



**CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**September 8, 2021**

**5:30 pm**

**Remote: Zoom**

**CHAIRPERSON: Heidi Wakeman**

**MINUTES**

**Present Members: Dan Morris, Noel Mann, Mark Poulin, Liam Anastasia-Murphy, Dave Sargent**

**Absent Members:**

**Staff: Adrienne Lennon, Gregg Cadematori, Gemma Wilkins**

**Guests: Marc Racicot (MAPC), Courtney Lewis (MAPC), Christian Brandt (MAPC), Richard Quateman**

**BUSINESS : Richard Quateman is an unofficial new member of the OSRC, pending approval by the Mayor.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Val Nelson spoke about the need for public hearings and open meetings. She stated that she disagreed with the findings of the survey. She encouraged the OSRC to follow open meetings. She was glad to have Climate Crisis information in the survey. She states that the right thing to do is to include the public in the**

**Patti Page spoke about the need for open meetings.**

**CONTINUED PUBLIC MEETING or HEARING**

Courtney L. introduced himself and MAPC staff. He shared results of Community Survey on a slide deck: as well as a plan for Enhanced Outreach & Focus Groups, the Draft Action Plan, a second forum.

Five goals were articulated from the Virtual Open House, and priorities were ranked. Ten recurring themes emerged: Cleanliness, Equity, Safety, Environmental/Climate challenges, Administrative Operations/System Management, Trails/Connectivity, Improved facility/site amenities, Expanded Programming/Events, Balanced Growth/Protection, Systemwide Information/Maps/Trails.

826 people responded to the survey.

All city wards were represented: the highest were Wards 4-2 and 1-1.

No one under the age of 18 completed the survey.

Christian B. discussed the formation of focus groups: Environmental Justice neighborhoods and Council of Aging. He asked for local members of OSRC to share names/agencies to access these communities. He asked for contacts for high school students.

Dan M. asked why we are targeting Seniors for focus groups if there were more than 500 respondents aged 60 or older.

Courtney responded that accessibility issues were not coming up in the survey.

Dan M. reminded MAPC of Jennifer Donnelly's work on bicycling and pedestrian issues for the City, via the Health Department, to support findings of the survey.

Heidi W. brought up the issue of Non-English speakers' participation in the survey.

Heidi W. suggested bringing a survey to O'Maley Civics class or to create a focus group.

Heidi W. offered to connect Christian to youth groups (YOUunity).

Noel M. offered Wellspring and Sawyer Free Library to create focus groups.

Courtney suggested two working sessions: one internal and one with Courtney.

Adrienne spoke about the need to have no discussion inside the document to avoid violating Open Meeting Law.

Marc R. clarified that there can be no deliberation; he will check with MAPC lawyer to clarify.

Heidi W. asked about what we will be receiving from Courtney.

Courtney responded that there are many parts of the plan that carry over.

Marc said that the Draft Action Plans are unique: those sections can't be written until the prior sections are complete.

Adrienne shared timeline and how the Plan is updated.

Dan M. asked for dates of working groups. September 22 and October 13.

Marc R. responded that the survey results and the first forum are most important in our Sept. meeting.

Noel M. stated that the environment needs to be considered.

Courtney L. said to not reinvent the wheel, and look at already created plans in the City.

Noel M. said re: Inventory parcels still have some issues. Noel pointed out details in the current maps that need updating.

Marc P. asked about restrictions to discuss Mattos Field.

Adrienne said its fine.

Gregg C. responded there is still a secondary appeal about Mattos Field/the new school.

Dan M. asked about public input: if there are underrepresented groups, will we have the feedback from focus groups by 10/13?

Adrienne said that yes, the focus groups should be all set by then, even if we don't have focus groups we know what we are asking for on behalf

Roll call for availability of September 22, October 13:

All members available for both meetings.

Adrienne will circulate an agenda to go over Draft Sections 2 and 3.

Courtney suggested the first steps would be to carry over outstanding objectives from the last plan.

Gregg will get DPW work that has been completed from the last plan.

Christian is the contact person for focus groups.

Christian and Marc left the meeting. Courtney will stay.

Gemma Wilkins (Planning Department) introduced the tool, the memo of land inventory in Gloucester, all available in the shared Google Drive for OSRC.

Dan Morris asked about connectivity between parks and recreation areas: did any of the inventory demonstrate trail connectivity?

Gemma responded that the State of MA has trails data.

Dan M. asked if AllTrails is helpful.

Dave S. noted some typos in the inventory. He offered to email feedback.

Gemma said she made changes.

Heidi offered appreciation for the layperson friendly presentation.

Noel offered thanks as well.

Dan Morris wants to follow up on structuring communication between City Boards and Commissions, especially with the Plan on the table.

He asked the committee to consider creation of a subcommittee to talk to other groups PRIOR to the creation of the OSRPlan.

Heidi thanked Dan for his suggestion. She suggested we contact the DPW and Conservation Commission.

Adrienne stated she has meeting scheduled with DPW Director about best use of his time. Adrienne said she will be meeting with Mike Hale after October 13. Adrienne will also share Draft Plan with Conservation Commission.

Noel shared that CATS and the Cemetery Commission have worked with Mike Hale.

Gregg C. shared that the committees Dan mentioned should be contacted and given an opportunity to comment on the draft.

Dan responded with some questions about the possibility to work with departments, boards and commissions to create the plan versus responding to the plan.

Mark said we should have more substance in the Draft before creating subcommittee.

Noel asked about getting a copy of Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Gregg said he will send a link.

Liam asked about pursuing new priorities that are not on the Plan and if it is possible.

Adrienne responded that it is our plan, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and it is not a collaborative process. She said she expects other agencies to be grateful for our work.

Dan responded that he was looking for affirmation for the creation of a subcommittee.

Heidi stated that it seems that the work of a subcommittee seems stalled.

Adrienne responded that we can come back to this.

Heidi said she hoped that other groups and leaders would have responded to the survey.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of Outstanding Minutes : No minutes to approve.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Noel M. seconded by Liam A-M. , and unanimously approved.

## NEXT MEETING:

Next regular meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Committee: September 22, 2021