



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

FY19 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN RESIDENT FEEDBACK RECEIVED APRIL 13-MAY 17, 2018

WRITTEN COMMENTS

From: Rob Buchanan
Received: April 17, 2018

Hello,

I'd like to see more of the CPA funds allocated to open space. We are at crucial point in time when some of the last remaining parcels in suitable locations are getting purchased for redevelopment, and if we don't get out ahead and start acquiring land for more parks, we are not going to meet the SomerVision goal of 125 acres of new open space.

This issue is playing out in Boynton Yards right now. A developer has put forward a plan to build two commercial buildings, one of which sits directly on land that was shown to be open space in three out of four open space scenarios in the Union Square Neighborhood Plan. How come the City did not approach the previous owner of the land about acquisition for open space? Somerville's lack of planning and failure to capitalize an Open Space Land Acquisition fund is hurting our ability to meet open space goals.

I and others have repeatedly wrote to the Community Preservation Committee over the years to request increasing the amount of CPA funding for open space, but every year, the Committee chooses different funding priorities. Now that we have increased linkage fees for Affordable Housing, will the CPC consider balancing out its funding portfolio? We have no other source of revenue for open space land acquisition.

Thank you,
Rob Buchanan
16 Wesley Park
Ward 3

From: Ellie Botshon
Received: April 17, 2018

Dear Kristen,

Good morning.

I'd like to put my 2 cents in on the allocation of the CPA program.

Open Space (in my mind) is just as important (if not more) than all the others, as public space is for EVERYONE to use.. across genders, race, age, etc., and land is becoming extinct. I would vote for a 50% allocation.

I'd also love to put a vote in for a dog park in Davis square...Hodgins Park would be perfect....next to the kid's playground. Is there anything I can do to help get this done? Happy to get people's signatures, etc. if that would help.

Many thanks,
Ellie

From: Alex Epstein
Received: April 17, 2018

Dear Kristen,

Thank you for the quick reply. That is good news, and I am hopeful the Board will accept your recommendation [to fund the FY18 Community Path Design project].

As a follow-up, since the City newsletter invited input for how to allocate the 20% flexible funds portion, I think that creating and improving open space is an important unmet need in Somerville. It would be great if that flexible share could be allocated toward improving our inventory of open spaces for all ages.

Thanks again,
Alex

From: Steve Mulder
Received: April 22, 2018

Hi, thanks for the opportunity to comment on CPA funds. While I understand the critical need for affordable housing and appreciate that some years there should be three times as much spent on affordable housing as on open space, is the intent to have this unbalanced ratio the same every year? I recommend varying this breakdown, so that each year there is a different emphasis.

I was part of the SomerVision committee, and while Somerville is making some progress toward those goals on housing, we are way, way behind on progress related to open space. So I believe that deserves more attention in CPA funds.

Thanks,
Steve Mulder
42 Stone Ave

