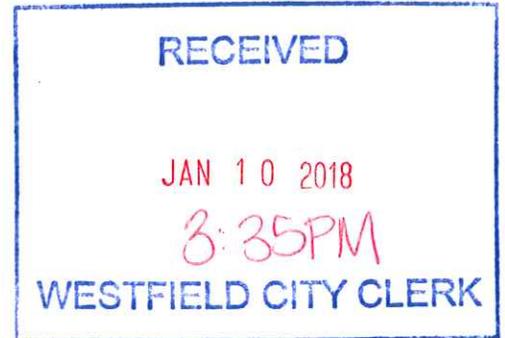




# City of Westfield



## MEETING MINUTES

### Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Tuesday, January 9, 2018

A committee meeting took place at 5:00 P.M. in Room 201, Municipal Bldg., 59 Court St., Westfield, MA.

Committee members present were: Mary Ann Babinski (City Council), Mary O'Connell, Vin Olinski (Parks & Rec), Bengt-Olaf Schneider, William Carellas (Planning Bd), Kristen Mello. Absent: Cheryl Crowe (Planning Bd), Don Podolski.

Also present: Jay Vinskey (City Planner), observer Greg Fitzpatrick (Westfield News)

Vinskey noted this should be the last meeting. He used the video screen to review the plan, as previously distributed to members, focusing on the drafted goals, objectives and action items, with which members concurred. He also displayed the Action Map he had prepared, as required by the state.

Members suggested 2 action items be added. Item 2-10 to investigate testing for water quality or contaminants in surface waters, as it relates to insuring functional wildlife habitats. It was thought this may be done through the state. It was decided the Conservation Commission would best take the lead on tracking this down or pursuing it from the city side. A second item would be that some app (such as 'Whipping Around Westfield') be developed for parks and open spaces; Parks and Recreation Commission, possibly others could take the lead on this.

There was much discussion about who would be the task-master for this plan - possibly a new standalone Open Space Committee as the plan suggests. Vinskey said he would notify each Department/Board tasked with certain items in the plan but that it is ultimately up to them to follow through- the plan is an administrative policy document and follow-up is beyond the scope of this particular committee.

Vinskey stated that next steps are for city staff to finalize the inventory of city lands/protected status, complete the ADA self-evaluation of facilities, post for public comment and submit to the state. O'Connell suggested LWCF grants, where used, also be listed on the inventory.

Public comment means obtaining letters of review/endorsement from the Planning Board (Jan. or Feb.), PVPC and Mayor. It was also suggested one be obtained from Conservation Commission since no one from that group wanted to participate on this committee. Vinskey said it will be posted on the website along with a news item inviting general public review, but that the real need for public input was at the start of the process in the survey and visioning sessions. O'Connell agreed to assist with the ADA piece, including meeting with the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities at some point.

Babinski motioned, seconded by O'Connell, to approve all four previous meeting minutes. All in Favor.  
Adjourned.

Submitted by Jay Vinskey