



Roosevelt Park
November 14th Meeting Minutes
Malden City Hall: City Council Chambers

- **Introduction and Purpose:** Ari Taylor introduced the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation and explaining the purpose of the meeting, which is to address misinformation and provide updates on the Roosevelt Park project.
 - **Meeting Introduction:** Ari Taylor began the meeting by asking everyone to take their seats and maintain decorum. She thanked the panel members for staying late and helping to bring information to the public. She acknowledged the presence of Alex Pratt, Deb Burke, Dan Grover, Jim Parker, and Rachel Running, who would provide updates on the Roosevelt Park project.
 - **Purpose of Meeting:** Ari Taylor explained that the purpose of the meeting was to address misinformation and answer questions about the Roosevelt Park project. She mentioned that there would be a question-and-answer section at the end of the introductions for those watching at home to participate.
- **Project Background:** Alex Pratt from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) provided a background on the Roosevelt Park project, mentioning that the previous project was canceled due to costs and the current focus is on making the area safe and meeting regulatory requirements.
 - **Project Cancellation:** Alex Pratt explained that the previous project for Roosevelt Park was canceled in April due to costs. Since then, the focus has been on addressing two main questions: how to take down the fence around the imminent hazard area and make it safe, and whether there are any other regulatory requirements to meet regarding Roosevelt Park.
 - **Regulatory Requirements:** Alex mentioned that the mayor had laid out an extensive memo at the end of October, supported by environmental consultants and background data, to address the regulatory requirements for Roosevelt Park. The goal is to ensure all necessary steps are taken to make the area safe and compliant with regulations.
- **Cost Estimate and Funding:** Alex Pratt shared that the estimated cost for the current project is around \$850,000, and they are exploring available funding sources. Dan Grover, the Treasurer, will provide more details on funding.

- **Cost Estimate:** Alex Pratt stated that the probable cost of the project, as estimated by their civil engineer, is around \$850,000. He emphasized that conditions can change, but this is the likely cost for the project.
- **Funding Sources:** Alex mentioned that they have been looking at available funding sources to cover the project costs. He indicated that Dan Grover, the Treasurer, would provide more details on the specific funding sources and their status.
- **Public Involvement and Information:** Alex Pratt emphasized that all information about the project, including estimates, memos, and future meetings, will be available online on the City of Malden's website. There will be additional meetings as the plans progress.
 - **Information Availability:** Alex Pratt highlighted that all information about the Roosevelt Park project, including cost estimates, memos, and recordings of future meetings, will be available online on the City of Malden's website at cityofmalden.org/roosevelt. This is the same project page that has been used for several years.
 - **Future Meetings:** Alex mentioned that as the plans progress, there will be additional meetings through the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) process. He noted that Jim Parker would speak more about this process later in the meeting.
- **Soil Remediation Plan:** Jim Parker from Nangle Associates explained the soil remediation plan, which involves removing about a foot and a half of material, putting a geotextile fabric underneath, and restoring the area to its original state. This will address the imminent hazard condition and allow the fence to be removed.
 - **Remediation Strategy:** Jim Parker explained that the soil remediation plan involves removing about a foot and a half of material from the fenced-in area, placing a geotextile fabric underneath, and restoring the area to its original state. This approach will address the imminent hazard condition and allow the fence to be removed.
 - **Regulatory Compliance:** Jim mentioned that the site is a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) site, which requires preparing a draft plan, circulating it to the public, holding a meeting, and allowing for comments before implementation. This process ensures regulatory compliance and public involvement.
 - **Project Timeline:** Jim noted that the project timeline is uncertain due to the need to complete the PIP process and obtain necessary approvals from the Conservation Commission. He emphasized that they are trying to move as quickly as possible but must follow the required procedures.
- **Funding Sources:** Dan Grover detailed the five initial funding sources for the Roosevelt Park project, including the Adelaide Breed Beard Foundation grant, free cash appropriation, HUD Section 108 loan, city general bond, and CPC bond. He explained the status and availability of each funding source.
 - **Adelaide Breed Beard Foundation Grant:** Dan Grover explained that the Adelaide Breed Beard Foundation grant of \$660,000 was specific to turf. Since the initial project was canceled and no turf field is being constructed, the foundation has withdrawn its funding commitment.
 - **Free Cash Appropriation:** Dan mentioned that the free cash appropriation of \$1.3 million is still available within the city's general funds. However, these funds would need to be reappropriated by the City Council for any project, including the Roosevelt Park project.

- **HUD Section 108 Loan:** Dan stated that the HUD Section 108 loan of \$1.2 million has not been drawn down and remains with the federal government. Any changes to the project would require notification to HUD and reauthorization by the City Council to borrow these funds.
- **City General Bond:** Dan explained that the city general bond of \$1.2 million, specifically for soil remediation, is available but would need to be reappropriated by the City Council. Approximately \$160,000 of these funds have been spent on initial expenses related to the park.
- **CPC Bond:** Dan mentioned that the CPC bond of \$1.45 million is in the CPC bank account and has not been spent. These funds were originally authorized for the initial project and would need to be reappropriated by the City Council for any new project.
- **CPC Funding and Future Projects:** Rachel Running from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) explained that the CPC has funds available for future projects, but any new project would need to be approved by the CPC and the city.
- **Community Input and Stakeholders:** Ari Taylor and other participants addressed questions from the audience about community input and stakeholder involvement in the project. They emphasized the importance of including all stakeholders and building trust within the community.
 - **Stakeholder Engagement:** Ari Taylor and Alex Pratt addressed questions about stakeholder engagement, explaining that they had reached out to various groups, including sports groups, neighbors, and the Salem Wood School community. They emphasized the importance of including all stakeholders and building trust within the community.
 - **Community Meetings:** Alex Pratt mentioned that they had held several community meetings, including a robust meeting in September 2022 with 80 to 100 people in attendance. They used various methods to engage the community, such as flyers, translated materials, and direct emails.
 - **Future Engagement:** Ari Taylor assured that future projects would include community input and that they are working on building trust within the community. She acknowledged the mistrust and emphasized the need for transparent communication and collaboration.
- **Safety Concerns:** Anabet Donremot raised concerns about the safety of the plaza area, which is uneven and poses a hazard to children. Ron Hogan mentioned that they are exploring options to address this issue and provided cost estimates for potential solutions.
- **Lead Contamination and Remediation:** Jim Parker explained the lead contamination issue and the plan to remediate the fenced-off area. He clarified that the levels of lead in the rest of the park are below the applicable standards.
- **Community Engagement and Misinformation:** Ari Taylor and other participants discussed the importance of accurate information and community engagement. They acknowledged the frustration and mistrust within the community and emphasized the need for transparency and collaboration.
- **Future Plans and Timeline:** Ari Taylor explained that they are working on future plans for the park, including addressing drainage issues and other factors. She acknowledged that the process will take time and emphasized the importance of doing it right.

- **Closing Remarks:** Ari Taylor thanked everyone for their participation and reiterated the commitment to working together and keeping the community informed.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Identify and engage key stakeholders for the next phase of the Roosevelt Park project. (Ari Taylor)
- **Community Communication:** Resubmit the lead notice to all Salem Wood School parents and translate it into the seven various languages. (Ari Taylor)
- **Project Timeline:** Provide a clear timeline for the remediation and future planning of Roosevelt Park. (Ari Taylor)
- **Safety Hazard:** Evaluate and address the safety hazards in the plaza area near Roosevelt Park, including the uneven edges. (Ron Hogan)
- **Public Involvement Plan:** Prepare and circulate a draft plan for the public involvement process (PIP) for the Roosevelt Park remediation. (Jim Parker)
- **Funding Reappropriation:** Reappropriate the available funds for the Roosevelt Park project through the City Council. (Dan Grover)
- **Community Updates:** Ensure regular updates are provided to the Salem Wood School PTO and parents regarding the progress of the Roosevelt Park project. (Ari Taylor)
- **Project Options:** Review and decide on the options provided by Steve O'Neill for addressing the plaza area issues. (Ron Hogan)