



JON MITCHELL
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Community Preservation Committee
133 William Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
Telephone: (508) 979.1488

MINUTES
January 5, 2022
REMOTE MEETING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Janine da Silva
Melissa Chester-Letendre
Leona Fisher

Arthur Glassman
Jody Seivert
Peter Blanchard

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Christopher Amaral

Ross Nunes

STAFF: Jessica Bailey, *CPA Coordinator*

Call to Order

Chair J. da Silva called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Call the Roll

A formal roll call was conducted confirming members present and absent as stated above.

Brief Introduction to CPA and the CPC

J. Bailey gave a brief presentation describing the Community Preservation Act, the FY22 application process, and funds available for FY22.

Public Presentations

Save the Bells

Mary Rapoza, Director of New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches, presented the application which would fund the construction of a 34' bell tower in Clasky Common Park to house the St. Lawrence Church bells.

In response to A. Glassman, M. Rapoza stated the project would need to identify additional funding if the CPA provided less than the request (20% of overall project budget). The CPA request is for the construction and installation. The Save the Bells funds would cover the engineering costs.

In response to A. Glassman, M. Rapoza stated the hours of operation would be determined through community conversations. The use of the bells would be determined by community input.

In response to M. Chester-Letendre, M. Rapoza stated Save the Bells delivered fliers to the neighborhood to spread the word about the project prior to last meeting.

In response to P. Blanchard, Suzanne Sullivan from Save the Bells Foundation stated the donations were received from across city, from the region, out of state, and St. Lawrence Church parishioners.

In response to P. Blanchard, M. Rapoza stated that recreation can be defined as passive or active as well as mental and emotional.

In response to L. Fisher, M. Rapoza stated the vendor, Verdin, states the bells are in fine condition and are very unique in the broad range their carillon can play.

In response to L. Fisher, M. Rapoza stated she has discussed the maintenance needs of the bells with Verdin. Her understanding is the bells will not need long-term or ongoing maintenance of the bells or structure. The Department of Public Infrastructure has reviewed the plans and has not expressed any concerns. There is the potential to have the public pay a small fee to have the bells rung for milestones. These fees would be dedicated to the long term maintenance of the tower and bells.

In response to J. daSilva, M. Rapoza stated a sound assessment or sound engineer report has been completed for this project. She said she would ask if any churches had performed one in the area.

In response to J. daSilva, M. Rapoza stated she believed 12-15 people attended the June 10, 2019 community meeting.

In response to J. daSilva, M. Rapoza stated the change in the request amount from FY21 ask of \$75,000 to FY22 ask of \$244,374 was due to where the project was in the process. S. Sullivan stated the FY21 ask was just for the structure of the tower. The FY22 ask takes into account all parts of the construction and installation of the tower.

Public Comments

Scott Lima, Ward 5 City Councillor, spoke in favor of the project. He highlighted the importance and value of the bells remaining in the City.

City Wide Signage

Mary Rapoza, Director of New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches, presented the application which would fund the design phase of the city wide signage project which will create a comprehensive, standardized signage system. The City has determined a phased approach is more appropriate and will ask for a smaller grant amount to fund phase I. Design quotes will be submitted to the CPC for their consideration.

In response to M. Chester-Letendre, M. Rapoza stated the entire project costs were the initial ask but she anticipates the design cost will be in the \$50,000-\$60,000 range.

Public Comments

Richard Leary, Friends of Buttonwood Park, spoke in favor of the project. He stated the Friends would like provide input during the public portion of the design process.

Scott Lima, Ward 5 City Councillor, spoke in favor of the project.

Brooklawn Skate Park Design

Mary Rapoza, Director of New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches, presented the application which would fund Phase I – design of the skate park at Brooklawn Park.

In response to L. Fisher, M. Rapoza stated the average lifespan of a skate park is based upon the quality of the materials. She anticipated 15 to 20 years with regular maintenance.

In response to J. Bailey on behalf of R. Nunes, M. Rapoza stated she has begun informal conversations with skaters in the city. She has spoken with the owner of Solstice and the owner of No Problemo as well as from skaters in the community.

In response to J. daSilva, M. Rapoza stated the quotes were the same for Pillar and Artisan because Pillar does the design work for Artisan. She has provided a third quote from ARC for \$16,800. J. Bailey confirmed receipt of the ARC quote.

In response to J. Seivert, M. Rapoza stated the existing park is level so a build up of the area will need to happen to create varied topography. She anticipates the build will be done on site and not be pre-fab pieces.

Public Comments

Mark Lavallee, Friends of Brooklawn Park, spoke in favor of this project. He asked about lighting for the area for safety and prolonged use. M. Rapoza stated the inclusion of lighting would be part of the public input and design process.

Colleen Kavanaugh spoke in favor of this project.

Due to technical issues experienced by Rotch-Jones-Duff House, First Baptist Church offered to present first.

Motion to change presentation order to allow Rotch-Jones-Duff House to fix technical issue.

Moved by J. Seivert and seconded by A. Glassman

Motion carried 6-0

First Baptist Church

Eric Paradis, Your Theatre, Inc. member, presented the application which would fund elements of the final phase which include exterior lighting and handicap access components.

In response to J. Seivert, E. Paradis stated the grant ask does include the interior handicap accessibility, exterior accessibility and exterior lights.

In response to A. Glassman, E. Paradis stated this ask is the final portion. Projected move in date is December 2022 barring any supply chain issues. T. Bernert stated this ask is for the final phase and have had escalation of costs due to Covid as well as unexpected structural issues. A capital campaign and this grant will fill the remaining funding gap. She stated this project could not have been completed without the CPA funding for which WHALE and Your Theater, Inc. are very grateful. E. Paradis stated projects of this size are not profitable in the private sector; funding of this kind allows projects to make an important historic structure survive.

In response to M. Chester-Letendre, E. Paradis confirmed the project scope is ramps, lift, handicap parking, and two light poles. J. Bailey confirmed the budget breakdown was sent late afternoon.

In response to J. daSilva, T. Bernert stated the budget breakdown should have included the chair lift and will revise for resubmission.

In response to J. daSilva, E. Paradis stated the project must move forward even if the grant request is not fully funded by the CPC. It could create further delays which would be difficult as they find another funding source. These items are necessary and cannot be removed from the final phase.

Public Comments

Scott Lima, Ward 5 Councillor, spoke in favor of the project. He noted it is important for projects coming for funding over several years must wrap up in order to allow other projects to be funded.

Susan Richard, President of Your Theatre, Inc. board, spoke in favor of the project especially since the project is close to completion.

Pam Cole, President of Churchwomen United of Greater New Bedford, spoke in favor of the project as it restores a building from that time period.

Rotch-Jones-Duff House Masonry Repairs

Dawn Salerno, Executive Director, presented the application which would fund the masonry repairs to the building foundation, patio, and pathways.

In response to P. Blanchard, D. Salerno stated the quotes are from local vendors. C & L Construction is New Bedford based. Seaside has an address in Fairhaven but is New Bedford based. The third quote is from a non-New Bedford vendor but comes highly recommended. She also stated the work can be done in phases if not fully funded and will address the highest priority areas first.

Public Comments

Rebecca Barnes, Rotch-Jones-Duff House board member, spoke in favor of the project and thanked the CPC for past CPA funding for two other projects. She spoke of the value of the RJD and the green space provided to the city.

Colleen Kavanaugh spoke in favor of the project. Her family hosted a wedding at RJD and she would like to see the house be available to other families as it was for their family.

Anne Marie Lopes, Rotch-Jones-Duff House board member, spoke in favor of the project. She spoke of how the RJD is now more welcoming to and engaged with the public. The House is a wonderful historical resource in our community.

Scott Lima, Ward 5 City Councillor, spoke in favor of the project.

Digitization of Milton Silvia Collection Part II

Joe Thomas and Jay Avila, Spinner Publications, presented the application which would fund Phase II of the project to digitize the Milton Silva Collection.

No questions from the Community Preservation Committee.

Public Comments

Scott Lima, Ward 5 City Councillor, spoke in favor of the project and the need to make these images available to the public.

Teri Bernert, Executive Director of WHALE, spoke in favor of the project and how Spinner Publications is a resource to both her organization and the region. The need to preserve history of this kind is just as important as preserving bricks and mortar.

Arthur Motta spoke in favor of the project to protect the collection and be accessible to the public. He asked how the images will be available. J. Thomas stated the images will be low resolution to be downloaded to protect the collection as a marketable resource for Spinner. Spinner has blanket use of the images in perpetuity.

New Business

Approval of December 13, 2021 minutes

MOTION to approve December 13, 2021 minutes

Moved by A. Glassman and seconded by P. Blanchard

Motion carried 6-0

Massachusetts Historical Commission Amendment

MHC reviewed the Department of City Planning's Letter of Intent for a FY2022 Survey and Planning Grant. MHC recommended the City apply for \$15,000, an increase of \$3,000. Due to the increased amount, Anne Louro requested the CPC increase the authorized match (voted upon at November 30, 2021 meeting).

MOTION to amend the match of \$12,000 approved at the CPC's November 30, 2021 meeting to \$15,000 to reflect MHC's recommended grant amount to be requested by the Department of City Planning.

Moved by L. Fisher and seconded by J. Seivert

Motion carried 5-0-1

Any other business that may properly come before the Committee

No other business

Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2022 FY22 CPA Application Presentations - REMOTE MEETING

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was moved by A. Glassman and seconded by P. Blanchard.

The motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits

- Agenda
- Application Presentations
- December 13, 2021 minutes

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Bailey

CPA Coordinator

Approved January 20, 2022