



# Lowell City Council

## *Neighborhoods SC*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** April 3, 2023  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Lowell, Ma.

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Mercier, C. Gitschier, and C. Jenness. Others present were C. Drinkwater, Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD), Camilo Espitia (DPD), Sarah Brown (DPD), Sophie Mortimer (DPD), Manager Golden, Jr. and Shawn Machado (Asst. City Manager).

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Mercier called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and outlining the proposed plans that cover all of the neighborhoods and their parks along with budgeted amounts to the projects.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Ms. Baez-Rose provided presentation entitled "ARPA Lowell Neighborhood Improvement Plan" commenting on the creation of the plan; the ARPA breakdown and timelines; and the budgeted amount of 9.1 million dollars. Mr. Espitia noted the goals of the projects were to cover all neighborhoods; to combine ARPA funds with earmarked funds; and set priorities with input from Council and neighborhoods. Mr. Espitia noted all project will have full signage and be managed by design and construction. The following projects were presented before subcommittee;

- 1- Father Maguire Park – C. Mercier commented on the scope of work and her concern of moving a dedicated field. The following speakers addressed the body: Jen Mahoney; Matt LeLacheur; Jeff Montbleau; and Timothy Mahoney. C. Gitschier commented on the design and the wishes of the family of dedicated field and suggested that field remain. C. Gitschier noted that the projects should benefit whole City but is tough as each district wants their own and further noted outside use of fields. C. Gitschier noted decisions and actions must be made and taken as there are significant time frames with the funding. Ms. Baez-Rose noted wished of the family and indicated that other aspects of the plan should



move forward. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Jenness to support item numbers 1-6 of the proposed scope at Father Maguire Park. So voted.

- 2- Shedd Park – Mr. Espitia noted the park was the one with the most need with the least funding. Ms. Baez- Rose noted they were ready to begin on the project. C. Gitschier noted that there could be more funding available if design comes in less expensive. C. Mercier noted there was a reduction in funding. Ms. Baez-Rose noted the department was taking a conservative approach in setting costs. Brian Durkin addressed the body. C. Gitschier noted the efforts of C. Drinkwater in establishing project. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at Shedd Park. So voted.
- 3- Saint Louis Park – Sandra McNamara addressed the subcommittee. C. Gitschier noted the ARPA funding is for Manager to decide and the Council can only make suggestions. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to support item numbers 1-4 of the proposed scope at Saint Louis Park. So voted.
- 4- 68 Jackson Street – Mr. Espitia commented on the scope of the new installation. C. Jenness noted there was a big need in this area of the City and commented on the playground element of the proposal. Mr. Espitia commented on the life span of the playground. Ms. Baez-Rose note area would be more accessible and require less maintenance. C. Mercier noted it was a passive park. C. Gitschier noted it was a great location. Mr. Espitia noted possible future are installation. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at 68 Jackson Street. So voted.
- 5- Swamp Locks Ramp – Mr. Espitia noted it was a small temporary project. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at Swamp Locks Ramp. So voted.
- 6- South Common Phase 3 – Mr. Espitia noted continued work and the addition of a rain garden. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Jenness to accept the scope of work at South Common Phase 3. So voted.
- 7- O'Donnell Park – Ms. Baez-Rose noted upgrades and additions. C. Gitschier commented on the outdoor classroom element of the plan. C. Gitschier commented on lack of use of ball field at the site. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at O'Donnell Park. So voted.
- 8- Clemente Park – Mr. Espitia noted it was a two year project coming to fruition. Mr. Chheoum addressed the body. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Jenness to accept the scope of work at Clemente Park. So voted.



9- North Common – Ms. Baez-Rose noted upgrades and new features. C. Mercier commented on potential art work and murals. C. Gitschier commented on garden space in the park. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at North Common. So voted.

10- Hadley Park – Ms. Baez-Rose noted new lighting and playground upgrades. C. Gitschier noted field could be multi-purpose which would help park grow. **Motion** by C. Jenness, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the scope of work at Hadley Park. So voted.

C. Mercier questioned Pawtucketville Memorial Park. Ms. Baez-Rose noted that shifting of Father Maguire field would have been the project. C. Mercier noted her report would be a report of progress. Ms. Baez-Rose recognized her staff for their efforts.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to Adjourn by C. Gitschier seconded by C. Jenness. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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