

Conservation Commission Meeting
Jan. 23, 2002
Approved Minutes

Present: Cassandra Koutalidis, John Reinhardt, Elisabeth Miley, Rachel Evans, Michael Fager, Leslie Brayton, Anne Phelps (Greenspace Coordinator), John Buchheit (interested citizen), Jeff Levine (OHCD), Janet McGowan (interested citizen)

Open meeting/intros: CK opened meeting at 7:15.
Janet McGowan back again this evening. She worked in Conservation Law Foundation (litigation, regulations and appeals, and permitting. Both she and John Buchheit (went to law school with Rachel Evans) are interested in becoming an associate conservation commissioners.

The Commission made minor revisions to the minutes from Nov. 28th, 2001:

- Corrected spelling of EM's first name
- Under Public hearing, Northstar Industries, changed "...manholes in protected area." To read "...manholes in riverfront area.
- Under Open Space and Rec.Plan, amended "Steve" to Steve Post, and changed last sentence to read, "...inquiring about **who** will take the lead..."

After review of agenda, CK suggests we move discussion of IKEA ENF comments to first item under New Business.

Budget Anne discussed options for rev. fund with Tom Hedderick. They are 1) that we keep garden fees in it, and try to keep them separated and attribute all expenditures, OR 2) we separate the funds so only filing fees in the rev. fund—prefer latter since the fund doesn't have to be re-authorized ea. Year and less bookkeeping work if money not in same fund.

Michael: Motion made for Anne to divide the money in the rev. fund into filing fees and garden dues, that we determine how much \$ needed for gardens, and that remainder of garden dues be transferred to gen. operating fund next FY.

CC said we need to find out if we can get Bd. of Aldermen's permission to spend from rev. fund from the aldermen.

MF new motion: by July 1, 02, all garden dues go to general operating fund for CC.

Seconded, all approved.

Anne reported on possibility of funding for Durrell (good) and Partridge (not-good) from OHCD (Durrell has high enough ratio of low-income residents, i.e. 50% or more; Partridge does not). Steve Post wants budget before he will commit funds.

MF new motion: Leslie & Anne approach Bd. of Aldermen (or appropriate person) to get permission to spend all garden dues during FY02. **Seconded. All approved.**

New Business:

IKEA ENF comments:

CK said that she had received a request from Steve Post (OHCD) to combine CK comments with those from OHCD so city can send “speak in one voice.” Jeff said that when Steve created the Planning dept., a major goal was that it work with other departments, and that it has been presenting combined comments to MEPA on other projects. JR said we probably didn’t have time to do a combined letter, since our comments hadn’t been formulated yet. MF said the CK wasn’t set up to put comments out with mayor’s signature, that we’re an independent body. However, we want to encourage this dialog with OHCD. Jeff noted he sent out e-mail requests for CK concerns w/IKEA a couple of wks ago and got no response, and this meeting is just 2 days before the due date for comments. Les Brayton suggested we need to meet more often. CK asked Jeff to briefly state OHCD’s concerns, and he did.

Jeff reported that the city had asked IKEA to pay for an independent review of the Traffic & stormwater plans for the site. CK said she’d been asked by Jeff to recommend some firms to do the stormwater review, and she asked if OHCD had hired anyone yet. Jeff answered, “No.” After discussion, CK offered to develop scope of work (if given IKEA drainage plans) and to work with OHCD to find an acceptable firm to do the review. Jeff said ideally that shld occur in next 2 weeks to 1 mo. In reply to Jeff’s question, what are areas of concern of CK w/regard to IKEA, CK replied that we’re interested in [stormwater]water quality. **Motion** that Cassandra work with OHCD to create scope of work and pick firm to do peer review of stormwater plans. **Seconded and approved.**

Jeff said, since no stormwater plans, and for some other reasons, OHCD would ask for draft and final EIR; he said prob. everyone who commented would ask for both. The meeting then turned to discussion of Consv. Comm. comments. Anne summarized comments under 4 general ‘areas’ for purposes of discussion, 1) stormwater, 2) construction, 3) Park, 4) Pollution from off-site incr. in traffic. Rachel mentioned that soil management plan would be required under AUL (Activity & use limitation) that would include time during construction. CK said that our comments may serve as basic “scope of work” for the consulting firm’s peer review. MF suggested vents in “park” area maybe could be incorporated into design of bldg. Jeff noted that IKEA agreed to put conservation restriction on the park—can’t be deeded to city because of parking below it. If 36in pipe (or 60in) goes directly into river, carrying water from parking lots, it would call for some treatment of that water...that’s part of what we want to see addressed in

plans. Also, we'd normally support groundwater recharge, but not through contaminated soils. JR suggested we ask IKEA to consider "green roofs".

Open Meeting Law Seminar—Rachel, Elisabeth, Michael & Anne planning to attend.

MACC Spring Conference

We should get 2 copies of the handbook (1 for Elisabeth and a copy for the Library). Anne is getting PO for attendees {Anne, Elisabeth, Michael, Rachel, & John}. Anne wants to purchase the latest update- yr. 2000 revisions to the handbook).

Open Space Plan

Anne should call Lisa and see if she can tell her where to look for a critique of the last Open Space Plan (performed by a student, thinks CK). Elisabeth M. offers to work on Open Space Plan. Tufts Urban Env. Policy Group may have volunteers that would be interested in working on the plan. Anne will check with the State Office of Dispute Resolution to see if they could facilitate public meetings on the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.