

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

A Planning & Development Committee meeting was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council office.

Committee Members: Chairperson Joseph Bevilacqua, Councillor William Macek and Councillor Timothy Jordan. Council President Michitson and Councillors Barrett and LePage also attended.

Attendees: Peter Carbone and Dana Lovell.

The following items were discussed:

1. Doc. #58-I/2017 – Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting discussion regarding assistance to new businesses. *Councillor Bevilacqua discussed that he had spoken with economic Development Director Pillsbury regarding this matter, but that Mr. Pillsbury was unable to attend this evening. He discussed the concern that new businesses so the City were not fully aware of the opportunities in Haverhill, that the permit structure be more streamlined encouraging businesses to relocate here, and other related matters. He also discussed that assistance to existing businesses was also important to ensure that current businesses were able to stay and thrive in Haverhill while the City also encouraged their expansion. He further discussed the possibility of City Hall staying open one night later to accommodate those that work out of town. Councillor Macek discussed that Mr. McDonald was working to have the City have on-line permit applications which all agreed would be beneficial for those unable to visit City Hall. The Councillors also discussed they would ask the Mayor to explore opening City Hall one night later to accommodate those unable to visit during the day hours, and to see if the 311 system could assist with permitting.*

2. Doc. #63-D – Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting discussion regarding the re-purpose of Washington Square. *He advised he had invited Joe Costanzo from the MVRTA and Mr. Pillsbury. He discussed the ideas he had previously discussed at the Council meeting which was to relocate the buses out of Washington Square while ensuring there was a bus stop in the Square. Possible locations for the buses could be the MVRTA parking garage on Wingate Street, the Train Station lot or at Railroad Ave headquarters. Moving the buses out would free up parking, help with traffic congestion and possibly provide for a park to be developed at the site. Bevilacqua also discussed the reuse of the comfort station which could be used for restaurant or retail space. Mr. Carbone provided the Councillors with a copy of newspaper articles from 2007* where this idea was first discussed and he discussed his concept for a park to be developed on the site where the buses now park. Mr. Carbone further discussed his idea for the Carleton Fountain or its replica, be put in the middle of Washington Square as a focal point. Mr. Lovell suggested putting the fountain in front of the comfort station. Mr. Carbone also noted that it had been discussed back in 2007 to have a ramp up to the top of the flood wall and what would soon become an extension of the Boardwalk. Additional parking may be available below. Councillor Bevilacqua and Mr. Carbone were joined by the Councillors present in a discussion of the concept of relocating the post office distribution center, out to possibly the industrial park, and demolishing the additions at the rear of the post office which would not be needed for distribution, and freeing up that space to be used for parking or other purposes accentuating the square and that that the post office mail pick up and drop off by residents and businesses would continue but that the additional space in the post office be considered for retail use. The Councillors discussed the park concept and the opportunities for Washington Square that could be developed if it was possible to relocate the buses and a new use for the comfort station and agreed to ask the Mayor when was the lease up for the comfort station. Councillor Macek discussed the possibility to consider introducing one way street pattern for Washington Street possibly in from River Street and Emerson Street to improve truck loading on Washington Street.*

3) Doc. #63-W – Communication from Councillor Macek requesting discussion on creation of comprehensive City-wide plan for establishment of 55+ housing overlay zoning districts. *Councillor Macek discussed the possibility with Councillor Bevilacqua of the possibility of developing criteria which*

could be established that potential developers would have to meet as opposed to now identifying the actual locations, something which would happen under the Master Plan review. Councillor Macek discussed that the City should review the current zones that now permit multifamily housing and maybe establish a density bonus for 55 and over housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Bevilacqua, Chairperson
Planning & Development Committee
Haverhill City Council

July 20, 2018

JJB/bsa

c: Mayor Fiorentini
Councillors

* Handout from Peter Carbone – Eagle Tribune Articles