~~

~~Barbara D'Alleva~~

87 Cambridge St.

12 JFK St. Law, MA 01843

3 Greenfield Street

79 Audouin St

547 Farnham St

85 Shawshen Rd

62 Epeter St.

16 Market St Law -

21 GREENFIELD ST

74 Salem St

88 Bailey St. exec. suite

**Linda A. Siegenthaler
27 Ames Street
Lawrence, Ma 01841**

Comments on the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan,
submitted to Kathryn Prybylski, Groundwork Lawrence

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Lawrence's 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The eight goals of the report and the accompanying Action plan build on responses of the community, interviews and meetings. The goals and action steps are well specified. The need for maintenance of existing parks and open space is a major theme as is the need for more organized activities in parks.

The city of Lawrence has made considerable progress in the availability of parks since the release of the 2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan. However, at the same time as the city created new parks, the resources available for maintenance declined. The city and state's continuing fiscal crisis and the subsequent decline in per capita income, along with the downturn of the real estate market will affect the availability of resources to accomplish the goals stated in the report. Innovative models and organizations used in other areas for maintaining parks and open space recreation are needed in Lawrence.

Comments

My comments largely focus on issues that need more focus and attention.

Goal 8 , Increase Access to Waterfront Resources and its action steps . The report really does not address possible trails along the north side of the Merrimack River in a comprehensive manner. Interviews with the Conservation Commission and the Director of DPW in **Appendix B** do refer to access to the north side of the Merrimack and also the possible use of the city owned Water Treatment facility as a possible park . The existence of city owned open space at the Water Treatment facility is an opportunity for either a new park with mixed uses or a passive recreation use. The existence of the levee on the north side of the river makes this tranquil and beautiful path along the north side of the river ideal for walking, cycling, bird watching, and wildlife protection. We have an extraordinary opportunity to create a beautiful greenway gateway to Lawrence . It is now time to conduct a comprehensive analysis of land use along the north side of the river.

Park Maintenance of Existing parks

The Reservoir is one of the treasures of Lawrence both for its historic water tower and its location. However, much it is admired, it does need a new landscaping plan and a study of the use of its current tennis courts and whether that is the best use for this space.

The upcoming 100th anniversary of the 1912 strike in Lawrence will bring a lot of attention to the North Common which is in dire need of a systematic study of its landscaping, tree canopy and historic monuments.

I recommend the formation of a Friends of the Parks or a Parks and Recreation Commission that can seek funding to support the maintenance of parks and recreation programs in Lawrence. Higher user fees for parks use for festivals need to be considered. Also it might be useful to check on park maintenance methods with the National Park Service for ideas on festival maintenance of parks.

Kathryn Prybylski

From: Frank O'Connor [foconnor@CITYOFLAWRENCE.COM]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 11:59 AM
To: Kathryn Prybylski
Cc: Michael Yameen; Timothy Finn; Nelson Ortiz; Susan Fink; Arthur McCabe
Subject: RE: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Thanks for your help, Kathryn ~ plastic turf field would greatly improve access to sports for the children of Lawrence. The site at the former Kane School is well suited to serve both Lawrence High School teams and children in the neighborhood leagues.

All the best,

Frank O'Connor, Jr.

Community Development Dept.
Office of Economic Development
147 Haverhill St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
1-978-620-3517

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Alexi Jimenez

62 Union Street, #. 3 Lawrence, MA 01841 (347) 615-3932 alexi.jp@gmail.com

27 September 2008

Honorable Mayor Michael J. Sullivan,

Thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life in Lawrence. Lawrence is a better place to live and work because of your efforts.

During an extended visit to Europe, I was very inspired by the Dutch life style and high quality of life enjoyed in the Netherlands. I will be brief now to explain some of the things that I would like to implement here in the City of Lawrence that are directly inspired by my experience of life in the Netherlands.

One of those things is the infrastructure of bicycle paths and lanes within the city. I would like to work with the city to make Lawrence a bicycle friendly city, much like Cambridge, MA enjoys. Bicycle paths and lanes are not mere recreational, but a transportation alternative that becomes an integral part of the imprint and face of the city in this increasing global battle to preserve the environment. And it is not only the environment that is at stake, it is also our fellow community members that are at higher health risks by the lack of daily exercise and awareness.

When I returned from the Netherlands a couple of months ago I was alarmed to find the state of Hispanic and African American population of Lawrence. I observed and paid attention to the amount of overweight and obese people that walked the streets, rode on the bus or boarded the train. It was an astounding high level that scared and concerned me for the health and well being of these communities. Here in Lawrence the level of obese people is too high.

Luckily the streets of Lawrence are wide enough to accommodate bicycle lanes within the streets. The benefits of bicycle lanes and paths within the city are multifold: cleaner air, less consumption of natural resources, less traffic, less noise, fitter and healthier citizens, more organized city that allows for options and alternative forms of transportation within this small city and educates both motor vehicle drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on the rules of the roads. I often times see cyclists riding on the sidewalk, which of course puts at risk the safety of the pedestrians.

It may be argued that the city of Lawrence is too poor to provide for bicycle lanes, but in my view it is precisely because of its grave health crisis, low economic, and educational level of the larger Lawrence community that I ask for the support of this implementation of bicycle infrastructure. It is my deep belief that through the investment in education, organization, and a healthier population in Lawrence that the economic level of this community will not only grow, but thrive.

This is a chance to make the city of Lawrence a more livable and aware city. I look forward to hear from you to talk more in depth about this issue and other ideas for economic development in this city.

Sincerely,


Alexi Jimenez

Cc: Councilor Patrick Blanchette, President
Councilor Grisel Silva, District B

Kathryn Prybylski

From: Kate O'Brien
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2008 10:07 AM
To: Kathryn Prybylski
Subject: FW: Open Space Hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FYI

Kate O'Brien, Executive Director
Groundwork Lawrence
Changing Places, Changing Lives
60 Island Street, 2nd Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840
Phone: 978-974-0770
Fax: 978-974-0882
kobrien@groundworklawrence.org

Mark your calendar for the final *LiveLawrence!* event of the season - [Canal Illuminations](#) on October 12!
For all of GWL's upcoming events visit: <http://www.groundworklawrence.org/node/8>.

Check out photos of projects and programs you support on [Flickr](#)

From: Kay B. Frishman [mailto:KBFrishman@FamilyServiceInc.com]
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2008 9:52 AM
To: gsidell@kgr.com; Kate O'Brien
Subject: Open Space Hearing

I think I mentioned to you both that I am unable to attend any of the Open Space hearings. However, I would very much appreciate that the following opinion be entered into the discussions for the West Island. Many thanks!

Open Space Idea for the West Island

For many years there has been an effort by the abutters on the West Island to increase the accessibility, use, and beautification of the West Island. Persons who have been involved in this effort (The West Island Committee) have included local businesses, state and local politicians, local organizations, and state and local officials. Over the years, we have increasingly achieved a more beautiful island that is being used by more and more residents. The local West Island Committee has for many years discussed the idea of building a small stage for performances, at the end of the Pemberton Park near the Casey Bridge. We have envisioned that the City's festivals could take place at the Pemberton/Worker's Park, which is certainly the most beautiful location in Lawrence.

We propose that a small stage be built, which would back up against the bridge so as to maximize the river view. This stage would enhance the whole site and hopefully increase the overall accessibility and use of the open space. The proposed walk way on the south side of the river could

be extended to loop around to the north side to make an entire loop, and certainly be enhanced by the building of such a performance stage.

Kay Berthold Frishman

Executive Director

Family Service, Inc.

430 North Canal Street

Lawrence, MA 01840

978-327-6600 (agency)

978-327-6636 (direct)

www.familyserviceinc.com

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LEAG

Lawrence Environmental Action Group, Inc.
4 Bicknell Terrace, Lawrence, MA 01841
lawrenceenvironmentalactiongroup@live.com

Kathryn Prybylski, Project Manager
Groundwork, Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

December 22, 2009

Dear Ms Prybylski,

The Lawrence Environmental Action Group Inc, (LEAG) is made up of Lawrence citizens and has been involved with all aspects of environmental improvement in Lawrence since January 1994.

What follows are our comments on the Draft 2009 City of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan, which relate chiefly to Goal 8 of that document, i.e. "Increase access to waterfront resources (i.e. rivers, canals) through enhancement and protection."

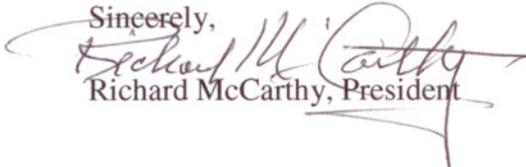
As we said in our comment to the Open Space Plan 2003 "we believe that our rivers are our most important natural resource" and we deeply appreciate Groundwork Lawrence's spectacular and ongoing development of the Spicket River Greenway. Also we are happy that the banks of the Shawsheen River in Costello and Den Rock Parks are secure and walkable. (We do believe that linking these two parks by a walkway is a worthy goal as indicated under the 2009 Plan's Goal 6.)

Our major concern here is enhancement and protection of the banks of the Merrimack River above our great stone dam, specifically, the slice of city-owned land starting at the water treatment plant and tapering eastward for about a half mile to the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. The well used shrub and tree lined levee pathway that runs along the river bank on this parcel already indicates extensive public recreational use. Considerable fishing activity occurs along this banking in the summer season. The land is now rather well protected from residential and business development by the city's current set-back ordinance. Discussion of making the land space next to the water treatment plant (the former site of the aeration fountains) a park, either passive or recreational, has been ongoing by the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association and beyond. Lastly, as we said in our comment to the 2003 Plan: the existing green tree line that runs along this parcel complements tree lined Riverfront State Park on the south side river bank and is integral to the natural beauty of the total river basin above the dam. Because of these circumstances i.e. the availability (i.e. it is city owned) of this choice river property, the already present public interest, the ready public accessibility to the property, and lastly,

the natural beauty of the river basin above the dam, we strongly believe that plans for its enhancement and protection should certainly be incorporated in the 2009 Open Space Plan.

Also in regards to the Goal 8 proposed action to “ increase access to waterfront resources”, and relative to the south side of the river basin, we would like to see expansion of the Riverfront State Park riverside walkway up river into Andover. This would allow linkage with the already established riverside trail on Andover Conservation Land and above Route 93 onto the AVIS Deer Jump Trail. Altogether this linkage would provide hikers with a beautiful riverside trail which would be altogether about five miles in length! Although a trail proposal is indicated from the Bashara Boathouse to Andover in the 2009 Open Space Draft, under Attachment E, Regional and Local Trail Initiatives, we would like to see it actually written into the major body of the Open Space Plan as an action item either under Goal 6 or Goal 8, or under both goals, in Section 8 of the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard McCarthy".

Richard McCarthy, President

Officers;
Richard McCarthy, President
Mary DiMauro, Vice President
Arthur Brien, Treasurer
Rebecca Jani, Clerk

Board Members:
Kathryn Moyes
Christine Torres-Vegas
Richard Rodrigues
Denise van Vooren

Kathryn Prybylski

From: Frank O'Connor [foconnor@CITYOFLAWRENCE.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 12:30 PM
To: Michael Yameen
Cc: Kathryn Prybylski; Susan Fink; Heather McMann
Subject: RE: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Thanks, Coach

Frank O'Connor, Jr.
Community Development Dept.
Office of Economic Development
147 Haverhill St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
1-978-620-3517

Ask me about federal tax incentives for doing business in Lawrence.
www.CityofLawrence.com



Please resist printing this eMail and join us in saving paper.

From: Michael Yameen [mailto:myameen@lawrence.k12.ma.us]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 12:25 PM
To: Frank O'Connor
Subject: Re: Lawrence Open Space: field development

Frank,

I've been asking for that field for three years. Hopefully, it will happen. It will not only help out LHS athletics but also the youth soccer and football programs. It's will be a great investment for everybody.

Thank You,

Mike Yameen

Kathryn Prybylski
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/23/09

Dear Ms. Prybylski,

We are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include several vital elements. A main element that was overlooked was a multipurpose storage facility. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A proper multipurpose storage facility would include the following: male/female handicap accessible restrooms, storage on the ground floor for field equipment (line chalk, lawn mowers, etc), storage for consumable goods, 2nd floor storage and/or conference room (eliminates the cost of renting space for meetings), a kitchen (with running hot, cold water – including a grill, deep fryer, refrigerator, freezer, etc for proper concessions), and last but not least electricity. A facility such as this would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields by all recreational activities in our city.

Also, as it is a very important goal of the South Lawrence East Little League to enable all children to play baseball and softball, we are the only Lawrence League with a Challenger League for disabled youth. This league provides children with disabilities the chance to participate. In order to fill the needs of these children as well as to meet all Little League requirements, it is vital that the following repairs and enhancements be completed as well. In order to meet Little League and safety requirements, fencing in field 3 and field 4 needs to be installed, the complex needs proper fencing for dugouts on field 3, proper roofing on all field dugouts, proper netting on field 4 to stop foul balls from going into the swamp, repair to all the gates at the dugouts in order to make them handicap accessible, electronic score boards at all fields, and to obtain lawn equipment and chalking equipment in order to maintain the complex for special game events.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility and the above listed repairs at the South Lawrence East School's ball field in the Final 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal.

Sincerely,

Name:

Street Address:

Melanie Gilbert
Nancy Maldonado
Diana Silva
Katherine Rodriguez
Felix
Leonardo Medina
Fernando Ramos
James Ford
William Cosme
Melissa Ferrigno
Monica Fernandez
Rene Brito
Jose Alvarado
Pablo Ortega
Hazel Dravin
Geoff Herman
Donna Herman

15 Winthrop Ave Lawrence MA 01843
100 Foster St Lawrence MA 01843
151 Bala St Lawrence MA 01843
27 CRAWFORD, Lawrence MA 01843
201 Bailey St. #1 Lawrence MA.
176 Bailey St. 2nd floor. Lawrence MA 01843
99 Berkeley St. 2nd floor Lawrence MA 01843
7 Curfield St. Law Mass.
270 Franklin St LAW MASS
175 Abbott St Law MA 01843
17 Exeter St Lawrence, MA 01843
57 Maginnis Ave
185 ABBOTT ST.
2 Museum Square Apt 902
Lawrence MA 01842
10 Cambridge St. Law
10 Cambridge St. Lawrence Ma.

Kathryn Prybylski
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

12/23/09

Dear Ms. Prybylski,

We are responding to the request for public comments on the Draft 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal. We understand how critical this document will be in guiding the City in its efforts to improve our quality of life.

The South Lawrence East ball fields, behind the South Lawrence East School, are the home for many organized recreational activities in our City. When the ball fields were renovated several years ago, the improvements failed to include several vital elements. A main element that was overlooked was a multipurpose storage facility. We urge that the final Open Space Plan correct this oversight and incorporate such a facility in its Final Plan. The lack of an adequate multipurpose storage facility made national headlines earlier this year when the South Lawrence East Little League's equipment was stolen from its POD the day before opening day. A proper multipurpose storage facility would include the following: male/female handicap accessible restrooms, storage on the ground floor for field equipment (line chalk, lawn mowers, etc), storage for consumable goods, 2nd floor storage and/or conference room (eliminates the cost of renting space for meetings), a kitchen (with running hot, cold water – including a grill, deep fryer, refrigerator, freezer, etc for proper concessions), and last but not least electricity. A facility such as this would safely keep equipment, improve on concession stand sales, and provide restroom facilities, thereby likely producing greater use of the fields by all recreational activities in our city.

Also, as it is a very important goal of the South Lawrence East Little League to enable all children to play baseball and softball, we are the only Lawrence League with a Challenger League for disabled youth. This league provides children with disabilities the chance to participate. In order to fill the needs of these children as well as to meet all Little League requirements, it is vital that the following repairs and enhancements be completed as well. In order to meet Little League and safety requirements, fencing in field 3 and field 4 needs to be installed, the complex needs proper fencing for dugouts on field 3, proper roofing on all field dugouts, proper netting on field 4 to stop foul balls from going into the swamp, repair to all the gates at the dugouts in order to make them handicap accessible, electronic score boards at all fields, and to obtain lawn equipment and chalking equipment in order to maintain the complex for special game events.

We ask that you include a multipurpose storage facility and the above listed repairs at the South Lawrence East School's ball field in the Final 2009 Open Space Plan Renewal.

Sincerely,

Name:

Street Address:

Mania Alarcon
Johanna Laigaespada
ANGELA FERNANDEZ
Karen Morales
Luis D. Morales
Christy Gerry
Amy McLaughlin
Beth McLaughlin
Cynthia Fernandez
Eugenia y Maria
Mike Clark
Roseanne Morris
Lisa Cruz
Katiria Perez
EMILKA LIKIHANO
MILedy Lizardo.
Lew Drouin

139 Parley St. #1 Lawrence Mass 01843
129 Abbott St #1 Lawrence, MA, 01843
89 ANDOVER ST S. LAWRENCE MA, 01843
234 Farnham St. Lawrence, MA 01843
111 White St. Lawrence MA. 01841
129 Foster St, Lawrence, MA 01843
94 Andover St Lawrence, MA 01843
96 Andover St Lawrence, MA 01843
277A Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843
14 Phillips St Lawrence MA, 01843
36 Jamaica Street Lawrence MA 01843
18 Market St Lawrence MA 01843
46 Cambridge St Lawrence MA 01843
36 Andover St. Lawrence, MA. 01843
72 Ossood St. Lawrence, MA 01843.
15 Post Lane St Lawrence MA 01843
33 Cambridge St

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Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

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Sincerely,

Name:

Evelyn Perafe
Jocelyne BOWDITCH
Bridget Lupton
Wanda Sparks
Paiselle Munoz
Rosalie Munoz
Jadaleira Humes
Brent Hall
Felix Benitez
Yaira Roman
Marius Pulverer
Ariel S Mendez
Sandra Gomez
Jonathan Gonzalez
Jonny Perafe
Hilary Cespede

Street Address:

163 BOXFORD ST. FLOOR 3rd, Lawrence MA 01843
237 Kelly St and
59 Greenfield St. Lawrence
237 Kelly St and
175 Andover St Lawrence
41 Vine St. Lawrence
1 Patton St Lawrence
175 Andover St Lawrence
119 ANDOVER ST LAW. MA. 01843.
108 Newport way apt 4102 Lawrence
25 E. Dalton St Lawrence MA 01843
202 South Union St #20 Lawrence MA
55B PORTLAND ST. LAW, MA 01843 01843
169 Abbott St. Lawrence MA 01843.
205 Boxford St. #1 Lawrence, MA 01843
11 Boxford St Lawrence M.A 01843.
42 Andover St. Lawrence MA 01843

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60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

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Sincerely,

Name:

Street Address:

ANTONIO VILORIO
Stephanie Santana
HENRI SCHIEFEM BEERG
Jose Rodriguez
Michelle
Danielle guerrero
Adrian Stewart
Dionis Mezquita
Patty Zayas
Amanda
Florence Schrepp
Ana Diaz
Suzanne
Kania Martinez
Elizabeth Roeger
Melissa
Linda

253 FARNHAM ST S LAW
115 MARKET ST. LAWRENCE MA
73 DORCHESTER ST. LAWRENCE
176 FARNHAM ST. LAWRENCE
113 Foster St
25 E. Dalton ST Lawrence, MA
19 Camella Teoni way Lawrence
11 Exeter st. LAW MA 01843
235 Bailey St Lawrence, MA 01840
14 Cambridge St. Lawrence Mass
100 Osgood St. LAW MA 01843
36 JAMAICA ST LAW MA 01843
130 SALEM ST LAWRENCE MA 01843
82 Jamaica ST
217 Merrimac St. Lawrence, MA 01843
10 Shipton St. Lawrence 01843

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Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

Sorangel Gutierrez

44 Forest St

Helen Torres-Rodriguez

19 Ridge Rd

Susan M Laplante

29 Durso Ave

Jodyn Mott

32 Buswell St

Matthew Covert

3 Summer Ave.

Alberto Mauer

32 buswell st

Maria A Halloran

35 Shaw St

Ana Roder

24 Crestwood circle

Suzanne Petrakis

18 Gilbert street

Olinda Janice

12 Allyn Terrace

Soraya Victoria

10 Boston St.

12/23/09

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60 Island St.
Lawrence, MA 01840

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Sincerely,

Name

Street Address

Michael J. Lavigne

69 Colonial Rd, Lawrence

Michelle Handcastle

35 Groton St. Lawrence MA

Ojabisi Lightfoot-Taylor 232 Prospect St. Lawrence, MA

Kourtney K. Shimley

310 Mt. Vernon St. Lawrence MA

Man Tapscott

29 Dunwoode Ave, Lawrence MA

Kathryn Prybylski
Groundwork Lawrence
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Lawrence, MA 01840

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Dear Ms Prybylski,

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The so called "Five Corners" area, located at the intersections of Winthrop Avenue, South Union Street, and Exeter Street, has a water fountain that has fallen in disrepair and neglect. Route 114 (Winthrop Ave) is a gateway into Lawrence, and this unsightly visual detracts from the City's image. Including this water fountain/park in the Final Open Space plan would provide an opportunity to apply for the funding that is sorely needed to improve and revitalize this important park. With businesses abutting this park along with residences on each side, returning the water fountain/park to its past glory would provide a welcoming entrance to those who wish to shop in the South Lawrence corridor, while also providing peaceful escape to those who wish to walk in the park and take in its beauty. We strongly encourage you to include the water fountain at the Five Corners area in the 2009 Final Open Space Plan, with a direct goal of fixing the fountain.

Again, we ask that the Five Corners water fountain park be included in the final Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Helen Jones-Rodriguez

19 Ridge Rd

Sorangel Gutierrez

44 Forest St

Susan McLaplane

29 Durso Ave

Mathie Leath

3 Sumner Ave.

Belyn Morte

32 Buswell St

Alberto Menero

32 Buswell St

Marc G Halloran

35 Shaw St

Ana Rodler

24 Crestwood Circle

Alida Jenkins

35 Sargent St.

Sussanne Petrakis

18 Gilbert Street.

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12 Allyn Terrace

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10 Boston St.

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Michelle Handcarra

Kourtney K. Shimely
Marc Caporale

69 Colonial Rd, Lawrence

35 Groton St. Lawrence. MA

310 Mt. Vernon St. Lawrence
MA

29 Dunn Ave, Lawrence



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

December 22, 2009

Kathryn Prybylski
Project Manager
Groundwork Lawrence
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

RE: Lawrence Open Space & Recreation Draft Plan. MHC #RC.47445.

Dear Ms. Prybylki:

The open space that is part of the New Lawrence High School property, adjacent to Memorial Park, includes a highly significant archaeological site (19-ES-758). As part of the MEPA review for the new high school project, the City of Lawrence has committed to protect and preserve the open space where the archaeological site is located.

Please designate this open space as an historic asset. The City of Lawrence should not permit any activity that would cause ground disturbance or excavation on the open space of the new high school property. If any activities are proposed, the City should provide project information to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for review and comment as early as possible during the conceptual planning process.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with MGL c. 9, s. 26-27C.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward L. Bell".

Edward L. Bell
Technical Services Division
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

Lawrence Conservation Commission
Lawrence Superintendent of Schools
Lawrence Community Development
Lawrence Historical Commission

JAN 04 2010