

*(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).*

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, March 15, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by the Vice-Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Councilman Steven A. Stycos  
Councilwoman Maria A. Bucci  
Council President Anthony J. Lupino

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro, Chair  
Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano

Also Present: Councilman James E. Donahue  
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration  
Mark Capuano, Deputy Director of Administration  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Carlos Lopez, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs  
Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Jane Cormier, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Council President Lupino** stated that he has received a lot of complaints regarding the condition of the road on Wilbur Ave. and there is a lot of damage from the hurricane. He asked that an assessment be done on this road.

**Councilwoman Bucci** stated that there is a lot of garbage on this road and guardrails are all rusty and there are loose cables and trees are a mess.

**Chair** asked that this issue be placed on next month's agenda for an update from the Administration.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Update on Atwood Ave. traffic signal installation** (Councilman Santamaria 12/8/2011, 1/12/2012 & 2/16/2012)

**Chair** stated that Administration has received no update from D.O.T.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Wayland, Scituate and Phenix Avenues traffic improvements** – Administration report (Cont. from 7/14/2011, 8/11/2011, 9/15/2011, 10/13/2011, 11/17/2011, 12/8/2011, 1/12/2012 & 2/16/2012).

**Chair** stated that Administration has received no update from D.O.T.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Warwick Avenue Pedestrian safety** (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. 12/8/2011, 1/12/2012 & 2/16/2012)

**Chair** stated that Administration has received no update from D.O.T.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Implementation of the tree ordinance** (Councilman Stycos) (Cont. 12/8/2011, 1/12/2012 & 2/16/2012)

**Chair** stated that Councilman Stycos has asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution** supporting the creation and expansion of outdoor space, recreation and City parks.

**Anthony Liberatore**, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that his department is opposed to this Resolution based on the fact that the City only has fifteen Laborers and two Teamsters that work in this department. Past Administrations and City Councils eliminated the landscaping contractor and the Recreation Department has had to take that on, that same year, that Administration gave Recreation four Libraries to maintain. His department also cuts grass at the Knightsville Gazebo. If this Resolution is going to be passed, someone has to determine who is going to perform these duties.

**Mr. Dote**, 178 Lippitt Ave., appeared to speak in favor of this Resolution and stated that this is just a planning tool.

**Councilman Stycos** presented a packet and stated that this Resolution would set a priority on where the City can expand its parks.

**Councilwoman Buccì** asked how this will be funded if this Resolution is passed. Councilman Stycos stated that each project would be different, although there are grants that are available that the City could apply for. This Resolution is just a plan to explore these ideas.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to amend this Resolution to add to line #99 another paragraph to state: "As a prerequisite to implementation of any of the fore-mentioned projects, cost of maintenance study be conducted to include, but not limited to cost of maintenance and upkeep".

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Buccì** questioned who will be paying for this study. Council President Lupino stated that this would be part of the proposal.

**Councilman Stycos** suggested changing the word "study" to "recommendation" and also take out the dedicated funding source.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to withdraw motion and second to amend this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

**Council President Lupino** motioned to amend this Resolution as follows: add a last paragraph to state: "As a prerequisite to the implementation of any of the fore-mentioned projects, a cost of maintenance recommendation be conducted to include, but not limited to cost for maintenance and upkeep". Councilman Stycos seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Mr. Cordy** stated that the concern regarding maintenance is very valid. As to grants being available, yes, there are grants, but it does not come without maintenance.

**Falvey Linen Supply, Inc. Appeal** from Public Works Director's decision regarding modification to Industrial Wastewater Discharge

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilwoman Bucci, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Storm water utility districts** Update from administration on feasibility. (Councilman Stycos)

**Mr. Cordy** stated that a meeting was held with D.E.M.

**Chair** asked that this item be continued to next month's meeting for update.

**Mr. Cordy** suggested two month continuance.

**Chair** stated that this item will be continued to the May meeting.

**Discussion** in changing time and date of meeting

**Council President Lupino** stated that after discussing this with the City Clerk and other Council members, it was proposed to change this meeting to the first Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M. in place of the Claims Committee and switch Claims Committee to the fourth Monday of the month, prior to the Council meeting at 6:00 P.M. and switch Finance Committee from 6:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and Ordinance Committee from 7:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on the same evening. This would free up time for the Finance and Ordinance Committees. This would be much more convenient for the public who attend the Finance and Ordinance Committee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND EXPANSION OF OUTDOOR  
SPACE, RECREATION AND CITY PARKS**

*No.*

*Passed:*

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*Anthony J. Lupino, Council President*

***Resolved that***

***Whereas,*** the Cranston City Council supports the expansion of city parks,

***Whereas,*** planning for new recreation areas will position Cranston to win competitive grants when they become available,

***Be it resolved,*** that the City Council supports pursuit of the following projects as priorities to make more outdoor space and recreation available to Cranston citizens.

***Be it further resolved,*** that the mayor's office shall report monthly to the Public Works Committee on the progress of the following projects.

**Ward One:** Acquire Bellefont Pond property to create a park. The 14.8 acre property, which includes the entire shoreline of Bellefont Pond, is owned by BASF. Fishing, walking and picnicking would be possible around the pond. The park could also enable a walking path to connect Roger Williams Park to the Pawtuxet River and city owned land at the end of Park View Boulevard. The city once received a state open space grant to purchase the property, but used the money for the Cullion property. The city must be sure all contamination issues are resolved before it acquires the land. First steps: Formally notify BASF of the city's interest in the property and wait for the company to complete contamination survey by end of 2012.

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Ward One: Acquire trail easements and land to improve and protect the Pawtuxet River Trail. The three mile trail currently runs from Rhodes on the Pawtuxet to Warwick Avenue and then back to Pawtuxet Village on the Warwick side of the river. DEM has abandoned the Pawtuxet River Supply Depot on Warwick Avenue which is a key part of the trail. The city should acquire all or part of this property to insure trail access. The city should also explore acquiring an easement from Yardworks to extend the trail from Warwick Avenue to Mayflower Drive. At Mayflower Drive, a short walk along quiet residential streets would bring walkers to the Bellefont Pond property. The easement would require that the chain link fence surrounding the Yardworks property be set back 10-15 feet. First steps: Contact DEM regarding the abandoned depot and contact Yardworks concerning acquisition of an easement and fence relocation. RIDEM has small trail grants up to \$3000 available which could help on this project.

Ward Two & Six: Build Pontiac Spur bike path. This abandoned rail bed could potentially connect Wellington Avenue to Knight Street at the Warwick/Cranston line, creating a three mile path. First steps: Start the procedure to get the project placed on the RI Department of Transportation’s Transportation Improvement Program lists and investigate whether the path could be extended by way of the South Elmwood line to Bellefont Pond.

Ward Three: Calise Field: This recreational facility in a densely populated section of Cranston could be improved to serve more people. The city should devise a park redevelopment plan to better utilize the non-ball field section on the park’s southern end. Possible improvements include a trail along Print Works Pond, canoe and fishing access, community garden, improved pond views, reconfigured parking areas, possible shared parking with abutter RIARC. First steps: Talk with Cranston Print Works about the transfer of the pond shoreline adjacent to Calise Field to the city, discuss cooperation with RIARC and develop a draft plan.

Ward Four: Acquire land or easements to develop a trail network on the Cranston Historic Farm Route. By connecting city owned conservation land and Audubon Society land with Curran State Park near the right angle turn of Laten Knight Road, a several mile trail system can be built. This would allow establishment of a trail from Burlingame Road to Laten Knight Road to Seven Mile Road. The plan should include better signs and parking. Contact landowners to explore making the connection and contact the Pagliarini family about possible acquisition of 67 acre Hope Farm, perhaps in conjunction with the federal government’s National Resources Conservation Service.

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Ward Four: Extend the Meshanticut Park walking path a quarter mile north along Meshanticut Brook to Angell's Pond. The State of Rhode Island, the city and the Providence Water Supply Board own the entire western bank of the brook between the two ponds. The city, through the Western Hills Middle School property, also owns the southern shoreline of Angell's Pond. The removal of 31 parking spaces would allow a tree lined trail along the brook. Fishing and boating access should be established on Angell's Pond. First steps: Contact the school department and Providence Water Supply Board to explore their support for the project.

Ward Four, Five & Six: Establish a bike path or walking trail along the Providence Water Supply Board easement that runs from Pontiac Avenue to Midway Road and beyond. First steps: Secure the water supply board endorsement of the concept and talk with the Wilders Companies about coordinating this project with their redesign of Garden City.

Ward Five: Improve Knightsville gazebo and park to include old DPW garage property. The vacated DPW property adjoining the gazebo was intended to expand the park, but it has not been incorporated into it. First step: Develop a design to incorporate the DPW lot into the existing park.

Referred to Public Works Committee March 15, 2012  
Sponsored by Councilman Stycos