

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of October 4, 2016

Third Floor Conference Meeting Room, City Hall

Members Present: William Dugan, Co-Chair, Catherine Schlichte, Co-Chair, John Feener, Hank McCarl, Ellen Preston, David Rhineland, Barbara Silberman, Scott Smith, Heidi Wakeman

Also: Stephen Winslow, Senior Project Manager

The meeting was opened by Bill Dugan at 6:05 pm.

Approval of minutes for September 13, 2016 meeting

MOTION by Barbara Silberman, seconded by Bill Dugan with the board voting unanimously to approve the minutes from September 13, 2016 meeting.

Review of Stage Fort Park Beautification Project

Steve Winslow, Senior Project Manager, Community Development Department, reported that the grant for \$250,000 for the project has just arrived; a press release will follow shortly. The Committee discussed how much of the remaining \$250,000 will be bonded, and what form to pursue.

Catherine S. stated that the grant is conditioned upon the City making a commitment by December 31, 2016 to fulfill the grant match.

Steve W. stated that the City deals with money by bonding, similar to the funding for the lights at Newell Stadium, whereby the bonding was authorized over 2-3 years. He cited the challenges for Stage Fort Park: need to hire a designer for spring 2017 to get survey done for beginning of construction in the fall of 2017, since no construction in the summer. As the bills come in, the City will pay \$60,000 from City's reserves. By 2018, \$250K may be paid out, spent in one fiscal year.

Barbara S. asked whether funding \$65,000, will start in 2017, with \$500K paid in 2018? She understands that a PARC grant is given for a fiscal year. She asked whether there are other grants? Steve responded that since PARC went to Newell Stadium renovation, we should not expect another PARC grant for this project; also, a federal grant has more flexibility than PARC Grant; and, CPA, along with private funding, are a good match for Stage Fort Park.

John F. asked whether a letter form is needed for commitment? Steve W. responded that Budget and Finance Committee knows about the application.

Scott S. stated that since we need \$500K for the whole renovation, CPA should provide \$250K and the City should ultimately support with \$250K. Steve stated that CPC must make recommendation to the City Council by December 31, 2016, reiterating that the federal grant needs a firm commitment from the City at that time.

Steve explained that there is contention between the City's Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee and the Farmers Market about the Market ruining Stage Fort Park's grounds. This is the reason why he is looking for grant to beautify Stage Fort Park (SFP) for Gloucester's quadricentennial celebration, and that despite conflict of use, the SFP Advisory Committee supports the grant.

Bill D. mentioned that CPC has \$135K balance which has not been committed.

Barbara S. stated that looking at the debt service worksheet that Kenny Costa provided, there is \$100K for 10 year at 3% interest, and she is adverse to bonding whole \$250K because she believes that people get complacent about giving. She stated that she would prefer \$200K.

Catherine S. stated that CPC is an independent body and should move forward with need to evaluate the project and decide what to give. Mission is to restore SFP. She states that project is great with Rotary's and others' interest, and CPC should bond it more than \$50K this year. Adding if we pay more now, bond will be less in debt service. She suggested \$100K from CPC, \$100K from City and \$50K from debt service.

Bill D. asked if surcharge is needed from residents? He stated that since CPC has trouble with City coming to CPC, perhaps we should think of funding on short term.

Hank M. suggested to spread bond over 10 years. Barbara S. suggested \$100K for over 3 years. John F. suggested that CPC give \$50K now and bond \$200.

Steve W. suggested that CPC commit \$50K now to cover for this year and commit cash in 2017-2018 for next CPC cycle.

MOTION: John Feener moved that CPC award \$250,000 toward the renovation of Stage Fort Park, and that \$75,000 be paid toward the project now, and recommend to commit bonding \$175,000 over 10 years. Seconded by Scott Smith. Community Preservation Committee Board voted unanimously, 9-0.

Other Business

Heidi Wakeman suggested that we look at what strategies other cities have used for same issues, and what have been their roles and responsibilities in projects that have been for the common good. Also, she asked how the City approves or denies our money for projects.

Ellen stated that CPC is fortunate to have Steve Winslow oversee the Stage Fort Park renovation. Steve was extremely implemental in attaining the PARC grant for Newell Stadium and in working with the engineers, the contractor and the city Building Committee in creating a state of the art stadium. He continues to work on this project, which has some constructional issues.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2016

Agenda: 1) Vote on CPC applications.

2) Recruit new CPC members: Bill Dugan's and Scott Smith's terms are up.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Preston