Meeting # 7: Skatepark Committee Meeting Agenda

March 6th, 2019

6:00 pm

PRESENT:

Anthony Johnson
Tom Long
Jeff Woodbury
Lucas Brown
Kirsten McWilliams - had to leave before meeting was adjourned
Darrell Rogers
Jack Gundling
Cybil Kipp

AGENDA:

1. Run through and practice presentation
2. Offer feedback and edits to slides
3. Public Comment

AD-HOC SKATEPARK COMMITTEE PRESENTATION ORDER FOR CITY COUNCIL

March 26th, City Hall, 6:30 P.M.

1. Quote, benefits, and questions - Anthony (SLIDES # 2-12)
2. Concerns - Tom (SLIDE # 13 only)
3. Steps - Kirsten (SLIDE # 14 only)
4. Supporters - Lucas (SLIDE # 15 only)
5. Overview - Cybil (SLIDES # 16-24)
6. Possible Locations & Rankings - Jack (SLIDES # 25-40)
7. Residential Reach - Jack (SLIDES # 41-47)
8. Types - Darrell (SLIDES # 48-54)
9. Concept Renderings - Lucas (SLIDES # 55 - 60)
10. Funding - Jack Anthony (SLIDES # 61-65)
11. Timeline - Kirsten (SLIDES # 66 - 69)
12. Partners & Supporters - Kirsten (SLIDES # 70-81)
13. Summary - Anthony (SLIDES # 82 - 84)

I. Running through presentation - the committee gave specific feedback to Jeff about any needed changes, suggestions and support to each other as we ran through our slides.

Committee met to review, practice and finalize changes to presentation before the March 26th Meeting.
Committee questioned how long the RFP process is through the city? Anthony will check in this question.

In Preparation for the meeting on March 26th Anthony will print a hard copy of the presentation and is meeting with the IT guy from the city to make sure the PowerPoint works. Suggestion was made to have the PowerPoint in a thumb drive as well.

II. Public Comment - Troy Chase asked a question about the committee’s preference of type of skate park? Cybil wrote down the question specifically and will email it to the committee to add to our notes here.

• Public Comment:
  Troy Chase asked the committee what is the 2nd or 3rd choice for type of skatepark after in ground concrete?
  Response from committee members was our recommendation is concrete. As a committee we can advise but it will depend on the site, public input and builders suggestions whether it is an in ground aka build down or build up.

III. Tom Long read aloud a statement on Troy Chase that he asked to have go on record. It is below.

• Tom Long asked for a statement below to be included as a part of the record…

Statement for record on Troy Chase

South Portland resident Troy Chase has been coming to all of the meetings of the South Portland Skatepark Committee. In physical manner, in tone, in word selection, and in electronic communication he has created a hostile environment. In monthly repetition of questions already addressed, in requests of immediate copies of information which will be included once the committee has had time to formalize each meeting’s minutes, and in combative and condescending tone, has shown that his efforts are solely to obstruct the mandate of the committee: which is to navigate a path towards getting a skatepark for South Portland. When asked directly by a committee member what compromises would be necessary to get him on board with the committee’s mission, his answer was – nothing.

The South Portland Skatepark Committee is a collection of volunteers selected for the positions, unpaid, and giving of their own time. We are here to achieve a purpose, and that directive is hindered by the consistent interactions that Troy Chase initiates. Let these concerns be of record.

• Troy Chase would like a direct copy of the statement in addition to it being included in the minutes. meeting adjourned

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Statement from Troy Chase
This is a rebuttal of the March 13th, 2019 statement made by South Portland skatepark committee member, Tom Long about South Portland resident and public attendee Troy Chase. Tom Long's statement indicated that Troy Chase was a "hostile" member of the public at each and every one of the skatepark committee meetings. Please read the following as it gives you an idea of what occurred at these meetings.

1) After the initial public skatepark meeting held on June 18, 2018 at the Community Center and during one of the early skatepark committee meetings of the selected candidates they discussed locations, in particular Legere Park. During the public comments section Troy Chase spoke up and asked the committee if they realized that Knightville, not just Legere, was the gateway to all the city public services.
   - By this I mean that we have the CMP substation with all the large delivery transmission lines that run across Legere and is about to be expanded. We also have the natural gas distribution lines which are the large pipes that come over from Portland and run under the Fore River and are buried under Thomas Knight Park with a "control vault" for controlling the gas flow through the pipes that run under Waterman Drive next to Legere.
   - We also have the sewer plant that has the runoff and sewer lines that run next to Legere as well as the Observation Monitoring Well to test for seepage. When Troy spoke of these things, Jeff Woodbury, one of the committee members, asked him a question. "How long have you lived in Knightville". Troy replied "20 years". His reply, in a condescending tone was "then you knew what was there when you bought in there". He obviously thought that I was making a complaint. I was simply making a statement as to the complexity of the Knightville area to make them aware of what was there.

2) Tom Long’s statement indicates that Troy Chase was hostile in "physical manner". I have no idea as to what he is implying by that statement and furthermore I have never met Tom Long or any of the other committee members prior to the skatepark committee. They neither know me or have any knowledge of my natural "body language" or issues that I may face physically.

3) Tom Long's statement also says "When asked directly by a committee member what compromises would be necessary to get him on board with the committee's mission, his answer was-nothing". Tom Long knows perfectly well that reply from me was in regards to Legere Park only. I have no obligation to compromise on putting a skatepark in Legere Park. I have been on record at council meetings, District meetings and in the Sentry and Forcaster as saying "No one is against a skatepark in South Portland". It is well known that all of the committee member's had expressed their desire and preference to locate a skatepark in
Legere/Millcreek area. It was expressed at the June 18th, 2018 initial skatepark public meeting at the Community Center and through actions such as newspaper articles, petitions to the city council etc. It's on record.

4) Tom Long's statement indicates that "in monthly repetition of questions already addressed, in request of immediate copies of information which will be included once the committee has had time to formalize each meeting's minutes, and in combative and condescending tone, has shown that his efforts are solely to obstruct the mandate of the committee, which is to navigate a path towards getting a skatepark for South Portland". Again, I am on record in both the Sentry, Forecaster, at recorded City Council meetings and at the January 17th, 2019 District 2 recorded meeting as saying "No one is against a skatepark in South Portland, we want the skatepark in South Portland".

- As residents, we are entitled to information about this project or other projects and we are entitled to clarification of information or further information in order to make a wise decision and to protect our homes and neighborhoods. All residents are entitled to that. Just for the record, Tom Long is not a resident of South Portland but he would be entitled to that in his community.
- Furthermore, a resident of South Portland had to go to the city and address the lack of minutes from these meetings and the lack of recording public input. That is on record.

5) The committee has stated they did their "due diligence" in researching. The committee originally had 3 locations in mind for the skatepark in Knightville. Thomas Knight Park, Legere Park and the small strip of land directly in front of the sewer plant. It is through the extensive research from some Knightville residents that we found a lot of valuable information for them and saved them considerable time. This includes finding and presenting the following:

- CMP Public Utility Easement that is on the city owned portion of Legere Park (not their section that they own outright).
- We also presented them with the 1964 MDOT construction plans that show the construction of Waterman Drive and the creation of Legere Park and why it is filled with a particular type of tree, a visible decline or sloping of the park from E Street to C Street and the large embankment. These are all used for soil erosion prevention and drainage AND to support the Waterman Drive roadway. It's in the MDOT plans.
- We presented them with the natural gas distribution system information that runs under and through Thomas Knight
- We presented them the information about Observation Monitoring Well and drainage pipes located in the small strip of land in front of the sewer plant. These are mandated by the EPA.

6) At one of the committee meetings they did a comparison between Portland's Dougherty Field and the proposed skatepark in Legere. They indicated that the Dougherty Field residents did not have any problems and that residents around Legere would be the same distance from the skatepark as the Dougherty residents.

That statement was a source of contention and we knew that was a misstatement. Dougherty Field is 18.5 acres versus .83 acres for Legere. Dougherty's skatepark sits across the field, a distance of 1/3 mile away from the closest house. It's in a remote corner with no houses around it, only 3 commercial buildings. Legere's skatepark would be less then 160 feet from the closest house due to setback requirement, CMP's ownership and the buffer zones as well as the child's play area, basketball court and the 3 utility poles in Legere. The only thing that is the same is that in both locations, where there are houses they are the same distance from the PROPERTY
LINES. It was at that point one of the committee members called one of the Knightville residents a "NIMBY" person.

7) There have been instances where Jeff Woodbury brushed me off with statements such as "we hear you" then quickly turned his attention away. At the last committee meeting on March 13th, public comments were called for and one of the committee members stated that as public comments were not asked for at the previous meeting on March 6th and that Troy Chase had called their attention to it, Jeff Woodbury spoke up and said "OH YES, TROY CHASE"

- After almost 3 months of meetings, the committee adopted a new "public comment" policy. Initially it was 5 minutes at the end of the meeting. They changed it to 2 minutes at the beginning of the meeting. Several of us expressed our displeasure at that because we could not comment on what was discussed until the next meeting. After the complaints, and one from a former city councilor and mayor, it was changed back.

8) At the very beginning of these skatepark discussion, several Knightville residents recognized that Legere Park is not the appropriate place to have a skatepark. We pointed out that Legere is on the east side of South Portland, exactly 3 miles from Portland's Dougherty Field skatepark. This gives east side residents relatively easy access to 2 skateparks in a 3 mile radius while at the sametime, both of those skateparks are much harder for kids in the west side to access. It's a long bus ride or they have to keep requesting rides.

9) The committee, was and still is, focused on the Greenbelt access, but the Greenbelt does NOT go up to District 5 (Redbank and Mall area) and it is way out in the wilderness in District 4 (Thornton Heights). It is not an option for those kids.

10) Knightville residents have repeatedly tried to get the committee to focus more on the central and west side needs as that is where most of the schools are. The committee themselves keep bringing up the fact that there are schools close by to Legere. The balance will tip even further to the west with the closing of Mahoney.

Last of all, at the January 17th, 2019 District 2 meeting, I spoke at the meeting and said, "There are a few very aggressive skatepark committee members and the rest are followers". By making that statement I was saying that this whole process has been run by a few of the skatepark committee members while the others have barely spoken up.

In fact, one skatepark committee member only showed up for the first 2 or 3 meetings, was late to those, and hasn't been seen since. There was no explanation given to the public. I am not criticizing all the members and you may have noticed that I have not, up until this statement, mentioned specific names out of courtesy.

It's just a few that have treated some of us South Portland resident's as if we are 130 points short of Mensa eligibility.

Thank you,
Troy Chase
42 A Street
South Portland, ME 04106