CITY OF PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Planning Board, November 18, 2021
Minutes: https://files.cityofportsmouth.com/agendas/2021/pb/11-18-2021_PB_MIN.pdf

Recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed acquisition of the Community Campus Public Works Director Peter Rice commented on the acquisition of the Community Campus property. This is a long-term investment for the city, and it will still support city services. The purchase of this property is consistent with the Recreation Department's Master Plan to Minutes, Planning Board Meeting, November 18, 2021 consolidate recreation services to one centralized location. This is also adjacent to recreation fields. Currently it is an underserviced side of the city as far as recreation space goes. The property adds 10 buildable acres to the city as well. Mr. Chellman questioned if it was confirmed those 10 acres were buildable. Mr. Rice responded that there was a total of 37 acres and 10 acres are upland. City Manager Conard commended Public Works Director Rice and Recreation Director Henley for bringing this idea forward and working to make it a reality. City Council Representative Whelan moved to recommend the acquisition of the Community Campus to the City Council, seconded by Mr. Gamester. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed acquisition ofthe Community Campus

Introduction

The Planning Board is asked to determine whether the proposed acquisition ofthe Community Campus property from the Foundation for Seacoast Health is appropriate considered in the context of the City's comprehensive planning.

Should the Board find that this proposed acquisition is in line with the City's comprehensive planning the board must make this recommendation to the CityCouncil. A vote for this recommendation is required.

City Ordinance

- Article VI Section 11. 601: INTENT
    - *The intent of this Article is to ensure that proposed municipal actions relating to land acquisition, disposition or use, and to thelaying out, construction or discontinuance of public streets, are considered in the context of the City's comprehensive planning.*
- Article VI Section 11.602: REFERRAL AND REPORT
    - *A. The following matters shall be referred to the Planning Board inwriting at least thirty (30) days before final action is taken:*

(1) Any acquisition or disposition of municipal real property,including fee transfers, easements and licenses;

(2) Any plan for the construction, alteration, relocation,acceptance or discontinuance of a public way.

B. No final action on a matter listed herein shall be taken until eitherthe Planning Board has reported to the City Council thereon in writing or sixty (60) days have elapsed since the referral without such report.

C. The failure to refer a matter listed herein to the Planning Boardshall not affect the legal validity or force of any action related thereto if the Planning Board waives such referral.

<u>Relevant References in the City of Portsmouth Master Plan</u>

Goal 1.1 : "Support the continued vitality of the Urban Core through publicinvestment and land use regulations."

- Actions listed under this goal include:
  - Support reinvestment in under-utilized buildings and land.
  - Enhance the quality and connectivity of pedestrian facilities.
  - Promote the creation of open spaces, seating areas and otheroutdoor amenities.

Goal 1.4: "Improve access to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughoutthe City."

- Actions listed under this goal include:
  - Enhance neighborhood parks, recreation facilities andplaygrounds, and add new ones where appropriate.
  - Create additional outdoor recreational fields where possible.
  - Develop a consolidated recreation facility for residents of all agesand income levels.
  - Create new public spaces that can be used for both recreation andfloodplain storage.

Goal 5.2: "Manage public open spaces for passive recreation and environmentalpreservation."

- Identify and prioritize undeveloped land for acquisition and preservation.
- Pursue open space acquisitions that create wildlife

corridors andecological connections.

Relevant information from the City of Portsmouth Open Space Plan

The Open Space Plan specifically identifies the Community Campus parcel as anopen space opportunity area. This parcel contains wetlands as part of the Pickering Brook and is considered a Tier 3 (supporting) habitat.

Staff Recommendation:

Vote to recommend the acquisition of the Community Campus to the City Council.