

CITY OF GARDNER
Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee

Gardner City Hall – Manca Annex
115 Pleasant St., Room 202

978-630-4014

Gardner, MA 01440

fax 978-632-1905

MEETING

Thursday May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

CITY HALL ANNEX

SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 203

ANNOUNCEMENT - Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the Chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

Members Present:

Katie Guertin, Gordon Leedy, Steve Cormier, Anna Wilkins, Rob Oliva, Norman Beauregard, Trevor Beauregard, Steve Rockwood, Arica McCarthy

Members Absent:

Guests & Visitors:

MEETING – brought to Order by Katie Guertin at 6:00 pm

Discussion

K. Guertin led the committee into discussion regarding the public from seven years ago. G. Leedy asked the committee if they felt the questions are still relevant, and if there are changes that need to be made. T. Beauregard mentioned questions number two and three are the same. G. Leedy will fix that. T. Beauregard stated that question five should be expanded to include more sports/recreation activities and facilities. K. Guertin mentioned maybe making categories and then allowing a write in section to be more specific on locations. T. Beauregard stated that it is important to know what kinds of activities people are using existing facilities for. K. Guertin called on D. Orwig. D. Orwig stated that conservation areas should be mentioned under this question. The committee agreed that conservation areas are a big part of open space, and it is important to include a category regarding them. T. Beauregard suggested adding conservation areas as a check box and allowing people to fill in which specific property they visit. G. Leedy

discussed how survey monkey works and how data is collected and formulated. G. Leedy asked about biking and sidewalks, and whether it is still a relevant topic in the city. T. Beauregard stated that it is, and the city is still active in improving facilities for biking. N. Beauregard said there is a mountain biking group that is also active in the city. K. Guertin moved the committee on to question six and asked if the first item regarding Greenwood pool is still relevant. The committee decided that making a more generalized item regarding improvements to Greenwood pool would suffice. R. Oliva asked if Dunn Pond was relevant due to it being under State control. The committee decided that it is because it is still part of the city's open space and recreational facilities. R. Oliva mentioned that he didn't see the golf course mentioned anywhere. G. Leedy stated that it is listed within question six. K. Guertin suggested that question six may need to be reworded to get better answers. S. Rockwood mentioned recreational vehicle use and if we have facilities where people can use them. K. Guertin mentioned that conservation does not allow motorized vehicles on their properties, however, ADA off-road vehicles are popular now. Maybe ADA trail access needs to be added to this current survey. G. Leedy asked about snow mobile use in Gardner. N. Beauregard stated that people use the bike trails, which causes a hazard of packed ice in the springtime. K. Guertin mentioned that we should be reaching our ADA community with survey as well. A. Wilkins stated that a separate question could be added about accessibility. This would allow us to know how much use our ADA facilities receive and whether they need improving. S. Rockwood mentioned how Dunn State Park runs an accessible program but doesn't see any other programs like that. The committee agreed that adding a question asking if members of the public use the ADA facilities on a regular basis would be a good way to engage the ADA community. G. Leedy moved on to question ten and asked if anything needed to be added to the list under the question. T. Beauregard suggested that allowing people to pick three top priorities instead of two would be better. R. Oliva suggested adding bike lanes to the list. A. McCarthy agreed with adding bike lanes as a priority option. K. Guertin stated that question eleven mentions bike lanes and paths, asking the public to rank them as a priority. The committee agreed to add bike lanes to question ten since it corresponds with question eleven. Other recreation activities were discussed such as pickle ball and roller hockey. K. Guertin stated that the skate park is not mentioned in the survey. T. Beauregard said that the skate park should be added in the survey. R. Oliva asked what "lighting" means under question eleven. The committee discussed how to define it better, such as recreational exterior lighting, as suggested by A. McCarthy. The committee discussed fitness trails and adding that topic to the survey, as they have become more prevalent since the last open space plan. T. Beauregard discussed adding an item labeled "I work in the city" to question thirteen. This will allow for more feedback. R. Oliva suggested adding "I visit relatives in the city." G. Leedy will revise the survey based on the discussion and edits. The goal is to get it posted within the next few weeks.

G. Leedy started the discussion about Every Doorway Direct and how a responsibility of the open space plan update is to reach out to the environmental justice population. The environmental justice populations are sections of the city that have residents who are economically disadvantaged. Every Doorway Direct is a service that will mail the survey to every house within these populations for a fee of roughly \$1500. K. Guertin discussed

funding that may be available in city accounts to achieve this. T. Beauregard stated that there is most likely money remaining in the open space fund from last year. A. McCarthy mentioned how environmental justice areas have changed since the last plan, so we will want to make sure we have the most up to date data. The committee agreed that this will be a good tool to utilize for required outreach.

K. Guertin asked if the committee wants to review the goals and objectives at this time. T. Beauregard stated that after reading the minutes from the last meeting, he thinks it will be tough to give each member a section to update. He stated Tighe & Bond will do most the updating, with input from the committee. R. Oliva discussed how a lot of the GIS data is broken and/or missing, but IT should be able to locate the original files. G. Leedy mentioned how it would be good to have some updated maps for the public session. Goals and objectives will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee discussed moving the meetings to daytime via zoom. Meetings will be during the day, virtually going forward.

Minutes 4/28/22

T. Beauregard motioned to approve; S. Cormier seconded

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be May 25th at 3:00pm via Zoom.

7:09 pm Meeting adjourned

NOTICE: These Agenda items consist of items that are reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting and are specifically allowed to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.
