

Scorzella, Nancy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 12:24 PM
To: Mayor; councillorcurtin@aol.com
Subject: Fernald Site- outdoor pool

Dear Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Curtin:

I would like to add my support to the idea of an outdoor pool and recreation center on the Fernald Center Site. With all the green space that Waltham has, the community deserves to have a bucolic pool and recreation area where residents can enjoy the summer months in the company of their friends, family and neighbors. I envision at least two outdoor pools (one should be a kiddie pool), a wood and shingle pavilion with snack stand, membership office and picnic tables under cover of the pavilion, as well as wood patio tables and umbrellas surrounding the pool. There should be trees and grass surrounding the site. In some neighborhoods the pool is also accompanied by basketball courts and/or ping pong tables.

Where I grew up in the suburbs of Washington DC, the neighborhood pool was a central social element of our community in the summer months. There were Friday night "teen" pool parties, "raft nights", crab feasts (in our case.. maybe a lobster feast!), swim team, etc. I literally was at the pool with my brothers and sisters from morning until night. At the moment, Waltham is sorely lacking in this recreational amenity. The Newton Street site is not at all bucolic (sitting at the intersection of two busy roads) and the Y does not open its pool until after 3:00pm.

I firmly believe that the citizens of Waltham deserve a beautiful summer site to enjoy with their friends and family, which would foster community and provide a truly enjoyable and pleasant place for us to relax in the summer. I am dismayed at having to travel to other towns to enjoy their lakes or pools, when we should be able to create our own beautiful setting that we can be proud of ourselves.

Please let me know where we are in the process of determining the use for the Fernald site and if there is anything I can do to help develop support.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

9/14/2009

Scorzella, Nancy

From: George Darcy [gdarcy@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 5:35 PM
To: Scorzella, Nancy; Mayor
Subject: Issue of farmland at the Fernald Reuse Committee

Dear Mayor and Fernald Reuse Committee Chairperson McCarthy,

As stated at the last Fernald Reuse Committee (FRC) meeting, I want to urge the FRC to consider setting aside the same amount of land (approximately ~30 acres) for farm fields as has been proposed for cemetery use. The last Sasaki plans presented to the FRC showed no land allocated for farm fields.

The idea presented by the Sasaki representative that somehow farm fields could be carved out of the proposed Western Greenway buffer zone does not make sense. The Western Greenway connection is meant as a "natural" buffer zone.

During the Fernald Reuse public input sessions there were many Waltham citizens who advocated for creation of farm lands as a potential reuse of the Fernald land.

The only community farm in Waltham, the Waltham Fields Community Farm, is so successful that farm shares sell out the previous year! It would be wonderful to add another local farm to our city. A large portion of the Fernald land was continually farmed for fruits and vegetables for the Fernald residents and staff. Farming will not increase traffic on Trapelo Road. Local farm fields are a good match for Waltham.

Thank you for your diligent efforts to keep community control over the reuse of the Fernald property.

Respectfully,
George Darcy
Councillor Ward 3

10/1/2009

Scorzella, Nancy

From: Susan_Anderson@ksg03.harvard.edu

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 5:49 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Waltham Re-Use, veterans and vision

Dear Mayor McCarthy:

I'm writing to share with you some ideas that I have for the re-use of the Fernald property. I have already spoken with some of the people working on this issue, and would very much like the opportunity to speak with you.

To give you a very quick summary of my thoughts on Fernald, in addition to the very good programs that have already been recommended, I propose that one specific additional program be added to the mix: transitional housing and services for women veterans and their children. With respect to the overarching vision: Fernald offers the planners the opportunity to develop a vision that encompasses the services and enterprises that would be needed to create, in essence, a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem of programs. It also offers an opportunity to expand that vision one step further: to identify and create program models that would produce results that did not merely sustain clients, but address the root causes of disabling problems and move them toward growth and independence.

Emergency and Transitional Housing for Women Veterans:

Currently, there are an estimated 131,000 homeless veterans in this country. The VA estimates that about ten percent of homeless veterans are women, or, about 13,000. Women veterans are four times as likely to become homeless as their civilian counterparts. Of 500 veterans' shelters, about 300 accept women, but from what I have read *none* accept veterans with children. Since an estimated 20 percent of the women who access the VA health care system screen positive for what is called Military Sexual Trauma - i.e., rape or sexual harassment by fellow soldiers – the solution is not to simply house these women in facilities that run programs focused on men. There is federal money available for projects to support women veterans and provide job training for them, and the space at Fernald provides an opportunity to include emergency and transitional housing for women veterans, and to establish partnerships with local programs to not only support them and their children, but to heal and renew them.

Vision

Fernald offers a unique opportunity to build a new model: an ecosystem of complementary enterprises and community services. By taking a systemic approach, planners can identify how the challenges for one enterprise or program can provide an opportunity for another, and build a set of programs that not only co-exist, but as do parts of a healthy ecosystem, generate benefits for each other. To offer some examples, assume that the site will include small businesses, emergency and transitional housing, and an assisted living residence (ALR). On-site daycare would fill a need for the employees and residents. Although the residents of the ALR wouldn't use daycare, the employees of the ALR could, and the availability of nearby daycare would cut absenteeism and turnover in the ALR

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staff. At the same time, residents of transitional housing need jobs and job training, and a daycare center that also trained qualified residents would fill that need. As a second example, the residents of the emergency and transitional housing would benefit from job training and counseling services: most are homeless because they lack the skills to get jobs with adequate pay and benefits, or because of psychological trauma that limits their ability to work. If the site included a job-training program such as Year Up and on-site social services, these residents would not have to travel to keep their appointments, and without that stress their rate of success in these programs would improve.

Fernald also offers a unique opportunity to plan and develop programs that address some of the root causes of tough social problems. Homelessness, for example, is generally the result of a cascade of problems. This site could pull together programs that would address those problems – such as counseling, job training, and education – and combine them with safe housing and child care. The nearly clean slate offered by this property provides an opportunity to set a vision that addresses root causes and builds long-term solutions. Instead of just offering what is needed for immediate survival, these programs could work together to offer what is really needed for long-term success. This vision would also honor the original vision for the property.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider these ideas, I would be very happy to discuss them with you.

Very truly yours,

Susan G. Anderson