

**MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 16, 2005
ROBERTS PROPERTY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

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

ABSENT: Al Myers

Chair Ellen Zoppo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and asked that those present to introduce themselves. Councilwoman Zoppo gave an overview of the work done to date by the committee since its formation in 2002.

Assistant City Engineer Ray Rogozinski made a brief presentation in response to a concern about the drainage capacity of the parcel. City Planner Alan Weiner stated that a traffic study of the area could be accomplished during the planning process.

Vincent McDermott from Milone & MacBroom gave a brief overview of how the Roberts parcel will fit into the overall parks master planning component that is about to get underway. He stated that public input such as what he was hoping to hear tonight, would be very valuable data for the consultants.

Chair Ellen Zoppo stated that over 20 organization surveys were mailed to groups throughout the city who had field and youth recreational needs and six replied. She called upon the Bristol Soccer Club and the McCabe Waters Little League to add any additional information they desired to their written report. Bob Smith and Mark Gauvain from the BSC and Chris Galvin from McCabe and Vic Rinaldi from Diamond Kings addressed the committee about their field space issues.

Twenty people signed up for public participation. Many dog owners ceded their time to spokesperson Lise DellaBianca of 133 Sherwood Road and David Hoyt from 21 UConn Drive, to advocate for the citizens who are currently using the parcel to walk their dogs. They asked for consideration in some area, not expressly the Roberts parcel, to have a dog park locally. They offered the committee several examples of other communities' dog park specifications.

Zoppo stated that members of the public would be apprised of the developments in the master planning process. She stressed that the Roberts parcel should be viewed as the opportunity to add greatly to the recreational assets that contribute to the city's quality of life and that every effort will be made to come up with a good balance between active and passive and the potential of maximizing and sharing resources.

Zoppo referenced a dog park article of which she had copies available, that was provided by City Planner Alan Weiner and Councilman Craig Minor. She encouraged those in attendance to stay updated by giving her their e-mail address and/or checking the city website where Roberts has its own section.

Tom Lavigne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. The motion was seconded by Charles Cyr and passed unanimously on a voice vote. The proceedings of this public hearing were taped and are available to the public.

Respectfully Submitted:
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Chair

This public hearing was taped.