

**MINUTES FROM THE March 16, 2005  
ROBERTS PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

PRESENT: Chairwoman Ellen Zoppo, Tom Lavigne, Park Superintendent Edward Swicklas, Kenneth Cockayne, Charles Cyr, John Novakowski and Board of Finance Liaison Delores Capers.

ABSENT: Council member Al Myers; Chris Cassin, Sean Moore & Nathan Peabody.

Chair Ellen Zoppo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, and asked that those present to introduce themselves.

The chair asked for approval for the summary of the February 16, 2005 public hearing minutes. Lise DellaBianca noted that her street address should be 113 Sherwood. The February minutes were approved on a voice vote with the correction.

Under Public Participation,

- Barbara Walker, Sherman Street, asked if any additional thought had been given to the community gardens concept. Chairwoman Zoppo noted that all ideas that have been given to the committee have been forwarded to the park consultants, but that there is also a private entity currently developing a community garden proposal and she expected that the entity may have approvals in place soon.
- Gary Grzeika, 34 Britton Road expressed his interest in having some type of golf element at Roberts such as a driving range.
- Dan Wolfe, 35 Peyton Terrace stated that he was interested in seeing fields earmarked for youth lacrosse that is a growing sport in this area. Commissioner Cyr asked what size field lacrosse requires and Mr. Wolfe responded that it is the same as a soccer or football field and that multi-purpose fields would be appropriate.

Under new business, Chairwoman Zoppo stated that Donna Achilli from the mayor's office had posted all of the meeting minutes and agendas, as well as the public feedback to the site. The overview will be updated regularly and public comments will continue to be added to the site as they are received.

Under old business, Superintendent Swicklas reported that the Milone & MacBroome contract has been reviewed by the legal counsel and is ready to be executed with the mayor's signature. He stated that he believes the first part of the process will be the survey work and data collection.

Commissioner Cyr had three items for old business.

- He asked the status of Nelson's Field as a potential location for the dog park. Chairperson Zoppo stated that it is an open space designated area owned by the State but maintained as needed by the city. Superintendent Swicklas stated that the city added the parking spaces and there is now talk about the silt trap

maintenance and planned bridgework by the DOT this year. He stated that a farmer is responsible for cutting the hay. He believed that any alteration such as a fence would have to receive state approval. Councilman Lavigne stated that the issue had been raised at another meeting and the mayor was skeptical of a dog park being able to be located there. Chairperson Zoppo stated that it would be beneficial if the Roberts Committee understood the differences among the various open space parcels that exist in the city, such as the Nelson's state designation, the Kern Park issue, as well as other open space areas such as the Chizinski property. Commissioner Cyr made a motion for the chair to send a letter to Corporation Counsel asking for a clarification on the open space parcels. Ken Cockayne seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

- Commissioner Cyr asked about the acreage at Sarge Riley field on Shrub Road that is partially enclosed. Swicklas and Novakowski stated that the baseball field is used all year by various organizations and taking it off-line would cause a hardship since it is one of the only 90' diamonds.
- Commissioner Cyr stated that he felt that the disc golf course might be an appropriate fit at Pine Lake. Chairwoman Zoppo agreed, and stated that the Ropes Challenge Course was at one end already and that the woods and water could be beneficial to the layout of their course. Commissioner Cyr made a motion to recommend that Milone & MacBroome investigate the feasibility of Pine Lake for disc golf. The motion was seconded by Tom Lavigne and approved on a voice vote.

Chairwoman Zoppo noted that Commissioner Sean Moore's father had been involved in a serious accident earlier that day and that Chippens Hill had also had to evacuate due to an electrical fire which most likely has kept Commissioner Cassin busy.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu