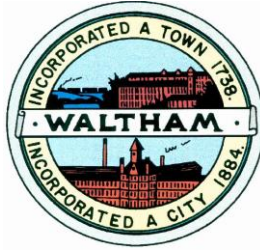


City of Waltham



Fernald Use Committee May 29, 2018 Minutes of the meeting

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

Chairman McLaughlin asked if anybody was recording the meeting. Mr. Chris Gambal and Councillor Darcy said they were recording the meeting.

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

Councillor Darcy made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018 meeting. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

1. Councillor Darcy – Request 4-23-18

Invite City Planner and the Waltham High School Athletic Director to discuss mapping out a 5K course at the Fernald site.

Councillor Darcy made a motion to hear from all off committee members. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Waltham High School Athletic Director Steve Laforest appeared before the committee. Councillor Darcy mentioned that earlier that day himself and Mr. Laforest walk the Fernald site where the potential 5K course could be located. Councillor Darcy asked if there were minimum standards that would need to be met. Mr. Laforest said a desirable cross country course should be at least eight kilometers, and a minimum width of thirty six inches. Mr. Laforest also mention that ADA has slope requirements. If would be necessary to have rest rooms, water, and permanent signage. Councillor Fowler asked if Mr. Laforest had any environmental concerns with the site. Councillor Stanley said he thought this was a good idea but still believes that professional planning is needed before we start building on the site. Councillor Vidal said he thought this was a great idea but we need to look at the property as a whole first. Councillor Vidal mentioned that the City still hasn't determined how the site will be allocated for City purposes.

Chairman McLaughlin asked about the need for a staging area for buses, etc. Mr. Laforest said yes there would be a need for a parking lot for buses and other transportation vehicles. Councillor Darcy moved to table the matter. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

2. Mayor's communication dated May 9, 2018.

Request consideration for parking school buses at the Fernald property.

Councillor Fowler made a motion to hear from all off committee members. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Waltham High School Superintendent Drew Echelson and School Business Manager Leanne Wilcinski appeared before the committee. Mr. Echelson said this idea came up at budget time as a potential cost saving measure. Ms. Wilcinski said this is a discussion item with every bussing contract. The City requires that the buses be stored after hours within one mile of the City. Contractors say it is very difficult, and expensive to find a facility to store the buses. Councillor Darcy asked how much space is needed, and how much is the contract. Ms. Wilcinski said they need two to three acres to store all 30 buses, and the current total contact cost is 2.2 million dollars. Councillor Darcy made a request to have the Law Department opine if school buses can be stored on the CPA portion of the Fernald. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy made a request to have the Law Department opine on what are the regulations for storing buses on grounds. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler asked if a specific area has been identified. Ms. Wilcinski said they are looking at the Waverly Oaks side of the property. Councillor Vidal asked who made the recommendation to use the Fernald site. Ms. Wilcinski said it was the Mayor's suggestion. Councillor Stanley asked if they had any hard and soft costs estimates associated with this initiative. Ms. Wilcinski said they do not have any cost estimates. Councillor Stanley said this is another example of why a professional planner is needed to implement all these good ideas into a master plan for the site. Chairman McLaughlin asked how much time was remaining in the current contract. Ms. Wilcinski said two years are still remaining. Chairman McLaughlin asked if costs for services, and bus storage was ever broken out in the previous contracts. Ms. Wilcinski said no. Councillor Darcy moved to table the matter. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

Off committee Councillor Mackin questions comments by Councillor Stanley in the April 9, 2018 minutes. Chairman McLaughlin ruled the question out of order.

Councillor Vidal made a motion to adjourn. Motion was adopted on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Magno
Clerk – Fernald Use Committee