

**MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 21, 2004
ROBERTS PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

PRESENT: Council members Ellen Zoppo, Tom Lavigne and Al Myers; Park Superintendent Edward Swicklas, Nathan Peabody, Kenneth Cockayne, Charles Cyr, Christopher Cassin, and Board of Finance Liaison Delores Capers.

ABSENT: BOE Athletic Director John Novakowski and Sean Moore.

Chair Ellen Zoppo called the meeting to order at 5:04pm, and asked that those present to introduce themselves.

Zoppo reviewed the material that had been distributed to the new and existing board members to bring everyone up to date with the work compiled by the committee to date. Superintendent Swicklas reviewed the inventory list of existing park and school athletic fields and facilities and updated the committee on the assessment that was done in June 2003 which outlines what the perceived needs are based on demand. Some items mentioned included:

- Due to the constraints associated with using school fields, the burden of meeting the needs of a variety of groups including intramural and parochial schools falls to the Park Dept.
- Since some fields are multi-use like Muzzy, baseball ends so soccer and football can begin. Other fields are likewise converted.
- The need for additional softball fields for men and women was noted. Ken Cockayne and Ed Swicklas both discussed the arrangement that the city has with the Little League where an escrow fund has been established to establish additional fields to compensate for the incorporation of the softball field on Mix Street into the Little League complex. There is a time limit on this agreement before the money reverts back to the Little League.
- Councilman Lavigne asked about the Kern Park parcel and its utilization. Swicklas stated that there was a tentative idea to put softball fields there and that the Real Estate Committee had asked for information on this around the time Target was negotiating for the acres they needed for their site plan.

The committee officially approved, on a voice vote, the third Wednesday of each month as the official schedule. A copy will be forwarded to the Town & City Clerk.

A reduced copy of an assessor's map showing the Roberts, Schaffrick, Hoppers and cemetery property parcels was distributed to members. It was suggested by Zoppo that the committee seek a revision to the map and erase the lot lines associated with the parcel labeled as 8-1 on Assessors Map 60 since it too is owned by the City. She also suggested that a representative from the Engineering Department be invited to a future meeting to discuss the elevation, drainage and easements associated with this property. Zoppo further stated her concern over the 9.6 acres of cemetery owned property located at the entrance to the property on James P. Casey Road. Ken Cockayne mentioned that it was his understanding that the cemetery is amenable to a land swap. Zoppo stated that it was

those types of issues that the Committee needs to be brought up to speed on and that she would inquire with Assistant Corporation Counsel Jeff Steeg who manages the Real Estate matters. Additional barricades to prevent entry from various points may be needed.

Restricting ATV and motor vehicle access on the site was discussed. Tremendous damage is being done to the kettles and it is also a serious liability issue. Swicklas stated that signs have been previously posted but are now gone. The Ordinance Committee is currently reviewing ordinances and this issue may be addressed in that venue as well.

Zoppo stated that the previous announcement that there was a potential donor who was interested in purchasing the property for \$1.3 million and then selling it back to the city for \$1 is not an active issue at this point but may develop in the future.

ACTION POINTS for next meeting:

Ed Swicklas to get details on the Slo-Pitch escrow fund and deadline

Tom Lavigne to ask former Councilman Joe Wilson if he retained any maps

Tom Lavigne to explore appropriate language through traffic division which would prohibit motor vehicle use.

Ellen Zoppo to talk to Engineering about 8-1 lot lines.

Ellen Zoppo/Tom Lavigne to discuss cemetery issue with Attorney Steeg.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 5:00pm in the first floor meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu