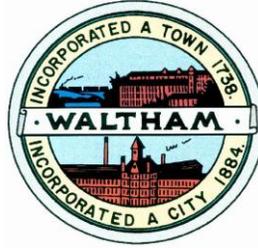


City of Waltham



Fernald Use Committee February 12, 2018 Minutes of the meeting

Chairman McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Councillor Darcy, Councillor Stanley, Councillor Vidal, Councillor Waddick, Chairman McLaughlin.

Chairman Darcy noted to the committee that he would be recording the meeting.

Councillor Vidal made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2018 meeting. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

1. Request – Councillor Stanley

Invite the Police Chief and representatives from the two police unions to discuss their thoughts in regards to the Mayor's Fernald recommendations for the Police Department.

Councillor Stanley made a motion to hear from an off committee member. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Police Chief Keith MacPherson appeared before the committee. Councillor Stanley asked Chief MacPherson to give a brief history on this move for the Police Department, and to elaborate on any concerns he may have. Chief MacPherson said the decisions has been previously made to build on the current site. After that the city decided to embark on a renovation plan, in around 2002, the second floor on the Police station was renovated. The next plan was to install an elevator. Chief MacPherson said currently the building is in a deplorable condition. There are many building issues; leaks, rodents, heating and cooling issues, the cell block area never passes inspections, inadequate space for a female locker area, evidence room issues, etc. Chief MacPherson said in 2012 an architect was hired and design plans were drafted. The designers construction plans have not been funded to date. Chief MacPherson said the current site is approximately twenty nine thousand square feet in size, built around 1964. Chief MacPherson said a bigger building is needed to support the Police Department in the future. Councillor Stanley asked about the transition plan to the Fernald. Chief MacPherson said the initial transition plan was for the Police Department to occupy the Administration building. Chief MacPherson said then they were told they would be moving to the Marquart building. Councillor Stanley asked what is the current plan? Chief MacPherson said he believes the plan is still to move to

a temporary location and then renovate the current Police Station. Councillor Stanley asked if there were projected budget estimates. Chief MacPherson said he had estimates in the past but has not revisited since everything was put on hold.

Councillor Stanley made a motion to hear from an off committee member. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Police Union Attorney Alan Shapiro, Officer Dan Hart from the Superiors union, and Officer Gerry Corbett from the Patrolman's Union appeared before the committee. Councillor Stanley asked Mr. Shapiro about his involvement in this matter. Mr. Shapiro said he got involved about one year ago. On March 9, 2017 he wrote a letter to the Mayor informing her of the officers concerns regarding the environmental conditions. Mr. Shapiro said at the time he had asked for proof that the location was safe and also asked for a security plan. Mr. Shapiro said he has never received a response to his letter.

Councillor Stanley made a request that the Environmental Specialist provide a copy of the letter she sent the Mayor last year regarding environmental concerns at the Fernald site. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

2. Request – Councillor Stanley

Invite a representative from the Fernald working group to discuss their thoughts in regards to Mayor's Fernald recommendations.

Councillor Stanley made a motion to hear from an off committee member. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Marc Rudnick appeared before the committee. Councillor Stanley asked Mr. Rudnick to give a brief statement of his, and the groups involvement with the Fernald property. Mr. Rudnick read a prepared two page statement. Mr. Rudnick mentioned the Fernald's working group involvement over the last fifteen years. Mr. Rudnick acknowledged some of the efforts to date but emphasized that the group believes it's time for the city to create a robust, independent professionally organized planning process through the use of outside professional. Mr. Rudnick said the group has been working on an RFQ for professional planning engagement. Mr. Rudnick offered to provide this draft RRQ to the committee. Councillor Stanley noted that the committee has just recently received the Mayor's master plan for the Fernald, and that he felt it needed to be vetted with the departments mentioned in the communication first, before expanding the conversation to outside procurement. Councillor Waddick mentioned that the information in the Mayor's communication is more suggestion based than a master plan document. Councillor Waddick said he agreed with Mr. Rudnick that the City needs assistance from professionals in order to move forward effectively. Councillor Stanley made a motion to invite the Fernald working group into the next committee meeting to review their draft RFQ. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

Councillor Vidal made a motion to adjourn. Motion was adopted on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas J. Magno
Clerk – Fernald Use Committee