

>> AT THAT FORM, YOU CAN ALSO RECORD A VIDEO, WHICH WE'LL PLAY AT THE END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR THE RELEVANT HEARING. AND YOU CAN ALSO INFORMALLY TWEET US OFF QUESTIONS, AT BOF BUDGET. WE WANT YOUR INFORMATION AS TO HOW THE CITY'S MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT. TODAY'S HEARING IS 0588, FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET, INCLUDING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS, FOR THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS. ORDERS FOR CAPITAL FUND TRANSFER AP PROPE APPRECIATIONS. COLLECTIVELY, THEY MAKE UP THE CITY'S F.Y.I. '21 FOR THE MAYOR. IS AN AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING A LIMIT FOR THE REVOLVING FUND, AND 0557, FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF THE GEORGE FRANCIS FUNDS, TWO FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE UP FOR CONSIDERATION TODAY. OUR HEARING TODAY IS FOCUSED ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND, AS I SAID, ON THE PARKS REVOLVING FUND, RELATED TO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AND THE PARKING FUND. WE'RE LUCKY TO BE JOINED TODAY BY CHIEF COOKE, WHO IS THREE FOR THREE ON THE DAY FOR HEARINGS, AND THEN COMMISSIONER WOODS, FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON. AND WE'RE ALSO JOINED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE AT PARKS AND

RECREATION, BY DIANE  
BELLFAST, DIRECTOR OF  
H.R., STEPHANIE McMANIS,  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AND  
LIZA MEYER, THE CHIEF  
ARCHITECT FOR PARKS AND  
REC.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
HEARING FROM THE WHOLE  
TEAM.

WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, I  
WILL TURN IT OVER TO CHIEF  
COOKE.

CHIEF COOKE, YOU'RE MUTED.  
THREE FOR THREE, BUT NOT  
YET A PRO.

>> IS THAT BETTER,  
COUNCILOR?

>> YES.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
IT WAS REALLY NOT WORTH  
UNMUTING ME BECAUSE I'M  
JUST GOING TO SAY IN  
DEFERENCE TO YOUR  
QUESTIONS, I'M GOING TO  
LET MR. WOODS BEGIN WITH  
THE OPENING STATEMENT.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, MY NAME  
IS RYAN WOODS.

I AM PROUD TO SERVE AS THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE BOSTON  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT.

THIS IS MY FIRST HEARING  
ATTENDING THIS HEARING AS  
A COMMISSIONER, I'VE BEEN  
WORKING WITH THE BOSTON  
PARKS DEPARTMENT TEAM FOR  
THE PAST 14 YEARS.

JOINING ME IS

(indiscernable) AND LIZA  
MEYER, STEPHANIE

McMANIS, AND DIANE  
BELLFAST, AND OUR DIRECTOR  
OF MAINTENANCE.

SO, I'D FIRST LIKE TO  
THANK THE COUNCIL FOR  
THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR  
DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT IS MORE  
INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE  
BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT AND  
LEADERSHIP.

AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO

WORKING TOGETHER IN THIS  
UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR.  
OUR DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON  
THREE MAIN AREAS: ACCESS,  
EQUITY, AND EXCELLENCE.  
ACCESS UNDER MAYOR WALSH'S  
LEADERSHIP, WE ENSURE THAT  
ALL BOSTON RESIDENTS ARE  
WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK  
FROM THROUGH FRONT DOOR TO  
THE PARK.

AND WE ARE THE FIRST ONE  
ON THE EAST COAST WITH  
THIS DELINEATION.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES AND  
RENOVATION OF CAPITAL  
THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A  
FOURTH PILLAR TO OUR LIST  
THIS YEAR.

AND THAT'S ADAPTABILITY.  
WE'VE HAD TO ADAPT TO THE  
NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENTS IN  
EACH COMMUNITY, ADAPT TO  
OUR EVER-CHANGING CLIMATE,  
AND DURING THIS PANDEMIC,  
WE ARE REVOLVING THE  
SPACES FOR ALL OF OUR  
RESIDENTS TO ENJOY.

[INAUDIBLE]

[THE AUDIO WENT OFF]

>> I'D LIKE TO ESPECIALLY  
CALL OUT OUR ATTENTION TO  
THE MAINTENANCE STAFF THAT  
HAVE BEEN SANITIZING THE  
PARKS AND MAKING SURE  
THEY'RE CLEAN.

AND THOSE WHO ARE DAILY  
OPERATING OUR ANIMAL  
SHELTERS.

AND OUR PARK RANGERS THAT  
ENSURE OUR PARKS ARE SAFE.  
THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE  
BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT  
CEMETERY STAFF ARE  
ENSURING THAT EACH BURIAL  
IS PERFORMED WITH THE  
UTMOST RESPECT.

THIS MONTH WE'RE LIKELY TO  
HIT 100 ALONE.

WE'RE VERY PROUD OF OUR  
STAFF, THEIR WILLINGNESS  
TO SET UP AND WORK THROUGH  
THIS CRISIS TO ENSURE OUR

PARK OPERATIONS CONTINUE,  
AND OUR PARKS HAVE BEEN  
BUSY, AND IT IS A PLACE  
WHERE OUR RESIDENTS CAN GO  
OUTSIDE.

IT HELPS REDUCE STRESS  
LEVELS AND IMPROVE HEALTH,  
AND OUR PARKS REMAIN AN  
ESSENTIAL PLACE DURING  
THIS COVID CRISIS.

WE'VE HAD A SUCCESSFUL  
TRANSITION OF THE ANIMAL  
CARE AND CONTROL DIVISION,  
WHICH INCLUDES THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
NON-PROFIT FUND OR ANIMAL  
CARE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME OUR  
ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL  
DIVISION WILL BE ABLE TO  
ACCEPT DONATIONS.

EIGHT NEW SEASONAL RANGERS  
JUST THIS PAST WEEK HAVE  
COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING  
AND ARE OUT IN THE PARKS,  
ANSWERING QUESTIONS AND  
ENFORCING PARK ORDINANCES.

IN TERMS OF DESIGN AND  
CONSTRUCTION, IT HAS BEEN  
A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR US,  
UNTIL THIS SPRING, WHERE  
WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE  
CAPITAL PROJECTS AT  
JAMAICA POND, SMITH FIELD,  
RESERVATION ROAD, AND  
CASSIDY.

WE BEGAN CONSTRUCTION AT  
FLAHERTY IN SOUTH BOSTON,  
DORCHESTER PARK, BEDFORD,  
EVAN, THE PLAYGROUNDS, AND  
WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF  
CONTRACT EXECUTION FOR  
MARY HANNAN, AS WELL  
COPLAND SQUARE.

WE'RE AWARDED WITH THE  
TOWN OF BROOKLYN AND THE  
TOWN OF CORPS ENGINEERS, A  
\$35.5 MILLION PROJECT.

AND WE'RE PARTNERING TO  
COMPLETE THE RESTORATION  
PROJECT ON THE 54th  
RESIDENT MEMORIAL.

AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION  
ALLOWS, WE'LL BE DOING AN

ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IN PREP  
PREPARATION FOR THE KING  
MEMORIAL.

WE KICKED OFF BOSTON  
COMMON AND MOAKLEY PARK,  
AND WE JUST STARTED WITH  
OUR BOSTON PARKS PRIORITY  
PLAN, WHICH I KNOW YOU  
HEARD A LITTLE BIT ABOUT  
IN THE ENVIRONMENT HEARING  
THIS MORNING.

WE EXPANDED TO EXPAND THE  
CYCLING IN OUR PARKS, AND  
TO EDUCATION RESIDENTS OF  
THE IMPORTANCE.

WE ISSUED JUST OVER 3500  
PERMITS FOR WEDDINGS,  
ATHLETICS, AND SPECIAL  
EVENTS.

IN OUR CEMETERIES, WE  
BURIED OVER 496 RESIDENTS,  
AND WE INSTALLED NEW  
ROADWAYS AND HISTORIC  
SIGNAGE.

I KNOW COUNCIL BRADEN WAS  
INTERESTED IN THE  
EVERGREEN CEMETERY.

WE CREATED MORE DEDICATED  
VETERANS' BURIAL AREAS, AS  
WELL AS INDIGENT GRAVES.

AND WE PLANTED OVER 30,000  
PLANTS AND FLOWERS, THAT  
60 DEDICATED SITES, AND  
PLANTED 55,000 BULBS  
BOUT THE CITY.

FOR FISCAL YEAR '21, THIS  
PROPOSED BUDGET IS A 3.9%  
INCREASE IN OPERATING  
FUNDS OVER FISCAL YEAR  
'20, WHICH IS AN INCREASE  
OF A MILLION DOLLARS TO  
OUR OPERATION.

IT INCLUDES SIX NEW  
POSITIONS, FOUR IN  
MAINTENANCE, AND ONE IN  
URBAN WILD AND ONE IN  
URBAN AREA.

IT WILL HELP REDUCE  
OVERTIME RESPONSE, IN  
RESPONSE TO THE  
COVID-19-RELATED ISSUES IN  
OUR PARKS, CLEANUP, ETC.  
IT WOULD WORK WEDNESDAYS  
THROUGH MONDAY, FROM 1:00

TO 9:00.

WE'RE GOING TO BETTER  
MAINTAIN OUR URBAN WILDS  
THROUGH A GARDENER  
FOREPERSON, WHICH IS  
FUNDED.

URBAN WILD HAS BEEN  
LARGELY DEPENDENT ON  
VOLUNTEER GROUPS.

WE HOPE TO CREATE A MASTER  
PLAN TO BETTER UNDERSTAND  
THE AREAS OF POTENTIAL  
IMPROVEMENT IN OR CANOPY,  
AND AFFORD MORE STAFF TO  
ADDRESS TREE MORALITY,  
OVERSEE WARRANTY ISSUES,  
AND QUICK MANY RESPOND TO  
DOWNED TREE ISSUES.

WE'RE EXCITED WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO PLANT 3,000 TREES,  
WHICH IS A MILLION DOLLAR  
INCREASE IN CAPITAL OVER  
THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR '20.  
AND THERE IS NEW FUNDING  
IN PLACE FOR SAFETY  
SERVICING AND PLAYGROUNDS.

WE'LL HAVE COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH AND ENGAGING  
AROUND OUR MASTER PLANS  
AND OUR COMMUNITY CENTER  
PARK RENOVATION PROJECT.  
WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT  
THE PROJECT TO IMPROVE  
ACCESSABILITY AND SITE  
CONDITIONS.

THIS FUNDING IS TO  
CONTINUE PHASE 2 AND PHASE  
3, AND WE'RE LOOKING  
FORWARD TO LOOKING FORWARD  
TO DESIGN FOR MAL COM FOR MALCOLM  
STREET AND MILLENNIAL PLAY  
AREA.

IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE  
WITHOUT OUR 161 FRIENDS  
GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE  
CITY.

WE OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE  
TO OUR ADVOCATES, THAT  
THEY COME TOGETHER TO FORM  
THE BOSTON PARK ADVOCATES,  
TO HELP GUIDE US, KEEP US  
ON OUR TOES AND MAKE SURE  
WE'RE MOVING OUR PARK  
SYSTEM FORWARD.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
MAKING THESE IMPROVEMENTS,  
AND WITH THAT, I'D LIKE TO  
OPEN IT UP FOR ANY  
QUESTIONS THAT THE COUNCIL  
MAY HAVE.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH,  
COMMISSIONER WOODS.

AN EXCITING SET OF THINGS  
TO TALK ABOUT.

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY  
COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE JOINED  
US, COUNCILOR EDWARD  
FLYNN, COUNCILOR MATT  
O'MALLEY, AND COUNCILOR  
FRANK BAKER FROM DIRECT 3,  
AND COUNCILOR ANNISSA  
ESSAIBI GEORGE, AND ANDREA  
CAMPBELL FROM DIRECT 4.  
SO WE'LL JUMP RIGHT INTO  
QUESTIONS.

I THINK -- I SUSPECT THE  
PARKS TEAM WAS WATCHING  
THE ENVIRONMENT HEARING  
THIS MORNING, BUT JUST IN  
CASE, SO EVERYONE KNOWS,  
I, AFTER FIVE MINUTES,  
WILL RAISE MY GAVEL, LIKE  
THIS, AND THEN THERE IS  
ANOTHER TWO-MINUTE GRACE  
PERIOD, AND THEN MY  
FOREARM WILL GO UP.  
IF A MEMBER IS SPEAKING,  
FEEL FREE TO FINISH YOUR  
THOUGHT, BUT JUST KNOW  
WE'RE TRYING TO MOVE  
ALONG.

I KNOW THIS IS A CHALLENGE  
BECAUSE COUNCILORS HAVE SO  
MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR  
PARKS.

I THINK YOU SAW THAT FROM  
THE QUESTIONS WE SEND SENT  
WE SENT OVER FROM OUR WORKING SESSIONS.

I KNOW YOU'RE COMING TO  
THIS PREPARED TO ADDRESS  
MANY OF THEM.

I WOULD JUST SAY TO  
COUNCILORS THAT I WOULD  
REALLY ENCOURAGE TO THE  
MAXIMUM DEGREE POSSIBLE  
FOR PEOPLE TO ASK A  
QUESTION AND LET IT BE

ANSWERED.

I THINK WE'VE BEEN RUNNING INTO A CHALLENGE WHERE FOLKS ASK FIVE MINUTES OF QUESTIONS AND THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME TO GET TO THE ANSWERS.

I WILL RESERVE MY QUESTIONS TO THE END.

I WILL FIRST RECOGNIZE COUNCILOR EDWARD FLYNN, AND THEN I'LL PUT THE REST OF THE ORDER INTO THE CHAT.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

AND THANK YOU TO COMMISSIONER WOODS AND CHIEF COOKE AND THE PARKS TEAM FOR EXCELLENT WORK. WE HAVE A LOT OF DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS, CITY EMPLOYEES THAT WORK THERE. I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS.

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU.

COMMISSIONER, MOSTLY PARKS CERTAINLY IS GETTING A LOT OF FUNDING FOR MAJOR RENOVATIONS.

MY -- I PLAY BALL THERE.

I GET A LOT OF REQUESTS THERE OVER THE YEARS.

JUST FROM PEOPLE THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE SPORTS PROGRAM, JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KNOW THAT SPORTS AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THEM.

YES, IT IS.

AND I WAS GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH SOME OF THE LEADERS OF THESE SPORTS PROGRAMS A FEW MONTHS AGO, SET UP BY HAYLEY DYLAN, SO WE COULD HEAR THEIR CONCERNS.

THEY SPECIFICALLY TALKED THROUGH IT, THAT THESE ARE JUST HOLDING PLACES, AND WE'RE ABLE TO WORK JOINTLY TOGETHER AND HAVE ROBUST COMMUNITY MEETINGS AS WE PHASE THIS PROJECT OUT.



PEOPLE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE TRAPS STAYED DOWN BY THE "K" CIRCLE SIDE, AND MAKE SURE THAT THE BABE RUTH FIELDS STAYED DOWN CLOSER TO THE CIRCLE SIDE.

WE'VE MADE THOSE ADJUSTMENTS, AND WILL BE COMING FORWARD TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THAT. IT IS JUST THE START OF A VISION PLAN, AND WE WILL BE HAVING A ROBUST COMMUNITY CONVERSATION, SO NOTHING IS DESIGNED COMPLETELY RIGHT NOW. WE'RE GOING INTO AN OPEN PROCESS.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

I WAS AT MY FAVORITE PARK IN THE CITY YESTERDAY WITH BRIAN BISHOP WITH THE VETERANS DEPARTMENT, AND WE WERE AT A PARK YESTERDAY, AND IT LOOKS BEAUTIFUL UP THERE.

WHAT IS THE LATEST IN TERMS OF OUR PLANNING FOR THE PARK, ESPECIALLY WITH THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA?

>> YEAH.

SO WE ARE WORKING, ALONG WITH COLLINS JOY PROJECT, AND RESIDENTS ON ADDING MORE TWO TO FIVE PLAY ELEMENTS THERE.

AND THAT WAS SOMETHING WE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR, AND THE MAYOR HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR, WHEN WE WENT OUT TO THE COMMUNITY, THAT THE PLAYGROUND WAS A NICE DESIGN, BUT IT IS FOCUSED MORE ON THE 5 TO 12-YEAR-OLD AGE GROUP.

[INAUDIBLE]

>> THEY GAVE THEMSELVES THEIR PIRATE NAMES ON THEIR NAME TAGS.

OFTENTIMES WE HEAR FROM PARENTS, BUT NOT FROM THE KIDS.

THAT PROJECT WILL BE  
STARTING -- I'M LOOKING AT  
THE EXACT -- WHEN WE HAVE  
IT ON HERE.

IT SHOULD BE GOING INTO  
CONSTRUCTION DURING THE  
FALL.

>> I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU  
TO THE PARKS FOR TAKING  
AND INVESTING IN THE PARKS  
THAT DESPERATELY NEED  
FIXING UP.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU  
FOR THAT COMMITMENT.

HOW ARE WE DOING WITH  
PETER'S PARK IN THE SOUTH  
END, COMMISSIONER?

>> PETER'S PARK IN THE  
SOUTH END IS GETTING SOME  
OF THEIR C.P.A. FUNDING AS  
SOON AS WE CAN START  
CONSTRUCTION.

SOME OF THOSE PROJECTS  
WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH  
BATTING CAGES, IN SHADE  
STRUCTURES OVER THE  
BENCHES THAT THE COMMUNITY  
ASKED FOR WITH THE SUPPORT  
OF THE COUNCIL, AND IT WAS  
GRANTED.

SO THAT CONSTRUCTION IS  
STARTING, AND THEN  
ADDITIONALLY IN THIS  
PROPOSED BUDGET WE HAVE  
WORK ON THE BALL FIELD.  
SO PETER'S PARK HAS BEEN  
PIECE BY PIECE OVER  
DIFFERENT PHASES.

AND NOW THERE IS FUNDING  
IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET TO  
ACTUALLY DO SOME WORK ON  
THE BALL FIELD.

>> THEY HAVE A LOT OF THE  
BEST YOUTH BASEBALL  
PROGRAMS IN THE CITY, SO  
THANK YOU TO THE MAYOR FOR  
HIS INVESTMENT IN PETER'S  
PARK.

ALSO, I KNOW THE ONGOING  
MASTER PLAN AT THE BOSTON  
COMMON, THE PUBLIC GARDEN  
IS GOING WELL.

IT IS GREAT TO WORK WITH  
THE FRIENDS GROUP THERE.

WHAT'S THE LATEST ON THE BOSTON COMMON?

I'M ALSO -- I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE IT IS ALWAYS A SAFE PLACE FOR RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS THAT WANT TO VISIT FOR FAMILIES.

WHAT'S THE LATEST AS IT ADDRESSES SAFETY CONCERNS?

>> SURE.

SO I THINK WE'RE VERY EXCITED WE JUST GARNERED EIGHT NEW POSITIONS, SEASONAL PARK RANGERS THAT STARTED THIS PAST WEEK OR SO.

WE'LL SEE MORE ENFORCEMENT OUT THERE.

THERE IS MORE POLICE PRESENCE ON THE COMMONS, A PRESENCE THAT CAPTAIN FONG HAS ON THE PROVINCE.

I THINK WE'RE COMING UP WITH EXCITING IDEAS THROUGHOUT THE MASTER PLAN OF CAMERA LOCATIONS AND SAFETY PLANS AND HOW WE GO ABOUT THAT.

LIZA, DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE MASTER PLAN?

>> SURE.

I GUESS I WOULD ALSO ADD ANOTHER ASPECT OF SAFETY IS BEING ABLE TO GET TO AND FROM THE PARK SAFELY. AND I'LL JUST ADD THAT WE'RE COORDINATING WITH THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT ON THEIR PROJECT, LOOKING AT THE DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD, AND LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAKE THOSE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS SAFER, EXPAND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND MAKE THIS IS A MORE WALKABLE, BIKEABLE PARK IN THE CITY. SO THAT'S THEIR PROJECT. BUT HOW IT RELATES TO BOSTON COMMON AND THE ADJACENT PUBLIC GARDEN AND THE MALL ARE REALLY IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THAT

WORK.

>> THANK YOU, LIZA.  
AND I GUESS MY FINAL  
POINT, I WON'T ASK A  
QUESTION.

BUT I LOVE THE BOSTON  
COMMON.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT  
TRANSPORTATION-WISE OR  
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY-WISE, I  
WANT TO SEE A BETTER  
CONNECTION FROM CHINATOWN  
TO THE BOSTON COMMON OR  
CHINATOWN TO THE PUBLIC  
GARDEN, JUST MAKING SURE  
THAT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IS  
IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY FOR  
THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS WHO  
WANT TO GET FROM CHINATOWN  
TO THE BOSTON COMMON.

I SEE THEM IN THE MORNING,  
ESPECIALLY THE SENIOR  
CITIZENS, WHO ARE DOING  
THEIR EXERCISE, AND THEY  
REALLY ENJOY THE PARK.  
THEY LOVE THE PARK.

THEY JUST ASK ME IF THERE  
IS A BETTER WAY FOR THEM  
TO WALK FROM CHINATOWN  
INTO THE COMMON BECAUSE  
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IS A  
CONCERN.

SO IT IS PROBABLY A  
COLLABORATION OF  
TRANSPORTATION POLICE IN  
THE PARKS AS WELL,  
SOMETHING I'VE TALKED TO  
OUR COMMISSIONER WOODS AND  
CHIEF COOKE, TOO.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

>> THANK YOU.

IS THAT MY TIME?

>> THAT IS.

YOU HAVE ABOUT 30 SECONDS  
OF GRACE PERIOD LEFT.

>> OKAY.

I MIGHT AS WELL USE IT UP.

I WANT TO SAY, AGAIN,  
THANK YOU TO THE DEDICATED  
AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF AT  
THE PUBLIC PARKS AND  
RECREATIONS.

WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING  
YOU DO.

YOU'RE UNSUNG HEROS IN OUR CITY.

AND WE NOTICE EVERYTHING -- OUR PARKS ARE IN GREAT CONDITION BECAUSE OF OUR DEDICATED EMPLOYEES.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR FLYNN.

AND ON YOUR SHARED ADVOCACY FOR MAKING IT SAFE FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT THE COMMON AND THE GARDEN.

[INAUDIBLE]

>> ALL RIGHT.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE NOW -- THERE WENT THE TIME.

[BUZZER]

>> NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR BRADEN, AND THEN COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

COUNCILOR BRADEN?

>> THANK YOU, EVERYONE. PARKS IS AN ISSUE THAT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART. I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO HAVE A DOG PARK AT SMITH FIELD?

WE PROBABLY HAVE MORE DOGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAN CHILDREN AT THIS POINT.

SO A DOG PARK -- WE DON'T HAVE A DOG PARK -- AN OFFICIAL DOG PARK ANYWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A DOG PARK?

>> THERE IS, COUNCILOR.

IT WAS MOSTLY JUST ATHLETIC FIELDS IN PHASE 2, AND WE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR, AND SO THERE WAS DESIGN ADDED FOR A DOG RECREATION SPACE IN PHASE 2.

>> THAT'S A NICE WAY TO PUT IT, DOG RECREATION SPACE.

SO THE (indiscernable) PARK ON LAKE SHORE ROAD HAS BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN. AND THEY WERE TRYING TO

GET SOME MONEY FROM THE C.P.A., BUT THEY SAID THEY HAVE TO HAVE A SCOPING PROCESS.

SO THE SCOPING, HOW LONG DOES THAT TAKE?

AND IS THAT ON THE LIST OF PROJECTS THAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT?

IT IS A REALLY ACTIVE GROUP OF FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN PICKING UP LITTER AND PLANTING MEMORIAL TREES FOR FOLKS.

AND, YOU KNOW, IT IS JUST THIS SCOPING PART OF IT THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT IS HOLDING THEM UP IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR C.P.A. SUPPORT.

>> YES.

I WAS VERY GRATEFUL TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE CHANCE OF CHAM LAST AUGUST, AND THEY TOOK ME AROUND ALL THEIR FAVORITE SPOTS.

WE CAME UP WITH SOME CREATIVE THOUGHTS.

WE SOMETIMES HAVE SOME ARBORISTS AND TREE COMPANIES LOOKING TO HELP. SO WE'RE LOOKING INTO THAT, TO SEE IF THERE IS SOME WORK THAT CAN BE DONE.

AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE'RE WORKING ON THE SCOPE.

IT WAS MORE OF A STAFFING ISSUE.

THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES OUR URBAN WILDCATS, PAUL SUTTON, HAS THAT ON HIS PLATE AND WILL BE WORKING ON THAT.

IN THIS PROPOSED BUDGET, WE'RE ADDING A SECOND POSITION TO THE URBAN WILDCATS POSITION, WHICH WILL LET HIM BE ABLE TO FOCUS MORE ON THE SCOPING WORK.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT --  
MAKING PROGRESS ON THAT  
ISSUE.

I HAVE AN INQUIRY ABOUT  
PICKLE BALLS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS  
SUCH A THING AS PICKLE  
BALL UNTIL THIS WEEK.  
SOME OF THE ELDERS WANTS  
TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE  
TENNIS COURTS TO PLAY  
PICKLE BALL.

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WAS  
ON YOUR AGENDA?

>> IT IS.

EVERY TIME WE DO A  
RESURFACING OF OUR TENNIS  
COURTS, WE ARE ADDING THE  
LINE FOR THE PICKLE BALL.  
WE'RE ADDING THOSE IN, AND  
I'M VERY PROUD TO REPORT  
THE FIRST ONES IN YOUR  
DISTRICT ARE AT CASSIDY,  
WHICH ARE ALREADY  
COMPLETED.

WHEN THAT OPENS THIS  
SPRING, YOU WILL HAVE TWO  
OF THE FINEST PICKLE BALL  
COURTS.

>> THANK YOU.

I'LL GET MY PADDLE READY.

>> LET'S SEE.

RINGER PARK, IT NEEDED A  
LOT OF WORK.

IN THE MASTER PLAN -- I  
JUST WANTED AN UPDATE ON  
THE RINGER PARK MASTER  
PLAN.

>> I'M GOING TO ASK LIZA  
MEYER, WHO IS MORE ON TOP  
OF THAT, TO REPLY.

>> YES.

THE RINGER PARK MASTER  
PLAN IS ONE OF THE  
PROJECTS IN REQUEST FOR  
QUALIFICATIONS THAT IS OUT  
FOR DESIGNER RESPONSES  
RIGHT NOW.

SO WE EXPECT ALL OF THE  
RESPONSES TO GET BACK TO  
US TOMORROW.

AND THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO  
REVIEW THE POTENTIAL

DESIGNERS AND MAKE SELECTIONS AND START THOSE PROJECTS.

SO RINGER PARK IS ON THAT LIST.

THERE IS A BIG GROUP OF PROJECTS ON THAT LIST. AND WE'LL ENGAGE WITH FRIENDS OF RINGER PARK AND THE DESIGN TEAM ALL TOGETHER TO PRIORITIZE INVESTMENTS, IDENTIFY NEEDS, AND, YOU KNOW, SCOPE PHASING FOR MAKING IMPROVEMENTS IN THAT PROPERTY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

>> VERY GOOD.

THE OTHER THING WE HAVE, AS YOU MENTIONED, WE HAVE A WONDERFUL CIVIL WAR CEMETERY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, THE EVERGREEN CEMETERY. AT THE VERY BACK END, THERE ARE UNDERUSED AREAS THAT HAVE A LOT OF OLD TREES AND THINGS.

I WAS WONDERING, IN TERMS OF OUR TREE CANOPY, IS THERE ANY SCOPE THERE TO LOOK AT DEVELOPING -- NOT NECESSARILY MAKING IT INTO BURIAL GROUNDS, BUT TO ENHANCE IT IS WITH REPLANTING OF NEW TREES OR CLEANING IT UP FOR WALKING OR SOMETHING AT THE BACK END OF THE EVERGREEN CEMETERY.

>> YES.

WE'RE HAPPY TO LOOK INTO THAT.

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO INCREASE OUR TREE CANOPY.

WE'RE SEEING A LOT OF ACTIVE WALKERS, MORE SO NOW THAN IN THE PAST.

WE HAD NEW SIGNAGE -- I THINK WE HAD SOME MISMATCHED SIGNAGE ON SOME OF THE ROADS AND PATHWAYS IN THERE.



SO WE WERE ABLE TO  
COMPLETE THAT AT THE BEGIN  
BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.  
I THINK WE'RE PUTTING A  
LOT OF ATTENTION TO  
EVERGREEN, AND LOOKING AT  
THE CANOPY IS A GREAT WAY  
TO MOVE FORWARD.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL  
OF YOUR WORK.

I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

AND I'LL NOT TAKE ANYMORE  
TIME.

I KNOW THERE ARE MANY  
OTHER COUNCILORS WITH  
QUESTIONS.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH,  
COUNCILOR BRADEN.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR  
O'MALLEY AND THEN  
COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

THANK YOU FOR EXCEPTIONAL  
SERVICE, PARTICULARLY NOW.

WE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT OUR  
PARKS ARE IN GOOD TIMES,  
BUT IN THIS PANDEMIC, THEY  
HAVE BEEN A SAFE HAVEN FOR  
FOLKS TO GET OUT THERE,  
AND YOU AND YOUR TEAM HAVE  
BEEN JUST REMARKABLE,

MAKING SURE WER ABLE TO WE'RE ABLE TO  
SUPPORT THE EXCESS  
CAPACITY AND TO MAKE SURE  
PEOPLE ARE SAFE.

MY ONLY CRITICISM OF YOU,  
COMMISSIONER, IS THAT YOU  
DIDN'T BRING YOUR  
BEAUTIFUL, TWO-WEEK-OLD  
BABY TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THIS ZOOM CALL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND  
LOREN ON A BEAUTIFUL  
ADDITION OF YOUR FAMILY.

>> THANK YOU.

HOPEFULLY I DON'T SHOW THE  
THREE HOURS OF SLEEP I HAD  
LAST NIGHT.

>> NOT AT ALL.

SPEAKING OF FAMILY, I WILL  
BEGIN MY LINE OF  
QUESTIONING WITH ROXBURY  
HAS SEEN A 16% INCREASE IN

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, ACCORDING TO A STUDY RELEASED BY THE BOSTON FOUNDATION. WE'RE ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE PARKS. ONE PARTICULAR FIELD IS BILLINGS FIELD. AS A KID GROWING UP, I LOVED PLAYING AT BILLINGS FIELD. I CAN REMEMBER THE WOODEN STRUCTURES ON THE PLAYGROUND, AND CHIEF COOKE MAY REMEMBER AS WELL, AND PERHAPS SOME OLDER FOLKS ON THIS CALL. WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY REALLY SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN BILLINGS FIELD ITSELF. THE PLAYGROUND NAMED AFTER FIREFIGHTERS, AND IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE REALLY VALUE AND APPRECIATE. BUT I'M TALKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FIELD ITSELF. BILLINGS FIELD IS ESSENTIALLY THE FRONT YARD OF WEST ROXBURY. THERE ARE COUNTLESS PEOPLE THAT PLAY THAT, THE GIRLS SOFTBALL, THE LITTLE LEAGUE, IT IS THE SITE OF SO MANY INCREDIBLE EVENTS, THE CONCERT SERIES IN THE CUSTOMER, AND THE CORE ROAD RACE. SO MUCH HAPPENS AT BILLINGS FIELD. THROUGH NO ONE'S FAULT, WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE INVESTMENT THAT IT NEEDS. MY NUMBER ONE CAPITAL REQUEST GOING FORWARD THIS YEAR IS MAKING SURE WE CAN ACTUALLY FULFILL THE POTENTIAL OF BILLINGS FIELD, MAKING SURE WE HAVE SOME RESOURCES TO HELP SUPPORT THE COUNTLESS, THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF KIDS AND ADULTS AND SENIORS

SHO WHO  
USE IT.

SO I GUESS TO BEGIN,  
COMMISSIONER, CHIEF, I'VE  
BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS  
FOR A WHILE.

ARE THERE ANY COMMENTS YOU  
CAN MAKE WITH REGARDS TO  
BILLINGS, AS TO THE CITY  
INVESTING IN THIS PLACE,  
AND THE CITY TRULY NEEDS  
IT.

>> IT IS A PRIORITY  
INVESTMENT AREA FOR US.  
WE SEE IT IS HEAVY USE,  
SPECIFICALLY FOR ALL OF  
THE THINGS YOU HAVE  
MENTIONED.

I KNOW PARKWAY IN MOTION  
HAS BEEN A FIERCE  
SUPPORTER OF THIS.  
THE DRAINAGE FIELD NEEDS  
WORK.

HE SPRAINED HIS OWN ANKLE  
AT THE PARK WALKING HIS  
DOG OUT THERE, SO THAT IS  
EVEN MORE PROOF OF WORK  
THAT IS NEEDED THERE.

SPECIAL ELECTRICAL  
UPGRADES AS WELL TO THE  
LIGHTING FIXTURES THAT IS  
OUT THERE.

IT IS DEFINITELY NEEDED  
AND WE HOPE TO PRIORITIZE  
IT AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

CHIEF, DO YOU HAVE  
ANYTHING SPECIFIC?

>> NO.

I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU,  
COUNCILOR, IT HOLDS A  
CENTRAL PLACE IN THE  
ACTIVITY AND THE VIBRANCY  
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF  
WEST ROXBURY.

SPRAINED ANKLE  
NOTWITHSTANDING, THAT  
BEING SAID, IT IS A BIG  
PROJECT AND THERE IS A  
HEALTHY CAPITAL PARKS  
DEPARTMENT PLAN RIGHT NOW,  
SO MAKING SURE WE DON'T  
APPROACH IT FROM A  
PIECE-MEAL FASHION, BUT  
WHEN WE CAN GET AROUND TO

IT IN THE CAPITAL PLAN, I  
THINK IT IS DUE FOR A  
MAJOR REVIEW OF MASTER  
PLAN.

ONE THING I WANT TO SHOUT  
OUT, A CALL BACK TO LIZ  
BRADEN'S COMMENTS, THERE  
IS AN AMAZING URBAN WILD  
ASPECT TO BILLINGS THAT  
YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE  
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY  
EVASIVE PLANTS AND TREES  
IN THE HILLSIDE.

SO THERE IS A HEALTHY  
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR  
TREE CANOPY UP THERE AS  
WELL.

>> AND YOU INADVERTENTLY  
BROUGHT UP A POINT, THE  
SENIORS THAT WALK IN THE  
URBAN WILD -- THERE IS  
ACTUALLY A GROUP OF NEARBY  
RESIDENTS WHO ORGANIZE A  
MONTHLY CLEANUP.

I'VE BEEN OUT THERE WITH  
THEM HELPING TO CLEAN IT  
UP.

SO IT REALLY HAS BEEN THE  
CENTER OF ACTIVITY.

I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR  
COMMENTS FROM BOTH  
GENTLEMEN ABOUT THE SHARED  
BELIEF THAT THIS IS  
SOMETHING WE NEED TO ACT  
ON, AND WE WILL ACT ON IT.  
AND LET'S ACT AS  
EXPEDITIOUSLY AS WE CAN  
BECAUSE THIS IS A GREAT  
PRIORITY I KNOW FOR ALL OF  
US.

AND THERE IS A POTENTIAL  
THERE.

AND I JUST DON'T WANT TO  
SEE IT LOST, PARTICULARLY  
IN A TIME WHEN WE'RE  
SEEING SOME RECORD-SETTING  
USE OF OUR PARKS.

I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS  
ON THAT.

SHIFTING GEARS A LITTLE  
BIT, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT  
THE URBAN FOREST MASTER  
PLAN.

I'M DELIGHTED ABOUT THIS.

CHIEF COOKE, WHEN YOU HAD THE COMMISSIONER'S JOB, WE WERE ABLE TO SECURE MONEY FOR THE STUDY OF OUR CANOPY.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS SO IMPORTANT.

DOES THE MASTER PLAN INCLUDE ONLY THE CITY'S TREES OR WILL IT INCLUDE THE ENTIRE TREE CANOPY AS WELL?

>> VERY BRIEFLY -- I WILL REFER TO RYAN, BUT THE ANSWER IS YES.

IT WILL INCLUDE ALL OF THE TREES IN THE CITY.

GO AHEAD, COMMISSIONER.

>> SURE.

WITH THE URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN, IT WILL HELP SOLVE THE SOCIAL INEQUITY. IT WILL PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION AND REALLY HELP US ON THE OLDER TREES THAT HAVE THE LARGEST CANOPY, BUT ALSO LOOK AT RULES AND REGULATIONS AND THE WAY WE CAN INCORPORATE THAT AROUND TREES ON PRIVATE LAND.

A LOT OF THE LARGER TREES ARE NOT UNDER OUR CONTROL OR PROTECTION, AND WE WANT TO SPECIFICALLY LOOK AT THAT AND WAYS WE CAN GET INVOLVE, HAVE A ROBUST COMMUNITY AROUND THIS AND REALLY WORK ON A PRESERVATION STRATEGY.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY MORE TALK AS IT RELATES TO DEVELOPMENT INCOMING UP WITH SOME SORT OF A FORMULA, IF A DEVELOPMENT WERE TO COST 12 MATURE TREES, THAT THEN 20, OR THE EQUIVALENT INVESTMENT OF 20 TREES WOULD HAVE TO BE ELSEWHERE?

THIS IS OFF-TOPIC IN TERMS OF THE BUDGET, BUT TO GROW

OUR TREE CANOPY -- TO ADDRESS THE TREES THAT WE LOSE THROUGH NORMAL DEVELOPMENT?

>> THERE HASN'T BEEN, COUNCILOR, BUT THAT WOULD BE ONE OF THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN, TO LIKE FOR OFFSETS. AND WHAT WE REALLY WANT IS TREE PROTECTION.

>> OKAY.  
FAIR POINT.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS ROUND. I'LL JUST CLOSE BY SAYING KUDOS TO TOMMY SULLIVAN AND THE CREW THAT WORK IN THE CITY'S CEMETERY. WHEN YOU THINK OF THE ENORMITY OF THE CRISIS, TO SEE A TRIPLING OF THEIR WORKLOAD -- I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL PARK EMPLOYEES, BUT A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN THE CEMETERY AREA.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

NEXT UP IS COUNCIL PRESIDENT JANEY.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, MADAM CHAIR.

CAN YOU HEAR ME OKAY?

>> GREAT.

>> WONDERFUL.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO CHIEF COOKE AND HIS AMAZING TEAM.

I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK YOU DO.

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR ME, JUST LIKE WITH THE C.P.A. HEARINGS.

I LIKE DIGGING IN DEEP, IN TERMS OF OUR PARKS.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE WORK AND WE WANT TO SHOUT OUT TO THE FOLKS THAT HELP KEEP THE DISTRICT 7 PARKS CLEAN AND WONDERFUL, AND WE'VE GOT MANY.

AND I'M ALSO VERY PROUD WE

HAVE SO MUCH GREEN SPACE  
IN DISTRICT 7.

I WOULD LIKE TO GET  
UPDATED ON SOME OF THE  
PROJECTS IN MY DISTRICT.  
THERE ARE SEVERAL PARKS  
THAT EITHER IN A DESIGN  
PHASE OR SCHEDULED TO GO  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION.  
AND I WAS HOPING FOR AN  
UPDATE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN  
THE PAUSE IN CONSTRUCTION  
AND HOW COVID MIGHT BE  
DELAYING SOME OF THE  
PROJECTS.

I KNOW THE ONES THAT ARE  
IN DESIGN PHASE, HOPEFULLY  
THOSE ARE MOVING FORWARD.  
HOPING YOU CAN GIVE AN  
UPDATE, SPECIFICALLY  
MALCOLM "X" PARK AND  
WINFORD.

>> I'LL START, AND MY  
COLLEAGUE, LIZA, WILL GIVE  
THE EXACT SPECIFICS ON  
THOSE.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH,  
COMMISSIONER.

GOOD TO SEE YOU.

>> WE'RE VERY EXCITED TO,  
AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION  
WILL ALLOW, ADD ON TO THE  
LAMBERT.

I WANT TO ADD ON TO THAT.  
I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK  
YOUR STAFF FOR BEING SO  
ENGAGING WITH US ON THE  
MALCOLM "X" PLAN.

WE HAVE A MEETING ALREADY  
ON THE BOOKS.

WE'RE HAPPY TO GET A  
VIRTUAL MEETING GOING, AND  
WE'RE SEEING A LOT OF  
RESPONSES COME IN ON THE  
SURVEY THAT WAS  
SPECIFICALLY OUT THERE FOR  
MALCOLM "X" PARK.

LIZA WILL GIVE SPECIFICS  
ON THAT.

YOU BROUGHT WINTHROP TO  
OUR ATTENTION AT THE  
HEARING LAST YEAR, AND WE  
WERE ABLE TO GO OUT THERE  
AND MEET WITH STANLEY AND

OTHER RESIDENTS, AND REALLY GET TO WALK THE PARK AND ENGAGE THEM. WE'RE HAPPY THAT NOT ONLY ARE WE WORKING ON A COURT RENOVATION NOW IN THIS PROPOSED BUDGET, THERE IS A RENOVATION FOR THE PLAY LOG AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AND PRETTY MUCH EVERY OTHER FEATURE OF THE PARK. LIZA, IF YOU WANT TO GET ON THE SPECIFIC OF THE TIMELINE?

>> SURE.

THE PROJECT ON THAT LIST UNDER CONSTRUCTION IS THE DEWITT PARKS PROJECT THAT IS UNDER WAY NOW.

OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A HOLD ON THE CONSTRUCTION CURRENTLY, BUT AS SOON AS THEY CAN RESUME WORK, THERE IS ANOTHER EIGHT TO 12 WEEKS OF CONSTRUCTION OUT THERE.

WE SHOULD SEE THAT OPEN ST SOME TIME THIS SUMMER. IT WILL BE THE FIRST ONE OPEN.

CRAWFORD, JONES -- YOU DIDN'T MENTION WALNUT PARK, WHICH IS ACROSS THE STREET TO CRAWFORD.

WE WILL BE HIRING DESIGNERS FOR THOSE PROJECTS IN THE COMING MONTHS AND THEN START COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DESIGN PROCESS.

>> THAT'S REALLY GOOD TO HEAR.

I THINK THERE HAD BEEN AT SOME POINT IN THE PROCESS, PERHAPS ON THE MALCOLM "X" PROJECT, I THINK THERE WERE SELECTIONS TAKING PLACE WITHOUT AN R.S.P. SO I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND WHEN A PROJECT REQUIRES AN R.S.P., AND WHEN IT DOESN'T.

WE THINK THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY THERE TO NOT



ONLY ENGAGE RESIDENTS THROUGH THE DESIGN PHASE, BUT THOSE WHO ARE SMALL BUSINESSES OWNERS, WHO COULD HELP WITH THE DESIGN.

I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING WHEN WE DO THE R.S.P.s AND WHEN WE DON'T.

IF YOU COULD?

>> SURE.

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT WE GO THROUGH AN R.S.P. PROCESS FOR A DESIGNER SELECTION. WITHIN THAT PROCESS, WE ALSO LET DESIGNERS KNOW THAT WE WILL SOMETIMES HIRE WITHOUT DOING AN R.S.P., IF THE PROJECT COMES UP AND WE WANT TO GET IT STARTED RIGHT AWAY. IT CAN TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS.

SO BY COLLECTING THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, WE CAN REVIEW THOSE QUALIFICATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE ORIGINAL TIMELINE AND STILL MAKE A SELECTION OF A DESIGNER WHO IS QUALIFIED TO TAKE ON THAT PROJECT SO THAT WE CAN GET IT STARTED.

SO THAT WAS THE STATE OF MALCOLM "X."

AND NOW WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF HIRING DESIGNERS FOR 24 PROJECTS, SO WE'LL BE QUITE BUSY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, GETTING ALL THOSE PROJECTS GOING.

>> I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT FRANKLIN PARK'S MASTER PLAN AND WHERE WE ARE IN THAT PROCESS.

I WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT ROUND IN TERMS OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT AND DIVERSITY GOALS FOR CONSTRUCTION. BUT IF WE COULD, FOR THIS ROUND, JUST GET AN UPDATE

ON THE MASTER PLAN AND  
WHERE WE ARE WITH FRANKLIN  
PARK, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

>> SURE.

THE MASTER PLAN FOR  
FRANKLIN PARK STARTED, AND  
WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE A  
COMMUNITY MEETING.

WE WERE SO GRATEFUL TO SEE  
THAT THE ROOM ALMOST HAD  
300 PARTICIPANTS IN IT,  
ENGAGED IN IT, IN OPEN  
DIALOGUE.

WE HAD OVER 4,000  
PEOPLE -- EVEN MORE THAN  
THAT -- TAKE PART IN THE  
SURVEY FOR FRANKLIN PARK.

I THINK IT WAS HEAVY J.P.

AT ONE TIME, AND WE'RE NOW  
SEEING WE'RE GETTING MORE  
COMMUNITY GROUPS ENGAGED,  
MORE CIVIC COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, TO  
TRY TO REALLY GET OUR  
OUTREACH TO MAKE SURE  
WE'RE TOUCHING ON ALL OF  
THE RESIDENTS SURROUNDING  
THIS GEM OF A PARK.

RIGHT NOW IT IS AN  
18-MONTH PROCESS, SO  
DEPENDING ON HOW  
EVERYTHING GOES, WE'RE  
LOOKING AT THE MASTER PLAN  
BEING PRETTY MUCH COMPLETE  
BY NEXT SUMMER, SO SUMMER  
OF '21.

>> WONDERFUL.

WONDERFUL.

I WILL RESERVE MY OTHER  
QUESTIONS, MADAM CHAIR,  
FOR THE NEXT ROUND IN  
INTEREST OF TIME.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH  
COUNCILOR JANEY.  
NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR  
BAKER.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
HI RYAN AND CHRIS AND ALL  
OF THE TEAM, THANKS FOR  
COMING OUT HERE TODAY.  
I JUST GOT AN E-MAIL FROM  
THE PARKS DEPARTMENT,  
RYAN, PARCEL PRIORITY, AND

IT IS EXACTLY! I WANT TO  
TALK ABOUT.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT DND, I  
THINK WE HAD ONE MEETING ON THE  
PARCEL ON THE AVENUE BE  
CONNECTED TO THE TOP SITUATE ANY  
TOMASINI, DO WE HAVE .. HOW  
SHOULD I MOVE FORWARD ON THAT?  
SHOULD THAT BE LIKE A PRIVATE,  
PRIVATE SORT OF PARTNERSHIP WITH  
YOU GUYS?

YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE AN -- TO  
TAKE ON ANOTHER PARK, WOULD YOU?  
I THINK THROUGH THIS PARK  
PRIORITY PLAN WE WILL BE ADDING  
MORE PARKS AND LOOKING AT LAND  
ACQUISITIONS.

THAT IS A SPECIFIC SITE, THAT IS  
PLANS OVER FROM D AND D I THINK  
IT IS SOMETHING WE CAN CONSIDER.  
IT ALL JUST DEPENDS WHAT THE  
NEIGHBORS WANT THERE.

IF THEY WANT IT TO BE MORE OF A  
PLACE FOR ADDING MORE TREES AND,  
OR THAT URBAN WILD TYPE ELEMENT  
OR I-FLOW IS TALK OF FOOD  
GARDENS, ET CETERA AND STUFF IN  
THE COMMUNITY SO I THINK WE NEED  
TO FIND OUT WHAT THE WANT IS AND  
STUFF SO WE CAN MOVE FORWARD, I  
KNOW THAT IS OWNED BY D AND D,  
BUT THIS PARK IS PRIORITY PLAN  
IS REALLY ASKING RESIDENTS TO  
ENGAGE WITH US AND TELL US ABOUT  
ANY VACANT LOTS PRIVATE AT THIS  
LOANED, PUBLIC OWNED, D AND D  
PROPERTY, WHATEVER IT WILL BE  
THAT SHOULD BE FUTURE PARKLAND.  
WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE IT AND  
TRANSFER, EITHER TRANSFER IT TO  
CITY PROPERTY OR SOMETHING  
WHETHER THROUGH CPA OR SOMETHING  
ELSE WE DO SOME LAND ACQUISITION  
TO ADD MORE PROPERTY TO OUR  
ACREAGE.

>> SO I WOULD LOOK AT, TALK WITH  
D AND D ABOUT POSSIBLY  
TRANSFERRING THAT TO THE PARKS  
DEPARTMENT AND THEN I WOULD BE  
IN FAVOR OF THE URBAN WILDS WE  
TALKED ABOUT, I AM A TREE NUT.  
WE COULD JUST PLAN SOME REALLY  
NICE, REALLY NICE TREES THERE  
THAT WOULD AUGMENT WHAT THE

SABIN HILL PARK DOES, AND ALONG THE SAME LINE .. TREE MAINTENANCE, WE HAVE A LOT OF MATURE TREES AROUND HERE THAT I MEAN I THINK JUST IN SABIN HILL PARK YOU WOULD PROBABLY SPEND UPWARDS OF A MILLION DOLLARS JUST TO MAINTAIN THOSE OLD OAK TREES, SOME OF THEM THEY ARE PROBABLY 200 YEARS OLD.

WOULD THAT BE SOMETHING .. YOU THINK THAT SHOULD BE MAYBE THE FORMATION OF A FRIENDS GROUP, RYAN, OR COULD WE PURSUE STATE MONEY FOR THOSE LARGE HERITAGE TREES?

>> SURE.

I THINK THERE ARE A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT. ONE, WE HAVE THAT 100,000 WHICH AGAIN DOESN'T GO VERY FAR TOWARDS DOING TREE MAINTENANCE IN OUR PARK, WHICH OVER THE YEARS WE NEVER HAD ANY MAINTENANCE MONEY FOR TREES AND PARKS, ALMOST -- WHEN A TREE FALLS DOWN IN THE PARK WE HAD TO GO DOWN AND REMOVE IT AND WHEN WE LOOKED INTO ADDING THINGS WE LOOKED INTO CAPITAL PLANS FOR THE PARK OR PLAYGROUND.

THERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDS THERE BUT WILL THERE IS A LOT OF WORK TO DO ESPECIALLY WITH THE OLD HERITAGE TREES SO THERE ARE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITY, THE GROUPS OUT THERE WILL SOMETIMES SPEAK FOR THE TREES SO WE ARE AWARE OF DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE.

>> YES.

>> BUT I THINK IT WOULD NEED A FORMATION OF SOME SORT OF A FRIENDS GROUP, CONSERVANCY, SOMETHING THAT WOULD BRING IN PHILANTHROPIC DOLLARS.

>> OKAY.

JUST GIVING MYSELF SOME WORK TO DO HERE.

AND ANOTHER LOT THAT IS VERY SIMILAR, IT HAS THE ROXBURY OUTCROPPINGS AND JUST SORT OF JUST TREES THAT HAVE JUST GROWN FROM WHATEVER.

AT THE END IS IT RAUL STREET --  
OR HOWELL STREET OFF OF HANCOCK,  
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THAT ONE,  
RYAN?

>> IS THAT THE ONE THAT IS RIGHT  
DOWN AROUND THE PLAYGROUND  
AROUND NEAR THE PUBLIC --

>> NO, NO, NO.

THAT IS THE HILL THERE WHICH WE  
SHOULD BE LOOKING AT PLANTING  
THAT ALSO BUT IF YOU GO UP  
HANCOCK STREET AND TAKE A LEFT  
ON I THINK REAL, INBETWEEN,  
INBETWEEN THAT AND I THINK  
BELLEVUE STREET, THERE IS A PLOT  
OF LAND THERE THAT MAYBE YOU  
COULD HAVE SOMEONE IDENTIFY WHAT  
IT IS SO WE COULD START WORKING  
ON IT TO TURN IT INTO AN URBAN  
WILD, JUST TO KIND OF CLEAN IT  
UP AND MAYBE PUT SOME BENCHES  
AND THAT SORT OF STUFF IN THERE.  
DORCHESTER PARK WATER SOURCE,  
RYAN, DO WE HAVE ANY UPDATE ON  
THAT?

>> COMPLETE.

SO THE WORK WAS DONE, WHICH I  
DON'T THINK THE WATER WAS TURNED  
ON YET, BUT WE WERE -- WE WORKED  
OUT THERE, TOM TIMMONS ON OUR  
TEAM WENT OUT THERE AND GOT THAT  
PUT IN TO HELP TAKE COMPARE OF  
THE TREES BECAUSE THE FRIENDS  
GROUP WERE HELPFUL IN WATERING  
THAT.

>> EXCELLENT.

AND WE ALSO HAD -- I KNOW MOSS  
MAN WAS OUR HORTICULTURE -- OUR  
TREE GUY.

HE MOVED ON.

IS HE STILL OUR TREE GUY OR DID  
WE HIRE ANOTHER ONE OR DO WE  
HAVE MULTIPLE -- AND I KNOW IT  
IS JUST JOE AND DANNY I THINK  
THAT GO OUT AND -- HAVE WE  
AUGMENTED THOSE CREWS AT ALL?

>>

>> OR ARE WE ABLE TO AUGMENT  
THOSE?

>> GREG MOSS MAN IS STILL  
SERVING AS OUR TREE WARDEN, SO  
HE IS STILL WITH US.

>> OH, O O OKAY.

>> I THOUGHT HE GOT A DIFFERENT

JOB, THOUGH.

>> NO.

NO.

HE IS BACK --

>> THERE ARE TWO OTHER ARBORISTS THAT WORK ON HIS TEAM IN ADDITION TO AS YOU MENTIONED JOE DENSE MOORE AND DANNY THAT HELP DO THE TREE REMOVAL AND GET IN THERE TO DO WORK.

IN THIS PROPOSED BUDGET IS THE ADDITION OF ONE MORE ARBORIST TO HELP AND THIS WILL HELP US AS WE PLANT UP TO 2,000 TREES NOW ON THESE -- TREES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, MAKE SURE WE ARE REALLY FOCUSING ON THE HEALTH OF THE TREES.

>> OKAY.

AND THAT IS IMPORTANT.

I SEE THE -- I SEE THE GAVEL.

JUST ONE SECOND, MADAM CHAIR. SO THE WARRANTY IS A BIG THING. CHRIS AND I WALKED THROUGH IN BEHIND WHERE I AM HERE AND WE HAVE THESE PLACES THAT PLANT TREES AND THEY DIE RIGHT AWAY. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE STAY ON TOP OF THOSE OUTSIDE COMPANIES.

AND I WILL END THERE AND COME BACK.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, RYAN.

THANK YOU CHRIS.

>> THANKS SO MUCH, COUNCILOR BAKER, AND I THINK THE COMMISSIONER SAID EARLIER KEEPING ON TOP OF THAT, THOSE WARRANTIES IS PART OF THE STAFF CAPACITY AND HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED FOR THIS YEAR; IS THAT RIGHT, COMMISSIONER?

>> THAT IS CORRECT.

>> ALL RIGHT.

GREAT.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE AND THEN IT WILL BE COUNSELS CAMPBELL AND THEN COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR, THANK YOU TO THE CHIEF FOR BEING WITH

US AND COMMISSIONER WOOD AND HIS TEAM.

I REALLY WANT TO APPLAUD ALL OF YOUR WORK AND REALLY BUMMED OUT THAT WE LIKELY ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY SPRING MAYOR'S CUP HAPPENING AS IT IS A BIG PART OF OUR FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE, JUST LOVE IT ALL AROUND.

I DO ALSO WONDER WHETHER OR NOT WE WILL HAVE ANY OF THE OUTDOOR MUSIC SERIES AT EITHER GEORGE WRIGHT OR PERHAPS FRANKLIN PARK GOLF COURSE PATIOS THIS YEAR.

SO WAS THAT A YES OR A NO?

>> THAT IS -- WE ARE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT.

SO WE HAVE THINGS PENCILED IN AND WE HAVE PEOPLE ON HOLD BUT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR GUIDANCE MOVING FORWARD.

LIKELY IF THAT DOES HAPPEN IT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE LATER MONTHS OF SUMMER.

>> GREAT.

AND BOTH OF THOSE PATIOS GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SOCIALLY DISTANT FROM ONE ANOTHER, I THINK, AND IN A THOUGHTFUL WAY WHILE STILL SORT OF ENJOYING EVERYONE'S COMPANY.

MY QUESTION -- SO THANK YOU FOR THAT AND I LOOK FORWARD HOPEFULLY TO SEEING YOU ON ONE OF THOSE PATIOS LATER THIS SUMMER.

>> THE QUESTIONS I HAVE AND I WILL GET THROUGH WHAT I CAN ON THIS FIRST ROUND.

I HAVE GOT QUESTIONS AROUND SHARKS AND THE NUMBER OF SHARKS WE ARE PICKING UP ACROSS THE PARKS AND THE TRAINING OF STAFF TO DO THAT, SHARPS, AND ARE WE CONSULTING WITH THE MOBILE SHARPS TEAM THROUGH THE HEALTH COMMISSION.

I ALSO HAVE A QUESTION AROUND -- HOW SUCCESSFUL WE WERE THIS YEAR.

I THINK WE GOT THE SEASON IN, SO CARRIE WILL HAVE THE NUMBER OF WHY THERE WEREN'T ANYPLACE AROUND COUNTING OR POP, GEESE

POPULATION AND WORKING TO  
ELIMINATE OUR GEESE POPULATION  
AND I THINK IT VERY NEGATIVELY  
IMPACTS OUR PARKS AND I HAVE  
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AROUND  
ACCESSING OUR RECREATION SPACES  
BY PRIVATE FOR PROFIT -- THAT  
ARE RENTING OUR PUBLIC PARKS,  
LIMITING WHO CAN USE THEM BY  
THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND CHARGING  
QUITE A HEFTY PRICE TAG TO BE A  
PART OF THOSE EVENTS.  
THAT'S MY LIST OF QUESTIONS AND  
GET THROUGH WHAT WE CAN NOW AND  
THEN GO TO ROUND 2.  
THANK YOU.

>> SURE.

I AM GOING THROUGH THEM ONE BY  
ONE.

ON GEESE ADD LING WE PASSED THE  
400 MARK THIS WEEK OF OVER 400  
EGGS ADDLED BY OUR BOSTON PARK  
RANGERS I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PARK  
RANGER MCNEIL WE WILL CONTINUE  
THIS THROUGH JUNE OF THIS YEAR,  
THE BIGGEST LOCATION THAT WE ARE  
SEEING THE MOST EGGS SO FAR IS  
OF COURSE THE BACK BAY FIN AND  
WE HAVE SEEN SOME GOSLINGS OVER  
THERE AS WELL .. AND IT IS IN  
THE WATERWAYS SO A LOT OF THEM  
ARE OBVIOUSLY IN CITY PARKS SO  
WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THAT  
AREA.

>> IN RESPONSE TO THE PERMANENT  
FIELDS WE ARE TRYING TO -- OR  
CONTINUE TO WORK ON A WAY WHERE  
WE CAN COME UP WITH PERMITTING  
FEES.

WE ARE SEEING NOW THAT  
ESPECIALLY HOW THE STATE HAS  
GARNERED A LOT OF FEES, A LOT OF  
PEOPLE ARE COMING TO THE PARKS  
DEPARTMENT SINCE WE CURRENTLY  
DON'T CHARGE MY FEES EXCEPT FOR  
ELECTRICAL LYING.

WE ARE STILL WORKING THAT OUT.  
ONE CHALLENGE WE ARE TRYING TO  
FIGURE OUT BESIDES OUR PRIORITY  
SYSTEM OF HAVING LEAGUES AND  
YOUTH SPORTS AND ADULT SPORTS  
AND OUR PRIORITY SYSTEM, ONCE WE  
GO THROUGH THAT, IF THERE ARE  
FIELDS THAT ARE OPEN, PEOPLE CAN



APPLY FOR THE PERMIT, SO  
SOMETIMES FOUR MONTH BEFORE THE  
FIELD IS STILL OPEN, SOMEBODY  
APPLIES FOR IT AND WE GIVE IT  
TO, YOU KNOW, WHATEVER PRIVATE  
SOCCER LEAGUE THAT APPLIES FOR  
THE PERMIT, AND THEN TWO OR  
THREE MONTHS LATER WE HAVE A  
YOUTH GROUP THAT COMES IN SAYING  
THEY WANT THE FIELD, WE DO OUR  
BEST TO TRY TO WORK SOMETHING  
OUT TO TRY TO SAY YOU CAN'T HAVE  
IT THE WHOLE WEEK ANYMORE, CAN  
YOU DO TWO OR THREE DAYS TO  
REALLY MAKE THIS WORK WU THAT IS  
SOMETHING WE REALLY HAVE TO WORK  
ON IS PICKING OUT THE RIGHT  
STRATEGY TO CHARGE PEOPLE SO IT  
IS DONE FAIR AND EQUITABLY  
ACROSS THE BOARD.

>> GREAT.

AND THE OTHER QUESTION IS AROUND  
GEESE POPULATION.

DO WE HAVE A COUNT OF HOW MANY  
FEES WE HAVE HERE IN THE CITY OR  
ABOUT?

AND THEN IF, WHERE ARE WE SEEING  
GOSLINGS?

IS IT TOO MANY TO, LATE TO  
CONTINUE ADD LING?

>> AND ADDLING?

>> AND WE CAN GO DEEPER INTO THE  
SHARPS.

>> I DON'T KNOW THE GEESE  
POPULATION RIGHT OFF MY HEAD.

I AM NOT AWARE OF A COUNT BUT I  
CAN CHECK WITH THE PARK RANGERS  
AND GET THAT TO YOU LATER THIS  
AFTERNOON AND I WAS TOLD WE WILL  
CONTINUE ADDLING THROUGH JUNE.

>> THANK YOU.

AND I KNOW THE ROLE, THERE IS  
SOME ADVOCACY AROUND INCREASING  
THE NUMBER OF PARK RANGERS,  
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY TART STARTED  
THAT CONVERSATION.

THEY PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE  
GEESE ADDLING, ESPECIALLY IN THE  
AREAS WE WOULDN'T VOLUNTEERS TO  
GO.

I DO THINK THAT PERHAPS THIS  
FALL WE COULD SPEND SOME TIME  
WORKING WITH SOME OF OUR PRIVATE  
PROPERTY OWNERS, OUR LARGER

INSTITUTIONS AND THINKING ABOUT SOME OF OUR PRIVATE AT THISLY HELD GOLF COURSE, AROUND ADDLING ON THEIR PROPERTY, AT LEAST VISUALLY, THE GEESE POPULATION REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE BLOSSOMED AND IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO -- WE IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ADDLE IN I THINK A SIGNIFICANT WAY, IT IS ALMOST NOT WORTH DOING IT AT ALL, IF WE ARE STILL SEEING LARGER, YOU KNOW, GROWING POPULATIONS OF, A GROWING POPULATION OF FEES.

WE SPEND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY ON OUR PARKS, RIGHTFULLY SO, AS WE SHOULD, BUT THEN TO HAVE THE GEESE SORT OF DESTROY THOSE PARKS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, I THINK ABOUT THE INVESTMENT THAT WE ARE LOOKING TO SPEND AT MOAKLEY, THE INVESTMENT THAT WE ARE DOING AT FRANKLIN FIELD, THE INVESTMENT THAT WE DO AT OUR GOLF COURSES, THE GEESE ARE A REAL PROBLEM.

AND SO I LOOK FORWARD TO DOING SOME MORE WORK ON THAT.

I SEE THE GAVEL AND I WILL CONTINUE WITH MY SHARPS QUESTIONS IN THE NEXT ROUND. THANK YOU, MR. COMMISSIONER.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE.

COUNCILOR CAMPBELL IS UP NEXT AND THEN COUNCILOR MEJIA AND THEN --

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR BOK AND COMMISSIONER WOODS, THANK YOU, I HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE DOING WELL AND ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY.

COMMISSIONER COOK, OF COURSE, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU CONTINUE TO DO.

I ALSO WANT TO QUICKLY THANK ALEXIS, ANIMAL CONTROL, VERY RESPONSIVE, RICK AND STEVE BECAUSE WE HAD THE MAJOR ISSUES OF PUTTING -- YOUR TEAM REALLY STEPPED UP ALONG WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE SURE THE PARK WAS CLEAN.

THERE WAS A LOT OF JUST AWFUL  
ACTIVITY GOING ON THERE.

SO REALLY WANTED TO THANK THOSE  
EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR HARD WORK.  
AND OF COURSE GRATEFUL TO YOU  
GUYS FOR ALL YOU DO, ESPECIALLY  
DURING COVID-19 AND THROUGH THIS  
CRISIS.

WE HAVE A LOT OF ACTIVITY SO I  
WANTED TO START WITH THANK YOU.  
JUST A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.  
SOME OF THEM WERE ALREADY ASKED  
BY SOME OF THE PROJECTS  
INCLUDING AN E-MAIL WE JUST GOT  
AROUND SORT OF MORE TARGETED  
OUTREACH.

BUT HOW -- WITH RESPECT TO  
COVID-19 I AM CURIOUS HOW IT IS  
AFFECTING SOME OF THE TIMELINE  
OF OUR PARK PROJECTS IN DISTRICT  
4, PARTICULARLY AROUND NEW PARK  
AND OTHER PROJECTS.

THAT IS ONE OF MY QUESTIONS AND  
I WILL START THERE AND THEN I  
MIGHT HAVE A COUPLE OF OTHERS  
AFTER THAT DEPENDING ON TIME.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR, VERY  
MUCH FOR THE COMPLIMENTS TO  
START OFF.

PROJECTS ARE ON PACE.

WE ARE SLIGHTLY DELAYED ON THE  
THE CONSTRUCTION, SO AS SOON AS  
THIS MORATORIUM IS RAISED WE  
LOOK TO BE OUT THERE TO FINISH  
WORK ON PHASE 2.

AND THEN VERY HAPPY IN THIS  
BUDGET THERE IS PROPOSED MONEY  
FOR DESIGN OF PHASE 3.

SO DESIGN WORK WILL NOT STOP,  
THAT HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT  
THIS WHOLE PROCESS, PEOPLE HAVE  
BEEN WORKING REMOTELY TO GET  
THAT DONE.

THE MAJOR DELAYS WE.

>> WE HAVE JUST  
SEEN OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN  
CONSTRUCTION, PHASE 2 BUT AS  
SOON AS THE THE MORE UP MORATORIUM IS LIFTED  
WE HOPE TO BE OUT THERE.

THANK YOU.

TWO OTHER QUESTIONS.

ONE IS THE STATUS OF THE BURIAL  
FUND, WHICH THAT WAS A BIG WIN  
FOR COMMUNITIES.

OBVIOUSLY, PEOPLE TAP INTO THAT FUND UNDER DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES SO THANK YOU FOR THAT WORK, NOT JUST YOU COMMISSIONER BUT MANY OF YOUR TEAM I SEE MANY OF THEM REPRESENTED HERE BUT THANK YOU, GUYS, FOR THAT WORK WITH RESPECT TO THE FUND.

IT IS NOT EASY TO PROCESS THOSE REQUESTS.

I AM CURIOUS THE STATUS OF OF THAT, HOW IT IT IS GOING AND GOTTEN SOME QUESTIONS AROUND THE FUND BEING USED FOR COVID-19 CASES, RIGHT?

AND SO CURIOUS IF THAT HAS COME UP IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS.

AND THEN MY SECOND QUESTION IS, WE HAVE GOT A LOT OF PUSHBACK AND I AM SURE YOU HEARD THAT TOO WITH RESPECT TO MANY FOLKS WITH RESPECT TO LACK OF INPUT FROM DORCHESTER AND ROCKS ROSS COMMUNITIES FOR THE FRANKLIN PARK REDESIGN, AND SO I AM

CURIOUS WHAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, SOME VOICES HAVE BEEN LOUDER THAN OTHERS WITH RESPECT WITH TO THAT, SO I WANTED TO RAISE IT UP HERE TOO BECAUSE WE GOT SOME CALLS AND E-MAILS WITH RESPECT TO THAT.

AND THANK YOU AGAIN AND THANK YOU TO YOUR INCREDIBLE TEAM.

I AM SEEING ALL OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL ACES.

I AM HAVING SOME INTERCONNECTIVITY ISSUES SO I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT THANK YOU. YES.

IN TERMS OF THE BURIAL FUND WE ARE STILL WORKING WITH CHERRY ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR AND BROWN INSTITUTE FOR THOSE BURR -- GANG VIOLENCE SO THAT WILL CONTINUE, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WORK AND IT IS A GREAT PARTNERSHIP AND TINA, YOU KNOW IS A GEM TO WORK WITH SO THAT WILL BE CONTINUED.

WE HAVE HAD A FEW INQUIRIES ABOUT BURIAL SUPPORT DURING THIS COVID CRISIS.

SO WE ARE WORKING WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON SOME POLICIES

IN LOOKING AT WHAT WAS DONE OR IS BEING DONE IN NEW YORK AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES OF HOW WE ARE KIND, WHAT SUPPORT THEY CAN LEND AND THE PROCESS THAT SHOULD BE AROUND THAT, SO IT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS.

AND WE ARE DOING OUR BEST BUT AGAIN KUDOS, I COULDN'T FREE TO YOU MORE TO OUR CEMETERY DIVISION WHICH HAS BEEN REALLY OUT THERE EVERY DAY AS I MENTIONED EARLIER ALMOST 100 BURIALS THIS MONTH IN MAKING SURE THAT EVERY SINGLE PERSON AND FAMILY MEMBER THAT IS BURIED IN OUR CEMETERIES IS DONE SO WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND THEY REALLY ARE SOME OF OUR HEROES IN THIS CRISIS SO AGAIN, KUDOS TO THEM.

>> YOU ARE EXACTLY RIGHT.

>> AND WE DID GET SOME FEEDBACK THAT THERE WERE SOME GROUPS THAT WERE MISSING THE FRANKLIN PARK MASTER PLAN.

WE ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO ENGAGE MORE.

WE HAVE WORKED VERY SUCCESSFULLY WITH COUNCILOR JANEY CHIEF OF STAFF AS WELL, ONE THING WE DID AT THE FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING WHICH HAD OVER 300 PEOPLE, WE SAID PLEASE LOOK AROUND AND LET US KNOW WHO IS NOT HERE.

WHO IS NOT AT THE TABLE.

WHAT VOICES ARE NOT BEING HEARD?

WE HAVE GOT 119 DIFFERENT BULLET OFFICE NAMES OR ORGANIZATIONS OR, YOU KNOW, BIKE GROUPS, ET CETERA THAT WERE AROUND THAT PEOPLE DID NOT SEE IN THE ROOM. SO WE HAD OUR WORK AHEAD OF US BUT WE WERE ABLE TO GET ALL OF THE CONTACTS AND GET E-MAIL ADDRESSES TO TRY TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT WEREN'T WITH THERE AND MAKING SURE IN ADDITION TO THE PRESS RELEASE ALSO OUR STREET TEAM, THE DESIGN TEAM WENT OUT AND ACTUALLY DID DOOR HANGERS ALL AROUND THE PARK.

THEY DID A CERTAIN FORMULA OF

HOWEVER MANY SQUARE MILES SO WE  
DID GET SOME POSITIVE FEEDBACK  
FOR RESIDENTS AT THE PARK  
THANKING THEM FOR THE PERSONAL  
TOUCH BUT HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD  
TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S VOICE IS  
HEARD?

WE TRY TO GET AS MANY NETWORKS  
OF PEOPLE TO HELP US SPREAD THE THE  
WORD.

NOT AS MANY PEOPLE ARE READING  
THEIR LOCAL NEWSPAPER ANYMORE.  
SO THEY ARE NOT SEEING THE PRESS  
RELEASE AND IF THEY ARE NOT ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA HOW CAN WE CONNECT  
WITH THEM?

THOSE ARE THE APPROACHES WE ARE  
TRYING TO MAKE SURE SO EVERYONE  
HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE ON THE  
PROJECT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT  
COMMISSIONER.

AND LAST I WILL SAY MY  
CONNECTIVITY ISSUES BECAUSE I  
THINK MY LAPTOP MAY HAVE  
OVERHEATED WHEN I WAS OUTSIDE  
EARLIER DURING ONE OF THESE  
BUDGET HEARINGS SO IF YOU HAVE  
NOT BEEN OUTSIDE, GO OUTSIDE  
TODAY.

I AM SAYING THAT TO ALL OF US, I  
HOPE YOU GET A BREAK TO GO  
OUTSIDE BUT THANK YOU, GUYS, SO  
MUCH FOR THE WORK YOU ARE DOING  
REALLY APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR  
TEAM.

YOU KEEP US SAFE AND HEALTHY.  
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR  
CAMPBELL.

>> I HAVE MY WINDOW OPEN WHICH  
IS ALMOST THE SAME THING AND  
ACTUALLY YOU HEAR THE CHILDREN  
PLAYING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE  
STREET PLAYGROUND FROM MY WINDOW  
WINDOW.

ALL RIGHT.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR MEJIA AND  
THEN COUNCILOR EDWARD AND THEN  
COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

CHAIRMAN BOK, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> CAN I HEAR YOU GREAT.

>> OKAY.

GREAT.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN SPENDING THE ENTIRE DAY WITH US AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE JUST JOINING US WELCOME TO THE PARTY.

SO I JUST HAVE A A FEW QUESTIONS FOR PARKS DEPARTMENT.

JUST CURIOUS, I KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO HIRING FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING IT HAS BEEN A LOT OF -- IT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A STRUGGLE, SO I SO I AM JUST CURIOUS WHAT YOUR OUTREACH, RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN.

ARE YOU KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR OUTREACH EFFORTS?

ARE YOU CONNECTING WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS LIKE GOOD WILL, JUST I WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW YOU ARE ENGAGING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

AND YOUR OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR HIRING WITH REGARD TO PRICING TREES, I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A GOAL OF 2000 TREES THROUGHOUT OUR STREETS AND I AM WONDERING WHAT IF ANY OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO SUPPORT BLACK ARBORISTS IN THE LANDSCAPING BUSINESSES, HOW ARE WE CONTRACTING BLACK ARBORISTS TO THESE PROJECTS, WHAT DOES THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THESE BUSINESSES ACROSS THE CITY FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACTIVATE YOUNG FOAM HELP MAINTAIN TREES?

IT IS A GOOD WAY FOR YOUTHS TO LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ALSO CREATE PATHWAYS FOR A VIABLE CAREER OPTION.

AND JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO BPS -- ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF MINORITY BUSINESS CONTRACTS OPPORTUNITIES AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HEAR MY DAUGHTER IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT I AM SORRY FOR

THAT.  
SHE IS JUST NOT IN SCHOOL RIGHT  
NOW SO THANK YOU.  
>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.  
I AM GOING TO ASK DIANE, OUR  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
QUICKLY TO TAKE US THROUGH OUR  
HIRING PROCESS AND OUR OUTREACH  
EFFORTS.

DIANE, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND  
JUMPING IN.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE AND  
GOOD AFTERNOON, COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> HERE IN PARKS HE WE HAVE  
RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES OR  
RECRUITMENT TRACKS.

ONE IS A CIVIL SERVICE TRACK  
WHICH WE WORK WITH THE HUMAN  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.

FOR OUR TRADE SKILL AND  
UNSKILLED LABOR SERVICE  
POSITIONS, AND THE OTHER CAREER  
PATH WE HAVE IS THE STANDARD  
CITY OF BOSTON CAREER CENTER,  
CAREER PATH.

TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS  
QUESTIONS, WE DO HAVE CHALLENGES  
RECRUITING -- ONE OF OUR BIGGEST  
CHALLENGES IS RECRUITING THE  
ASIAN POPULATION, BUT FOR THAT  
WE DO TRY TO REACH OUT TO THE  
LOCAL ASIAN CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS,  
A PARTNERSHIP, REACH OUT TO THE  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND  
SPECIFICALLY TARGET ANY OF THEIR  
MINORITIES, FOCUS GROUPS SUCH AS  
NORTHEASTERN, THEY HAVE AN ASIAN  
DIVERSITY GROUP ON CAMPUS.

BU, BC, UMASS, WE REACH OUT TO  
ALL OF THE LOCAL COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES TO BUILD SOME SORT  
OF RELATIONSHIP, AND IN ADDITION  
WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT WE DO TRY TO REACH  
OUT TO ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS YO,  
TO KIND OF GET YOUNG ADULTS ON A  
CAREER PATH HERE AT THE CITY,  
WHETHER IT BE CIVIL SERVICE OR  
NONCIVIL SERVICE.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST HURDLES WE  
HAVE AT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT  
RIGHT NOW IS RESIDENCY, BELIEVE  
IT OR NOT, AND HIRING SKILL  
TRADE LABOR.



PRIOR TO COVID, PRIOR TO THIS PANDEMIC, HE RECRUITING WAS VERY -- WAS VERY CHALLENGING FOR US WHEN IT COMES TO IDENTIFYING CDL LICENSED DRIVERS, AS WELL AS SKILLED TRADE LABORERS BECAUSE WE COULD NOT COMPETE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION FORCE AND WORKFORCE THAT WAS OUT THERE PRECOVID.

HOWEVER, WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEGAL NONAID SO I AM SURE ONCE WE ARE PAST THIS PANDEMIC OUR AFRICAN POOL CAN CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY.

TODAY WE ARE GETTING CALLS FOR HIRING, DO WE HAVE POSITIONS AND WE HAVE BEEN DIRECTING THEM TO NOT ONLY OUR WEBSITE BUT THE CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS AS WELL AND I ANTICIPATE OUR WORKFORCE AND APPLICANT POOL WILL BE LOOKING VERY ABUNDANT POST THIS PANDEMIC AND THE RESTRICTIONS THAT WE ARE FACED WITH.

AS FAR AS IDENTIFYING CDL DRIVERS WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND WE ARE WORKING HARD AND I AM GLAD TO SAY THIS YEAR WE HAVE DEVELOPED A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH PARKS SPECIFICALLY TO HELP US START PROMOTING WITHIN SO WE CAN START ACKNOWLEDGING SOME OF OUR EMPLOYEES THAT HAVE BEEN WITH THIS DEPARTMENT OR WITH THE CITY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAVE BEEN HELD BACK FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND CAREER GROWTH BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE PROCESS.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS CHIEF WOODS?

>> SURE.

SO COUNCILOR, SLATED TO HAVE -- THAT'S OKAY.

I WILL TAKE THE PROMOTION.

>> SORRY.

I AM STILL FIGURING -- I KNOW YOU HAVE A BIG TITLE BECAUSE EVERYBODY KEEPS GOING TO YOU, WOODS, WHATEVER YOU DO --

>> YOU ARE GOOD.  
YOU ARE GOOD.  
>> SO FOR TREES WE ARE LOOKING  
AT PLANTING 2,000, IT IS A  
MILLION DOLLARS INVESTMENT SO WE  
USED TO PLANT ONE WITH THOUSAND  
YEARS AND THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING  
FOR 2,000 TREES TO BE PLANTED WE  
ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS OUR  
PLANTING CONTRACT IS OUT THERE,  
IT GOES OUT TO BID, SO WE WORK  
WITH A LOT OF FIRMS AND WE TRY  
TO PUT OUT A CHECKLIST.  
THERE IS NOT A LOT OF FIRMS OUT  
THERE WITH BLACK ARBORISTS IN  
MASSACHUSETTS WE HAVE DONE  
RESEARCH WITH, WE ARE WORKING ON  
THAT AS THE HEAD ARBORIST IS THE  
HEAD ARBORIST IN A STATE SO WHEN  
WE HAVE JOB POSTING HE PUTS THIS  
OUT THERE -- WE START TO TRAIN  
AND THERE ARE SOME MEMBERS OF  
OUR STAFF SPECIFICALLY  
MINORITIES THAT DON'T HAVE THE  
ARBORIST TITLE BUT ARE LEARNING  
THE TRADE OF TREES SO DANIEL  
ROSS OPEN ON OUR STAFF WORKED  
THROUGH THE RANKS TO DO TREE  
REMOVAL AND IN EMERGENCIES HE  
CHOPS THEM, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE  
HEALTH AND CERTIFICATION TO  
DETERMINE WHICH LIMBS AND  
SPECIES CAN BE CUT HOWEVER SHE  
OUT THERE DOING THE ARBORIST  
WORK AND HOPEFUL WITH THAT ST.  
SUCCESS WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE  
TO BE ABLE TO PROMOTE WITHIN TO  
HAVE MORE PREPARED TO HELP US IN  
THE TREE DIVISION.

>> THANK YOU.  
I SEE GAVEL.  
BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD A LITTLE  
SOUND.  
SO I GOT -- ARE WE GOOD?  
>> CAN I DO ONE MORE?  
>> ONE MORE REAL QUICK, YES.  
>> PRESSURE HERE.  
SO I AM JUST REALLY CURIOUS  
ABOUT THE A -- THE FORGET I.  
THE PRESSURE OF TRYING TO BE  
QUICK.  
I WILL GO WITH THE NEXT ROUND.  
>> ALL RIGHT.  
>> I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT

ROUND.

ALL RIGHT.

NEXT IS COUNCILOR EDWARDS AND  
THEN COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.

>> THANK YOU, I WANT TO START  
OFF MY ROUND WITH THANK YOUS.  
TO RYAN WOODS, TO CHRIS COOK, TO  
JACK, TO PAUL, AND TO STEVE,  
EACH ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN DIRECT  
CONTACT WITH MY OFFICE IN MAKING  
SURE THAT WE SHINE OUR  
BRIGHTEST.

I WANT TO SAY ONE OF THE BIGGEST  
VICTORIES WE HAD WAS THE ALLERGY  
SIGNS.

IF YOU REMEMBER, THOSE ARE A BIG  
DEAL.

AND I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE  
THAT THEY ARE STILL UP AND  
RUNNING AND THAT WE ARE -- MAYBE  
THERE S'MORE PERMANENT VERSION  
OF THEM WE CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE  
BUT IT IS A BIG DEAL AND I MEAN  
WE GOT FOLKS FROM ALL OVER THE  
COUNTRY ACTUALLY WRITING ABOUT  
HOW DOES THIS WORK AND CAN YOU  
-- SO THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> I AM GOING TO GO FIRST TO THE  
LEVEL KIND OF DISTRICT WIDE AND  
THEN I WANT TO GO INTO SPECIFIC  
NEIGHBORHOODS AND I WILL NOT  
FINISH IN THIS ROUND BUT I WILL  
START.

ON THE ALLERGY SIDE, CAN YOU  
GIVE ME AN UPDATE?

ARE THEY DOWN?

WILL THEY GO BACK UP?

I KNOW A LOT ARE USING PARKS?  
I KNOW LOTS ARE USING PARKS SO  
START WITH COVID PALESTINIANS  
AND ALLERGY PALESTINIANS I  
WONDER HOW THAT IS.

I AM SURE -- THIS IS HAS BEEN  
ASKED AND ANSWERED I APOLOGIZE,  
BUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE WE ARE  
BUILDING IN FOR HAND SANITIZER,  
FOR MASKS, ANYTHING THAT IS  
GOING TO BE AVAILABLE  
PERMANENTLY AT PARKS, IF THAT IS  
POSSIBLE TO HAVE HAND WASHING  
STATIONS, IF THERE IS WATER  
AVAILABLE, THAT WOULD BE  
SOMETHING, AND THEN JUST AGAIN  
DISTRICT WIDE, BUT I AM

PARTICULARLY CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR PLAN FOR OR IF THERE IS ANY MOVEMENT ON DOG PARKS.

I WILL STOP THERE.

AND THEN I WILL WAIT FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

SO IN TERMS OF THE ALLERGY SIGNS, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SAW ME SHOW THEM OFF, COUNCILOR, WHEN WE WERE TALKING WE DO HAVE ANOTHER 150 THAT ARE ALL HERE, ALL LAMB MADE AND READY TO GO UP.

WE DID NOT PUT THEM UP WITH THE PLAY FROWNED AREAS BEING SHUT DOWN JUST BECAUSE WE PUT ALL THE SIGNS UP TO SAY THE PLAYGROUNDS ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

WE DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF THEM DOWN BUT I AM SURE OVER THE WINTER WEATHER IT TOOK MANY OF THEM DOWN SO YOU WILL BE SEEING MORE OF THOSE GO UP AROUND THE PLAYGROUND ON THE SPRING SEASON. HAND SANITIZING SOMETHING WE ARE DEFINITELY LOOKING INTO.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH WITH THE STATE ON OPENING GUIDELINES AS WE MOVE FORWARD AND LOOKING AT SUGGESTIONS OF HOW WE CAN PROVIDE HAND SANITIZER OR SOME CERTAIN WAYS TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE SOME HAND WASHING CAPABILITIES IN OUR PLAYGROUNDS SO IT IS SOMETHING WE ARE GETTING PRICE QUOTES ON AND LOOKING AS AT FEASIBILITY OF OBTAINING HAND SANITIZER THESE DAYS.

WE ARE LOOKING AT SOMETHING LIKE PERILLE STATIONS ALMOST LIKE MATT O'MALLEY SUNSCREEN STATION ORGANIZATION SOMETHING THAT CAN BE OUT THERE.

THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE I WROTE DOWN.

DOG PARKS AND --

>> I AM RACKING MY BRAIN, ELIZA, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING I AM NOT THINKING OF FOR POTENTIAL DOG RECREATION?

>> WELL, IN THE, IT ISN'T IN THE WORKS YET BUT I THINK IT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE

CONSIDERED, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND BE PART OF A PROCESS FOR -- PLAYGROUND, COMPREHENSIVE PARKS INNOVATION, THE LARGER PARKS IN CHARLESTOWN AND AS WE GET STARTED IN THE PROCESS, IF THE COMMUNITY AND THAT BEING CONSIDERED THEN IT CAN BE CONSIDERED.

>> DEFINITELY THEY ARE INTERESTED IN IT BEING CONSIDERED.

I KNOW WE DO HAVE UNOFFICIAL PARKS, YOU KNOW -- AND THAT RESULTED IN I THINK -- A BACK-AND-FORTH, TENSIONS HAVE GROWN A GREAT DEAL.

SO WE WANT TO JUST MAKE SURE THERE IS AN INFRASTRUCTURE BEING BUILT.

I WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU AND CHARLESTOWN ON DOGS, ABOUT DESIGNING IT.

WHAT WE SAW HAPPEN IN THE NORTH END, KUDOS FOR THAT DOG PARK.

I THINK IT PROBABLY DESERVES AN AWARD HOW WELL IT WAS DESIGNED AND MAKING SURE WE ARE BUILDING AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THE FOUR LEGGED ONES.

LET'S SEE.

I AM LOOKING FOR THE GAVEL. IT IS NOT UP YET SO I AM GOING TO GO INTO THE DISTRICT A LITTLE BIT.

I AM PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT THE TREES AND THE \$1 MILLION INVESTMENT GOING IN.

AS YOU KNOW WE ARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY WE HAVE THE AIRPORT AS A -- WE HAVE A HIGHER RATES OF ASTHMA AND COPD AND SO HAVING TREES WOULD BE I THINK ONE OF THE LOW HANGING FRUITS AND ABILITIES FOR US TO FIGHT BACK A LOT OF THE AFTER EFFECTS ON OUR COMMUNITY. AND SO WE ARE PARTICULARLY -- I MEAN PEOPLE ARE READY, WILLING AND ABLE WE HAVE FOLKS LOOKING AT -- WE GOT A GRANT RECENTLY TO PUT IN INDIVIDUAL TREES ON PEOPLE'S PRIVATE PROPERTIES BUT

TELL ME HOW WE ARE WORKING  
DIRECTLY WITH TO THE COMMUNITY  
SO THEY CAN REQUEST A TREE, AND  
HOW THIS -- IS THERE A QUOTA IN  
THE MILLION MILLION DOLLARS FOR X AMOUNT  
PER NEIGHBORHOOD?  
900,000?

>> SO THIS YEAR WE HAVE A  
900,000, SO IT IS A 1.9 AND THEN  
BE ABLE TO GET TO THE 2,000  
TREES, THE BEST WAY IS STILL  
PUTTING IT IN 311, IF THEY PUT  
IN A TREE REQUEST WE GO OUT  
THERE AND INSPECT THE TREE.  
THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT GOES  
INTO IT AS YOU AND COUNSELS ARE  
MAKE INSURING THERE ARE NOT ANY  
OVERHEAD WIRES, NOT WITHIN  
TEN FEET OF A HYDRANT OR CURB  
CUT AND MAKING SURE AND ALSO ADA  
ACCESSIBILITY AND WE HAVE THE  
PROPER PATHWAY THERE FOR A TREE  
PIT TO GO IN.

SO THAT IS THE WAY WE LOOK AT IT  
AND THEN ONCE THEY ARE APPROVED,  
WITH THE LOCATION WE GOAT THEM  
OVER AND --

>> ARE YOU HIRING ANY ADDITIONAL  
FOLKS, ANOTHER ARBORIST, FOR  
EXAMPLE?

>> THERE IS IS.

IN THIS PROPOSED BUDGET THERE IS  
ARBORIST TO OUR TEAM AND WE ARE  
ALSO VERY GRATEFUL, I THINK YOU  
MAY HAVE TOUCHED ON IT  
COUNSELOR, I KNOW COUNCILOR  
MEJIA DID A LITTLE BIT WE ARE  
WALKING WITH PEOPLE LIKE SPEAK  
TO THE TREES THAT ARE GOING OUT  
THERE AND DOING SOME WORK TO  
MEASURE TREE BITS AND WORK TO  
DESIGNATE LOCATIONS FOR US TO GO  
LOOK AT A POTENTIAL PLANTING  
LOCATION AND WE HAVE WORKED WITH  
NOAH IN THE PAST ON THE TREE  
WATERING PROGRAM, SOMETHING WE  
HOPE TO ANEW.

WE HAVE ONE OTHER WATERING BIKE,  
SO IF WE HAVE ANOTHER EAGER  
YOUTH ORGANIZATION THAT IS  
LOOKING TO GET ACTIVE WE WOULD  
LOVE TO HELP SUPPLY THEM THE  
BIKES TO TRY TO GET AS MANY  
TREES WATERED AROUND THE CITY AS

POSSIBLE.

>> THANK YOU.

I WILL CONTINUE TO, I WILL  
CONTINUE IN THE NEXT ROUND.

>> FANTASTIC.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR  
EDWARDS, NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR  
FLAHERTY AND THEN IT WILL BE ME.  
COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.

>> ALL RIGHT, COUNCILOR  
FLAHERTY, YOU MUTED 1 SEC.  
NOW YOU ARE UNMUTED.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME, MADAM CHAIR?

>> YES.

CAN I GET MY TEN SECONDS BACK?

>> YES, I HAVEN'T STARTED.

>> THANK YOU.

GOOD AFTERNOON, ECONOMICSER,  
OBVIOUSLY IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU  
AND CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
ELEVATION.

I KNOW THIS IS -- YOUR FIRST  
BUDGET AS THE COMMISSIONER.

I SEE 3.88 INCREASE, OBVIOUSLY  
WHICH SPEAKS TO THE SECOND SHIFT  
OF MAINTENANCE OUT OF THE PARK  
AND URBAN WILDS SO ONE OF THE,  
MAYBE A QUICK UPDATE AND PUT ALL  
OF THE QUESTIONS OUT AND YOU CAN  
TAKE THEM ONE BY ONE.

GET A QUICK UPDATE ON THE ANIMAL  
CARE AND CONTROL.

I KNOW IT WAS MOVED AS YOU KNOW  
-- WE MOVED IT FROM -- WE MOVED  
IT TO PARKS.

SO I WANT TO FOLLOW UP AND SEE  
HOW THAT TRANSFER IS GOING AND  
THEN WHAT THE DIVIDENDS THAT IS  
PAYING.

I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT  
ABOUT TREE PLANTING AND MAKE  
SURE WE ARE KEEPING UP WITH OUR  
COMMITMENT ON THE TREE PLANTING  
AND ALSO TREE PRUNING IT IS MY  
UNDERSTANDING, WE ACTUALLY DON'T  
HAVE A TREE PRUNING DIVISION, I  
THINK WE MIGHT SUBTHAT WORK OUT  
AND I THINK WE ARE BIG ENOUGH  
AND GREEN ENOUGH AS A CITY WE  
MAY WANT TO HAVE OUR OWN TEAM  
DEDICATED TEAM TO PRUNE THEM AND  
WE GET A LOT, WHETHER IT IS TREE  
TRUNKS, UPROOTING SIDEWALKS,  
CREATING HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OR

WHETHER IT IS ON THE STREET,  
WRAPPED AROUND, WHETHER IT IS  
SOME OF THE CABLE WIRES ET  
CETERA OR CAUSING DAMAGE TO  
ONE'S PROPERTY, I THINK LIST IS  
LONG, AT LEAST BASED ON THE  
CALLS THAT I GET AND I THINK  
ANSWER IS THAT WE NEED TO PUT IT  
TOUT BID.

IN 2020 WE SHOULD HAVE OUR OWN  
TREE PRUNING DIVISION.

MY 2 CENTS AND HOPEFULLY THIS  
BUDGET COULD ACCOMMODATE THAT.

AND ALSO WITH RESPECT WITH TO  
THE TREE CANOPY WORLD AND WE  
HAVE ENOUGH -- WE HAVE ENOUGH  
TREES PROVIDING SHADE AND  
REDUCING TEMPERATURES IN AREAS  
THAT -- AND THEN JUST SHIFTING  
BRIEFLY, I WANT TO GO ON RECORD  
IN THIS HEARING, COUNCILOR  
O'MALLEY KNOWS, THE CALLS DO MY  
OFFICE HAVE BEEN VOLUMINOUS WITH  
RESPECT TO BILLINGS FIELD AND  
MAKING SURE .. THAT WE MAKE THE  
NECESSARY UPGRADES OF THAT  
FIELD.

AND THEN THE ANNUAL -- I DON'T  
THINK OUR BUDGET HAS GONE BY  
WHERE I HAVEN'T BEEN ADVOCATING  
STRONGLY FOR A MOUNTED RANGER  
UNIT.

TIME HAS COME TO DEFEND THE LINE  
ITEM SO WE DON'T HAVE TO GO  
THROUGH THIS EXERCISE EVERY  
YEAR.

AGAIN, IT IS MY OPINION, BUT  
THEY ADD TREMENDOUS VALUE TO OUR  
PARK SYSTEM AND THEY OUGHT TO BE  
RESPECTED IN TERMS OF A LINE  
ITEM IN THE PARKS BUDGET AND  
MOVING FORWARD WE ARE GOING TO  
NEED THEM PROBABLY NOW MORE THAN  
EVER WITH, YOU KNOW, OUR PARKS  
AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ET CETERA,  
SO THAT'S KIND OF IT IN A  
NUTSHELL.

APE APPRECIATE ALL OF THE  
ANSWERS AND LOOK FORWARD TO  
WORKING WITH YOU.

PARKS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT  
ASSET TO OUR CITY AND ALL OF THE  
WORKERS THAT ARE UNDER YOU, YOU  
ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE TEAM



AROUND YOU, OF COURSE, BUT THE DEDICATED MEND AND, MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT THEY DO TREMENDOUS WORK AND PUT A GREAT SHINE ON OUR CITY AND PROUD TO SUPPORT THEM IN ANY WAY IN OUR CITY'S BUDGET.

SO THAT'S IT.

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

A THANK YOU.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN TREES, THE ARBORIST AND CITY STREET TREES AND HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN URBAN MASTER PLAN SO REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THESE INVESTMENTS, WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION DIRECTION TO MAKE SURE THAT GROWTH.

IN TERMS OF TREE PRUNING YOU ARE CORRECT WE DON'T HAVE A SEPARATE PRUNING DIVISION.

WE HAVE THREE ARBORISTS.

THEY OVERSEE CONTRACTS SO THERE IS A CONTRACT PLANTING, CONTRACT FOR REMOVAL, AND SEPARATE CONTRACT FOR PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE.

SO THE WAY IT WORKS IS OUR ARBORISTS AND SOMEBODY PUTS IN 31 WITHIN THEY ARE ABLE TO GO OUT AND DO AN INSPECTION AND SAY THIS TREE SHOULD BE TRIMMED SO THEY ARE THE ONES THAT APPROVES IT AND MAKES THE RECOMMENDATION AND GIVES THE WORK ORDER TO THE CONTRACTOR THAT CAN GO OUT AND DO THE WORK.

THE WAY THEY DO THE WORK IS BY NEIGHBORHOODS INSTEAD OF ONE IN WEST ROXBURY, THEY GET THAT OUT OF THE QUEUE AND THEN THEY --

[ NO AUDIO ]

>>

>> BILLINGS FIELD ALSO AS MENTIONED WE COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE.

THAT IS PRIORITY FOR US.

WE KNOW FIELD NEEDS SIGNIFICANT RENOVATION, ESPECIALLY THE ELECTRICAL UPGRADE, DRAINAGE, AS COUNCILOR O'MALLEY MENTIONED THERE WAS WORK DONE ON THE TOP LOT NAMED AFIRE FIGHTER KENNEDY.

AT THE BILLINGS FIELD, SO THAT  
WAS DONE, SOME COURT RENOVATION  
WERE DONE BUT WE DIDN'T DO A  
WHOLE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT  
BILLINGS FIELD AND THAT'S  
SOMETHING WE WANT TO DIVE INTO  
WITH FUTURE CAPITAL FUNDS.  
MOUNTED RANGER UNIT, WE ARE VERY  
APPRECIATIVE OF THE MEN AND  
WOMEN OF THE BOSTON PARK  
RANGERS.

I WANT TO BE CLEAR I DON'T THINK  
THERE IS MY THREAT TO LOSING THE  
MOUNTED UNITS.

WE ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE.

I CAN'T SEE THE PARK RANGERS  
WITHOUT THE HORSES.

THEY ARE JUST A, AS JUST AS MUCH  
A PART OF OUR TEAM AND VERY  
HAPPY TO HAVE THEM AND VERY  
EXCITED THAT EIGHT NEW MEMBERS  
JUST PASSED THROUGH THEIR  
SEASONAL TRAINING AND THEY ARE  
NOW OUT ON THE STREET TO SERVE  
AS GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR, ANSWER  
QUESTIONS AND ALSO ENFORCE ANY  
PARK RELATED ORDINANCES THAT ARE  
OUT THERE.

AND I WANT TO ADD ONE THING,  
COUNCILOR THAT I WAS PREPARED ON  
TO BLOW YOU AWAY WITH, BUT YOU  
DIDN'T ASK THIS TIME.

WE FINALLY, WITH THE HELP OF  
COVID WENT TO REMOTE WORK  
LOCATIONS.

SO A LOT OF OUR MAINTENANCE WORK  
IS OUT IN THE FIELD AND WE ARE  
NOT WASTING THAT TIME DRIVING TO  
FRANKLIN MARK AND GETTING ALL  
THE WAY TO ALLSTON BRIGHTON AND  
SOUTH BOSTON, WE REALLY HAVE  
COME TO THE 21ST CENTURY SO  
PEOPLE CAN WORK MORE CLOSE THROW  
THEIR WORK SITES, THEY ARE MORE  
EFFICIENT IN GETTING THEIR WORK  
DONE IN THEIR ACTUAL  
NEIGHBORHOOD.

THAT IS GREAT NEWS,  
COMMISSIONER.

I THOUGHT COOK TOOK CARE OF THAT  
IS WHY I DIDN'T ASK IT BUT GLAD  
TO HEAR IT.

AND A FOOTNOTE ON THE -- WE HAD  
A MAJOR RAT INFESTATION WITH THE

BURROWING UNDER THE BUILDINGS SO WHEN THAT PROJECT STARTS I WOULD ASK THAT ISD AND OTHERS CALL RODENT CONTROL AND GET OUT THERE EARLY AND MAKE SURE WE PROTECT THE BUSINESSES AND HOMES AROUND BILLINGS AS WE START TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CAPITAL INVESTMENT THERE.

>> BUT THANK YOU, AGAIN, COMMISSIONER AND THAT IS GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE LOCATION AND THE -- AND HOW THE GUYS AND THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT.

>> PERFECT.  
GREAT NEWS.

>> I DIDN'T MENTION ANIMAL CONTROL, I APOLOGIZE. LIKE I SAID AT THE TOP IT HAS BEEN A VERY SMOOTH TRANSITION WITH THE ADDITION OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AND HAVE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THEM WITH US.

IT FEELS LIKE A NATURAL CONNECT CONNECTION TO DO PARKS AND HAVING SWANS IN THE PARK, IT ALL MAKES SENSE THAT ANIMAL CONTROL BE PART OF OUR FAMILY SO THEY MADE SOME POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD, WE ARE NOW ABLE TO GET DONATIONS ON ONE BOSTON DAY WE PUT A WHOLE PLEDGE OUT THERE IN THE ANIMAL SHELTER RECEIVED, WERE ABLE TO SEND STUFF OVER TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTLY ON THE AMAZON PRIME ACCOUNT AND THEY GOT ALL OF THESE KIND OF DONATIONS SO IT IS GREAT WE WERE ABLE TO GET ANIMAL DONATION IN ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AND WE HAVE A WAY OF DOING THAT GOING FORWARD.

WE ARE SEEING SOME REVENUE GOING DOWN FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL BECAUSE THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHERE PEOPLE GO THE RAY BY SHOTS AND DO THE DOG LICENSING SO I THINK THAT WILL PICK UP AS BUSINESS RETURNS MORE TO NORMAL BUT SOME FOLKS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE ONLINE TRANSACTIONS THAT DON'T HAVE THE CAPABILITY.

SO TRYING TO WORK WITH THAT THE  
AS SNAIL MAIL OPPORTUNITIES AND  
WAYS THAT WE CAN HAVE THAT  
SERVICE PROVIDED.

>>

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER,  
THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU, COUNCILOR  
FLAHERTY.

ALL RIGHT.

I THINK WE HAVEN'T BEEN JOINED  
BY ANY OTHER COLLEAGUES SO I AM  
UP NEXT, THANKS AGAIN,  
ECONOMICSER.

THANK YOU FOR BEING IN SUCH GOOD  
TOUCH WITH MY OFFICE AND WITH  
ME.

I JUST WANT TO START OFF BY  
ASKING YOU I CHECKED IN A FEW  
WEEKS BACK ABOUT THE KENMORE --  
PROJECTS WHICH, PROJECT WHICH I  
AM EXCITED TO SEE IN THIS BUDGET  
AT A BEGINNING STAGE.

I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE  
TIMELINE.

I KNOW IT INVOLVES SOME  
COORDINATION WITH THE MBTA  
BECAUSE THERE IS SPACE  
UNDERNEATH THERE.

I WENT TO A MEETING ON THE PLAN  
THERE A WHILE BACK, BUT DIDN'T  
GET MUCH OF A SENSE OF THE  
TIMELINE DETAILS S WANTED TO ASK  
YOU ABOUT THAT.

>> SO MY COLLEAGUE IS WELL  
PREPARED AND BEEN STUDYING THIS  
STUDY SO ELI OZARKS IF YOU WOULD

--

>> SURE.

THANKS.

THERE IS MONEY IN THIS UPCOMING  
BUDGET TO BE ABLE TO ADVANCE THE  
DESIGN, AS YOU KNOW THE  
CONCEPTUAL IS DESIGN WAS BY  
FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN SO  
THERE IS SOME INITIAL PLANNING  
THAT HAS BEEN DONE AND YET THAT  
INITIAL PLANNING WORK WAS DONE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MBTA P  
THEY HAVE A TUNNEL UNDER THERE  
AND THEY HAVE THAT -- YOU KNOW,  
AS FAR AS THE TUNNEL --

>> -- WHICH CAN BE INCORPORATED  
INTO THE DESIGN OF THAT PARCEL.

SO THAT COORDINATION WILL BE MOVING FORWARD.

IF WE CAN ADVANCE THE DESIGN WORK THIS YEAR, WE HOPE PARTNER WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDENS ON FUND-RAISING AROUND CONSTRUCTION AND -- AT THIS POINT IN TIME THERE IS NOT CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT IN THEIR BUDGET OR IN THE CITY CAPITAL BUDGET BUT THAT IS SOMETHING WE CAN WORK COLLABORATIVELY ON MOVING FORWARD.

>> YES.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I ASKED ABOUT IT.

YES.

THANK YOU SO MUCH AND, YES, LOOK FORWARD TO PARTNERING ON THAT. I THINK IT WOULD MEAN A LOT AND I KNOW FROM VISITING THAT IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO THE FOLKS WHO LIVE AT KENMORE ABBY RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET TO HAVE THAT PARK BE, IT WOULD BE A LOVELY PLACE TO SIT.

GREAT.

I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD TALK THROUGH THE BOSTON COMMON MASTER PLAN AND HOW THE COVID EMERGENCY, THE TIMELINE FOR THAT AND HOW WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT WHERE WE ARE ON THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS THERE.

>> ELIZA.

>> SURE.

>> YES.

SO IF WE WEREN'T FACING THE COVID-19 CRISIS RIGHT NOW WE WOULD HAVE GONE BACK OUT TO THE COMMUNITY WITH ANOTHER COMMUNITY MEETING, THE SPRING ALREADY, SO WE HAVE HAD TO PUT THAT MEETING A BIT ON HOLD AND WE ARE RETHINKING THE APPROACH, THAT WE COULD DO SOMETHING IN A REMOTE FORMAT AS WE MOVE FORWARD. BUT THERE IS A LOT OF DESIGN WORK TO BE DONE, SO THE TEN WORK

--

>> --

>> THE DESIGN TELL HAS BEEN ADVANCING THEIR WORK, WORKING IN

SOME OF THE KEY AREAS IN THE PARK, PULLING THE INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH A LOT OF ENGAGEMENT TO DATE, TAKING SURVEYS, COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND THROUGH THE FRIENDS POP-UP EVENTS THAT WE HELD ACROSS THE CITY.

IT HAS A LOT OF INFORMATION TO GO FROM.

STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS. SO I WOULD ANTICIPATE IT BEING AN ON-LINE MEETING IN SOME FORMAT THIS SUMMER, AS WE SHARE IDEAS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND GET FEEDBACK TO ADVANCE THE PLANS. THE HOPE IS TO HAVE A PLAN COMPLETE BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

>> GREAT.

OKAY.

YES.

THERE WAS A LOT OF EAGERNESS ON THAT SO I WOULD LOVE TO BE A PART TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A ROBUST PROCESS THERE AND GET PEOPLE INVOLVED AND THINK OF CREATIVE WAYS.

WE WILL DEFINITELY SEE THE PARK BEING USED NOW MORE THAN EVER AND I WAS WONDERING ON THAT FRONT, THIS IS JUST A QUICK QUESTION FOR THE COMMISSIONER, BUT OBVIOUSLY TWO OF THE TRUSTEES ON THE MAINTENANCE FUND AND WE -- COVID IS A SORT OF TOOK OFF AND I WANT TO CONFIRM WE WILL RESTART THAT PROCESS.

>> WE WILL GET THAT BACK ON THE BOOKS.

WE STARTED TO GET SOME QUOTES FROM OUR WALK THROUGH OF SOME MUCH NEEDED AREAS IN THE PARK, SUCH AS PAVING AREA, SAFETY SERVICING AREAS, MASON I ARE REPAIRS SO, MASONRY REPAIR .. I WILL MAKE SURE WE PRIORITIZE THAT.

>> GREAT.

I KNOW MY DISTRICT IS THRILLED ABOUT THE PLAN TO INVEST IN A NEW PROJECT IN THE BACK BAY -- PATHWAYS AND I THINK IT IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IT IS ONE OF THE JEWELS THAT ALSO

GAVE US, SORT OF EQUALLY ACCEPT TO BELIEVE ALL BOSTONIANS YOU HAVE THE PATHWAYS, SO IT REALLY ZOO WALKING PARK, SO I AM EXCITED ABOUT THAT AND WOULD LOVE TO UNDERSTAND JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE TIMELINE ON THAT.

I KNOW OBVIOUSLY WE HAVEN'T DONE THE COMMUNITY PROCESS, WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHERE SHOULD THOSE PATHWAYS BE IN I THINK MAYBE SOME ARE THERE AND SOME ARE NOT?

AND THEN HOW WE ARE GOING TO COORDINATE WITH THAT WITH THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT. I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU COULD SPEAK A LITTLE BIT TO THOSE PIECES.

>> SURE.

WE ARE EXPECTING THE 36 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS ARMY CORPS PHASE 2 TO START THIS SUMMER, POTENTIALLY AS EARLY AS JULY SO THAT WILL BE UP AND GOING PRIOR TO US BEING ABLE TO GET A DESIGNER ON BOARD.

IF THIS IS APPROVED THROUGH BUDGET WE WILL ALSO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS.

SO I THINK WE WOULD START THIS PROCESS MORE SPRING OF 21 GOING THROUGH.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL BE -- IT WILL BE A ROBUST COMMUNITY PROCESS.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL BE THREE MEETINGS, FOUR MEETINGS, IT MIGHT ON BE ONE OR TWO TO SEE ITS PATHWAYS SO THERE ARE A LOT OF PATHWAYS THAT EXIST, SHOULD WE REPAIR THE EXISTING ONES? HOW SHOULD BIT PHASED IN WHICH ONES ARE IN WORSE CONDITIONS THAN OTHERS MOVING FORWARD? OF COURSE WE WILL MOVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ARMY CORPS TO MAKE SURE WE ARE NOT -- TO CUT THROUGH THE PARK SO THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A GREAT AMOUNT OF COLLABORATION.

I WOULD EXPECT, THOUGH, BY THE TIME THESE MEETINGS HAVE

HAPPENED WE ARE LOOKING AT NEXT SUMMER AT THE EARLY END OF, YOU KNOW, STARTING CONSTRUCTION, SO THAT WOULD BE ABOUT A YEAR UNDER OUR CONSTRUCTION AT THAT POINT.

>> AND REMIND ME AGAIN, I AM SORRY, I SHOULD KNOW, I SHOULD GO TO THE MEETING, BUT HOW LONG THE CONSTRUCTION LINE FOR THE MUDDY -- FEATURE.

>> I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE IT INDICATE CLARIFIED AND GAVE AN END DATE HOWEVER WE ARE LOOKING AT SEVERAL YEARS, I THINK IT IS AT LEAST A THREE THREE-YEAR PROJECT.

>> YES.

OKAY.

I JUST KNOW IN IS HAS COME UP A NUMBER OF FRONTS.

I-FLOW IS A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF THE RIVER, SO, YOU KNOW, QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER QUALITY, SOMETHING I HEAR A LOT ABOUT IN THE DISTRIBUTE AND AS WE THINK ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THE RIVER I AM ANXIOUS TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE ALSO SUPPORT THE CLEANNESS OF THE WATER, ESPECIALLY AS THIS FLOWS INTO THE CHARLES, RIGHT, AND THAT IS -- IT IS A HUGE ADVANTAGE FOR US TO BE HAVING THESE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS GOING ON, JUST TRYING TO THINK OF HOW WE KEEP THAT PIECE IN FOCUS TOO.

>> ALL RIGHT.

I THINK THAT IS MY TIME.

AND DO AS I SAY, -- DO AS I DO.

LEADING OFF WITH ANOTHER ROUND OF QUESTIONS I THINK IT IS COUNCILOR FLYNN.

>> COUNCILOR FLYNN.

ARE YOU THERE FOR THE SECOND ROUND?

>> OKAY.

WE WILL MOVE ALONG.

COUNCILOR --

>>

>>

>> I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE PLANNING FOR THE MCKINNEY FIELD, MCKINNEY PLAYING RENOVATION ENGAGING WITH THE RESIDENTS OF



SAMUEL GARDENS, SINCE THEY ARE THE NEWEST -- AND PROBABLY THE MOST -- THE MOST USERS OF THAT PARK.

NOW IS THAT GOING?

BECAUSE I NOTICE THAT MANY OF THE MEETINGS WERE NOT -- YOU KNOW, WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE A MEETING -- WELL, WITH COVID, PROBABLY NOT BUT I REALLY FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD MAKE SOME CONCERTED EFFORTS TO ENGAGE ABOUT THOSE RESIDENTS.

YES.

THAT SPECIFICALLY IS ONE WE HAD A COMMUNITY MEETING ON, OF COURSE THE MASTER PLAN WAS ALREADY COMPLETE AND WE WANT TO -- WE ARE READY TO DON'T COMMUNITY MEETINGS, IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ONE WE ARE READY TO GO VIRTUAL WITH BECAUSE WE WERE AFRAID WE WOULDN'T BE AS INCLUSIVE AS WE NEEDED TO IN THAT COMMUNITY SO GOING FORWARD WE WILL LOOK AT STRATEGIES TO MAKE SURE WE ARE INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY INTRODUCES STREET WHETHER THE MEETING IS THERE ARE 0 ACCESS.

I KNOW FOR THE FIRST MEETING WE DIDN'T GREAT A GREAT ATTENDANCE SO WORKING MORE WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THEIR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TO TRY TO ENGAGE MORE RESIDENTS TO MAKE SURE THEIR VOICES ARE HEARD AS THE --

>> IS THERE A TIMELINE?

>> SO WE ARE STILL WORKING -- YES.

WE ARE STILL WORKING TO TRY TO RAISE SOME PHILANTHROPIC DOLLARS TO GO ON TOP OF THE CAPITAL FUNDS IN WORKING OUT WITH RESIDENT, WHETHER IT IS ARTIFICIAL TURF, IT IF IT IS NATURAL GRASS, WHETHER THE LIGHTING IS THERE OR NOT, THERE WHAT IS THE TIMING OF THE LIGHTING IN SO IT IS HARD TO TO GIVE A TIMELINE BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF DETAILS TO WORK OUT.

WE ARE JUST TRYING TO WORK RIGHT

NOW ON THAT TIMELINE WHEN WE CAN GET EVERYBODY AT THE TABLE TO ENGAGE THEM, SO WE ARE MOVING, MAKING SURE WE ARE MOVING THIS PROJECT ON IN THE RIGHT PATH.

>>

>> AND THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ARTIFICIAL TURF, I KNOW WITH THE SAFETY WITH THE ARTIFICIAL TURF DOMAIN HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY, I THINK THERE IS SOME NEED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ASSUAGE THEIR CONCERNS.

BECAUSE GIVEN THE FACT -- ON PLAYABLE SURFACES THINK ARTIFICIAL TURF IS PROBABLY THE WAY TO GO THERE.

>> I AGREE WITH YOU.

AND YES THERE ARE SOME STUDIES OUT THERE AND I THINK HE LAY IS A ON OUR TEAM AND DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IS HAPPY TO ENGAGE IN MAKING SURE RESIDENT ARE AT EASE IN UNDERSTANDING THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN TERMS OF ARTIFICIAL TURF.

>> THE ONLY ISSUE -- WITH A LOT OF DEVELOPMENT -- THERE ACTUALLY ARE NO PARKS IN THAT AREA, APART FROM A PARK -- THE MEMORIAL PARK ON AL ELECTRON STREET.

I FEEL WHEN YOU DEVELOPERS COME ALONG WITH PROPOSALS THAT WE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING THEM TO DEVELOP EVEN A SMALL PARK TO GIVE SOME GREEN RELIEF IN A VERY DENSE AREA.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS ARE ON THAT.

I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU, COUNCILOR, THAT'S SOMETHING WHEN ANY DEVELOPMENT COMES IN WITHIN 100 FEET OF A PARK AND THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OPEN SPACE AND WITH A VARIANCE WE DO WORK WITH THEM, WHETHER DONATING SPACE TO ANOTHER PARK OR ADDING GREEN SPACE ON THEIR PROPERTY.

ALSO IF THERE ARE ANY LOTS THERE, PUBLICLY OWNED, PRIVATELY OWNED WE CAN PUT INTO OUR PARCEL PRIORITY PLAN, THAT WOULD BE

SOMETHING WE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT, WHETHER IT IS SOMETHING THAT IS TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER CITY DEPARTMENT TO US OR IF IT IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO SOME LAND ACQUISITION, MAYBE THROUGH CPA FUNDS OR SOME CITY GAL DOLLARS IN ORDER TO ADD MORE GREEN SPACE, ESPECIALLY IN THAT AREA YOU MENTIONED.

>> WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MANY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS ARE BUILDING GREEN SPACE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE BUILDINGS BUT IT IS A PRIVATE, NOT ACCESSED, NOT PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE IS THE PROBLEM.

NOW THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A WEIRD QUESTION.

DO YOU EVER GET INQUIRIES ABOUT GREEN BURIALS OR ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY DISPOSAL OF REMAINS AT THE END OF LIFE?

>> THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING QUESTION ONE IWO SWRULD TO GET BACK TO YOU AFTER TALKING TO MY CEMETERY STAFF.

I HAVE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT BURIALS IN THE PAST MONTH AND ALL OF THE OPTIONS TO DO IT BUT THAT IS NOT SOMETHING AT THAT COME ACROSS MY PATH YET SO THAT IS SOMETHING I WILL LOOK INTO.

>> SO MANY PEOPLE ARE OPTING FOR CREMATION THESE DAYS RATHER THAN BURIAL, AND, YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE IDEA OF BIOURN WHERE YOU WOULD BURY THE ASHES AND YOU WOULD HAVE A TREE PLANTED SO IT MAY GO ON WITH YOUR TREE PLANNING, A PERMANENT MEMORIAL WITH A TREE FOR -- ANYWAY, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR WORK.

IT HAS BEEN A VERY INTERESTING CONVERSATION THIS AFTERNOON AND I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU ARE DOING TO MAKE OUR CITY MORE GREEN AND PLEASANT.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR AND THANK YOU TO COUNSELS BAKER AND

CAMPBELL PORTION COUNCILOR BAKER  
AND CAMPBELL WHO SAID YES, IT IS  
A BEAUTIFUL DAY AND WE SHOULD BE  
OUTSIDE SO THIS IS IN TEN YEARS  
I AM SITTING ON THE BLACK DECK  
YOU CAN SEE SOME BEAUTIFUL TREES  
BEHIND ME HERE IN WESTE, SO  
GREAT, WEST ROXBURY SO GREAT TO  
BE ZOOMING WITH YOU ALL FROM  
THIS VANTAGE POINT.

COMMISSIONER I WANT TO BRIEFLY  
GO THROUGH THE BUDGET SORT OF  
LINE ITEM, PERSONNEL IS UP, NOT  
UP ABOUT, IT IS UP 362,000, HOW  
MANY POSITIONS IS THAT?  
AND DOES THAT ALSO REFLECT OVER  
TIME AND STAFF INCREASES AND  
STEP INCREASES?

>> WE WILL HAVE THE STEP  
INCREASES IN THERE BUT FLAT IS  
PAPERLY FOR OUR SIX NEW  
POSITIONS, FOUR OF WHICH WILL BE  
THE SECOND SHIFT THAT WILL BE  
REPORTING OUT OF MAINTENANCE  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY,  
1:00 TO 9:00 AS WELL AS THE  
ADDITION TO AN ARBORIST TO OUR  
URBAN FORESTRY AND MUCH NEEDED  
ADDITION TO OUR STAFF AT THE  
URBAN WILDS DIVISION TO HELP  
TAKE CARE OF THAT.

AND JUST TO TOUCH ON, COUNCILOR,  
I THINK YOUR EARLIER QUESTION OR  
MAYBE ONE OF THE QUESTIONS YOU  
PREPARED FOR US, THIS SECOND  
SHIFT BEING FACED OUT OF  
FRANKLIN PARK AND NOT JUST  
DOWNTOWN IS GOING TO BE TO BE  
ABLE TO RESPOND QUICKER TO WEST  
ROXBURY, ROSLINDALE, HYDE PARK,  
THINGS THAT MAY HAVE TAKEN US AN  
HOUR, HOUR AND A HALF TO RESPOND  
TO AN EMERGENCY SO I THINK WE  
WILL ACTUALLY HAVE SOME  
STAFFING, GRAFFITI, BROKEN  
GLASS, OVERFLOWING TRASH BARRELS  
BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN REAL-TIME  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY IN THE  
WHENCE THE PARKS ARE THE  
BUSINESSSTH.

>> THAT IS TERRIFIC AS YOU KNOW  
AND THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT KNOWS,  
IT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF  
THE THE CITY TO HAVE MORE

RESOURCES TO DEPLOY, ALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ARE GREAT. THE ONLY QUIBBLE I WISH IT WAS MORE, BECAUSE I KNOW EVEN MORE POSITIONS ARE NEEDED BUT THAT IS A GREAT POSITIVE STEP.

LEASE EQUIPMENT IS UP \$239,000. THAT IS JUST VEHICLE LICENSES?

>> GET ARE MORE VEHICLES, A COUPLE OF SIDEWALK MACHINES TO HELP WITH US SNOW REMOVAL, BUT IT IS MOSTLY VEHICLES, AS YOU KNOW OUR STAFF SOME DIVISIONS HAVE TO REPORT TO 30 TO 40 DIFFERENT PARKS IN THEIR DISTRICTS SO IT IS MORE CREW CABS GETTING THEM FROM LOCATION TO LOCATION AND OUR FLEET IS AGING AND CONSTANTLY IN REPAIR OVER AT CENTRAL FLEET MAINTENANCE SO IT IS TO HELP US GET MORE VEHICLES.

>> GREAT.

I KNOW CHIEF COOK DRIVES AN ELECTRICAL VEHICLE BECAUSE HE AND I HAVE THE SAME CAR. HOW MANY ELECTRICAL VEHICLES DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR FLEET, COMMISSIONER?

>> I WILL HAVE TO GET THAT FOR YOU.

I AM NOT AWARE OFF THE TOP. I KNOW SOMEWHERE A COUPLE OF HYBRID VEHICLES, I AM NOT SURE ON THE FULLY ELECTRIC VEHICLE. YES.

THANK YOU.

>> HYBRID, ELECTRIC AND HYBRID WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR MY CURIOSITY.

>> CURRENT CHARGES, OBLIGATIONS UP ABOUT 200 K.

IS THIS SORT OF DEBT SERVICE, PENSION, ET CETERA?

>> CORRECT IT GOES UP EVERY YEAR IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

AND LAND AND STRUCTURE UP ABOUT \$239,000, WHAT IS THE THAT?

>> THAT IS THE LAST LINE ITEM, LINE ATE, 58,000.

>> ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT ONE?

>> [INDISCERNIBLE]

>> THANK YOU, STEPHANIE, I THINK IT IS BECAUSE I AM OUTSIDE, I

DIDN'T HEAR THAT ALL BUT I WILL  
GET THAT LATER FOR MY COLLEAGUES  
COLLEAGUES.

>> I WILL REPEAT REALLY QUICK --  
INCREASE IN \$147,000 FOR TREE  
PRUNING AND REMOVAL SERVICES AND  
25,000 FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE,  
CONTRACT AMOUNT.

GREAT.  
THANK YOU.

ONE OF THE GOALS, WHICH I KNOW  
YOU HOLD NEAR AND DEAR TO YOUR  
HEARTS, COMMISSIONER IT HAS BEEN  
GRATIFYING TO SEE, IT IT ACTUALLY  
HAS COME TO GRU SITUATION  
THROUGH YOUR LEADERSHIP AND  
PREDECESSORS, YOUR LEADERSHIP,  
ATTENDANCE AT ORGANIZED EVENTS,  
I THINK THERE ARE BETTER PARK  
SPONSORED EVENTS BRINGING  
EDUCATION, BRINGING SPORTS,  
BRINGING ARTS AND CULTURE THAN  
WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IN THE  
CITY 30 PLUS YEARS AGO.

YOU HAD A GOAL TO INCREASE,  
AGAIN THIS YEAR 72,000, I THINK  
IT IS UNLIKE WILL TO, LIKELY TO  
HAPPEN THROUGH NO FAULT OF YOUR  
OWN, THROUGH THE PANDEMIC WE  
HAVING GOING THROUGH.

HAVE YOU HAD SOME THOUGHTS IN  
TERMS OF HOW YOU WILL APPROACH  
SOME OF THE SUMMER PROGRAMMING  
GIVEN THE FACT THAT THERE LIKELY  
WILL BE SOME -- THERE WILL BE  
PART OF OUR STEPS TO GET OUT OF  
THE PANDEMIC THERE WILL STILL  
NEED TO BE SOME DISTANCING AND  
SOME SAFETY PRECAUTIONS?

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY THOUGHTS ON  
HOW THE PARKS AT THE PRESENT  
TIME COULD APPROACH IT OR  
PERHAPS YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH  
COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND THE  
COUNTRY ON HOW WE ARE GOING TO  
DEAL WITH SOME OF THE SUMMER  
PROGRAM SOMETHING.

>> SURE.

SO WE STARTED WITH OUR FITNESS  
PROGRAMMING, ALREADY.  
WE ARE OFFERING FIVE CLASSES  
RIGHT NOW VIRTUALLY, SO WHERE  
PEOPLE CAN'T GET TO THE GYM  
RIGHT NOW, GYM MEMBERSHIPS YOU

CAN TAKE, ZOOMBA, IT SEEMS SUCCESSFUL SO WE WILL TRY TO BRING THAT ON AND START DOING SOME GOLF LESSONS AS WELL, TEACHING PEOPLE TIPS LIKE THAT AND MOVING FORWARD. IT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE OUR MAYOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT IS LINE LIKELY OUR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BASKETBALL LEAGUE PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE IN THE 51ST YEAR ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN WITH THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES SO WE ARE TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT AS WE GET TO AUGUST WE MAY BE ABLE TO HAVE SOME MORE, WHETHER IT IS MOVIE NIGHTS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE WHERE WE CAN SOCIAL DISTANCE OR MAYBE WE ARE THINKING ABOUT DRIVE-INS OR HOW YOU CAN REALLY

--

>> OH,.  
>> THAT WOULD BE GREAT.  
>> TO GET PEOPLE OUT THERE FOR THIS.

AND I WILL THROW A PLUG IN HERE. MAYOR WALSH WAS VERY ADAMANT ABOUT THE NEED FOR ADDING MORE WORKFORCE FOR SUMMER YOUTH, SO WITH A LOT OF OUR PROGRAMS BEING DOWN, SUCH AS, YOU KNOW, CONCERTS OR MOVIE NIGHTS, MAYBE, WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH JOBS THAT USUALLY ARE THE ONES FOR OUR DY YOUTH PROGRAMS AND STILL WORKING WITH PUBLIC WORKS AND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO TRY TO COME UP WITH SOME JOBS, WHETHER IT BE LIKE THE RED SHIRT PROGRAM WAS WHERE WE WERE ABLE TO CLEAN URBAN WILDS, PARKS, STREETS, MAKING SURE THAT YOUTH HAVE SUMMER PROGRAMMING AND HAVE SOME EMPLOYMENT, SOME MONEY COMING INTO THEIR CHECKS EVERY WEEK DESPITE OUR LACK OF PROGRAMMING.

>> I THINK THAT IS GREAT. I AM A HUGE PROPONENT OF RESURRECTING THE RED SHIRTS PROGRAM. IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A TERRIFIC

EXPERIENCE AND REALLY HELP BUTTE  
BEAUTIFYING OUR OPEN SPACES.  
>> FINALLY, I WANT TO GIVE A  
SHOUTOUT --  
>> CAN I INTERRUPT QUICKLY?  
I THINK COUNCILOR O'MALLEY  
SHARED HIS SCREEN WITH US.  
YOU MAY WANT TO --  
>> THANK YOU.  
YOU ARE STILLO'MALLEY.  
>> THERE YOU GO.  
HOW'S THAT?  
>> THERE YOU GO.  
>> NOW YOU CAN SEE MY E-MAILS.  
TERRIFIC.  
THANK YOU FOR THAT, COUNCILOR  
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.  
MY LAST QUESTION INVOLVES THE  
ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AND THE  
GREAT WORK THAT AMANDA KENNEDY  
DOES.  
WE PASSED, THE COUNCIL PASSED A  
BILL SEVERAL YEARS AGO.  
I WONDER IF THERE'S DATA ON  
THAT.  
YOU MAY NOT KNOW.  
WE CAN FOLLOW UP LATER.  
CURIOUS IF THERE'S BEEN ANY  
CURBING OF SALES OF PETS ON THE  
STREET CORNERS, LOOKING AT  
STORES.  
I KNOW THERE WAS ONE STORE WE  
WERE WORKING WITH TO HELP THEM  
CLOSE DOWN.  
DO YOU HAVE ANY DATA ON THAT?  
>> DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC NUMBERS  
ON THAT, BUT HAPPY TO LOOK IN TO  
IT FOR YOU, COUNCILOR, AND GET  
YOUR RESPONSE.  
>> THAT'S GREAT.  
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
APPRECIATE ALL YOUR TERRIFIC  
WORK AND APPRECIATE YOUR GREAT  
WORK IN THESE EXTRAORDINARY  
TIMES.  
>> THANK YOU.  
>> GREAT.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR  
O'MALLEY.  
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO  
SHARE WITH US OR I WOULD HAVE  
CALLED IT OUT SOONERMENT NEXT IS  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT JANEY AND NEXT  
IS COUNCILOR BAKER.



>> I DID TEXT YOU, MATT.  
WONDERING THAT MYSELF, BUT THEN  
WHEN HA DIDN'T GET ON WITH THE  
PRESENTATION I TEXTED HIM.  
I WANT TO ECHO COUNCILOR  
O'MALLEY'S SENTIMENT ABOUT  
FRANKLIN PARK.  
GREAT TO SEE THE INVESTMENT  
THERE AND THE EXPANDED OUTREACH.  
I WASN'T QUITE CLEAR.  
I KNOW WE TALKED ABOUT  
ENGAGEMENT EARLIER.  
COULD YOU REMIND ME WHAT WE'RE  
DOING MOVING FORWARD TO ENGAGE  
FOLKS IN THIS NEW AGE OF COVID?  
ARE WE TRYING DO MORE STUFF  
ONLINE?  
ARE WE HAVING MEETINGS SPREAD  
OUT WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING?  
WHAT'S THE PLAN.

>> SURE.  
SO WE'RE WORKING THROUGH THAT.  
SOME PROJECTS ARE EASIER TO THE  
VIRTUALLY THAN OTHERS.  
[NO AUDIO]  
SO TO THINK ABOUT THAT HERE, I  
THINK IS INCREDIBLE.  
THERE ARE A COUPLE OF BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENTS I WOULD BE  
INCREDIBLY SAD TO SEE GO AWAY,  
SHOULD THAT BE THE NEED FOR THAT  
THIS SUMMER, YOU KNOW, IN DERBY  
PARK WE HAVE MICHAEL'S  
TOURNAMENT HE DOES AROUND HIS  
BIRTHDAY EVERY YEAR.  
THIS IS A BIG ANNIVERSARY FOR  
DeVOE THIS YEAR.  
AND SO I KNOW WE WERE HOPING  
FORELOT OF GOOD CELEBRATION THIS  
SUMMER, SO WILL BE DISAPPOINTING  
IF WE CAN'T DO THOSE THINGS.  
I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN  
THINKING ABOUT OTHER WAYS WE  
COULD HAVE FUN CELEBRATORY  
EVENTS WITH COMMUNITY,  
PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE SHUTDOWN.  
I WOULD JUST BEFORE SIGNING OFF  
ON MY SECOND ROUND, I AM VERY  
INTERESTED AS I MENTIONED ALWAYS  
HEARING THE NUMBERS OF THE  
SPEND, WHAT WE'RE DOING IN TERMS  
OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT  
HERE, IF YOU HAVE THE NUMBERS  
AVAILABLE FOR THE HEARING,

THAT'S WONDERFUL.

IF NOT, AS A FOLLOW UP THAT  
WOULD BE GREAT.

LOOKING BACK AT FY '20 WHAT THE  
PROJECTED SPENDING IS FOR FY '21  
IN TERMS OF BUSINESSES IN  
BOSTON, BUSINESSES OWNED BY  
PEOPLE OF COLOR AND BUSINESSES  
OWNED BY WOMEN AND THEN WHAT  
PLANS YOU'RE THINKING FOR  
IMPROVING THOSE NUMBERS.  
AND THEN ANY OF THE CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECTS FOR THE PARKS AND THE  
CITY OVERALL, ALSO INTERESTED IN  
THE BREAK DOWN.

I REMEMBER WE DISCUSSED SOME OF  
IT IN AN EARLIER HEARING I THINK  
WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT  
THE RJP GOALS.

AND I BELIEVE THIS WAS AN AREA  
THAT WE WERE HOPING TO IMPROVE  
MOVING FORWARD, SO IF THERE IS A  
PLAN IN PLACE FOR THIS OR A PLAN  
THAT YOU'RE WORKING ON AND COULD  
SHARE AT A LATER TIME, I WOULD  
CERTAINLY BE INTERESTED IN THAT.  
AND AGAIN, ANYTHING THAT WE CAN  
DO TO PARTNER TO GET THE WORD  
OUT ON ENGAGEMENT AND ON THESE  
NEW ACTIVITIES AND REIMAGINING  
WHAT SUMMER LOOKS LIKE IN THE  
BOSTON AREA IN ALL OF THESE  
AMAZING PARKS THAT WE HAVE,  
HAPPY TO THINK ABOUT THAT WITH  
YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

I WANTED TO POINT OUT I MADE  
SURE I PUT THE PAINTING OF  
FRANKLIN PARK BEHIND ME THERE.  
YOU HAVE SOME CREDIT WHEN YOU  
SEE THAT ONE.

YES, SO WE'RE VERY EXCITED FOR  
THE SUMMER, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT  
NEW WAYS.

WE HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE  
NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK  
ASSOCIATION WEBINARS TO FIND OUT  
WHAT OTHER MUNICIPALITIES DOING  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY DURING THESE  
TIMES, WHAT NEW IDEAS ARE  
FLOWING ON THAT, MAKE SURE TO  
INCLUDE YOU AS WE DO.  
I'LL LET STEPHANIE GO IN A

SECOND TO SEE IF WE HAVE EXACT NUMBERS ON WHAT WE PLAN TO SPEND IN FISCAL YEAR '21.

IN TERMS OF THE NUMBERS, WE HAVE NINE PARK PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, 18% OF RESIDENTS, 30% POC, 5% WOMEN.

OF THE 100 CONTRACTS THAT WE HAVE, 5 ARE BY WBEs OR MBEs, HOWEVER WE FOUND THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES THAT HAVE NOT REGISTERED THEMSELVES WITH ECONOMIC CAN DEVELOPMENT TO BE PART OF THE WBE AND MBE PROGRAM SO BRINGS US UP TO 10.

WE'LL WORK TO MAKE SURE THEY REGISTER SO WE HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT GOING FORWARD.

WE HAVE A BID STRATEGY FORM WE PUT OUT AS WE DO EVERY CONSTRUCTION BID.

WHEN VENDORS COME IN WITH THEIR BIDS THEY HAVE TO HAVE THE BID STRATEGY FORM.

THAT MAKES US PROVE WHAT IS THE OUTREACH STRATEGY SPECIFICALLY TO THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND TO WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES, THAT THEY HAVE TO PUT IN.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE ONE OF THE ONLY DEPARTMENTS THAT STILL USE THE FORM BUT THAT'S

SOMETHING WE REALLY PUSH AND WE'RE ABLE TO LOOK MORE AT QUALIFICATIONS ON DESIGN SERVICES AS COMPARED TO CONSTRUCTION, WHICH DESIGN IS NOT LOW BID, IT'S A SET PRICE.

ONE QUALIFICATIONS WE TRY TO INCORPORATE IN THE CRITERIA WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES AND MINORITY-OWNED BYES WHEN WE LOOK AT DESIGN STRATEGIES, SOMETHING WHERE WE HAVE FLEXIBILITY AND CAN USE THAT AS A QUALIFICATION BASE.

WE HAVE ATTENDED THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPEN HOUSES AND TRANSFERRING A LOT OF CARDS WITH LANDSCAPERS INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED SO WE CAN TELL THEM OF PROJECTS COMING UP.

IF THEY WANT TO SUBCONTRACT WITH

A VENDOR, TRYING TO MAKE THOSE CONNECTIONS SO THEY CAN BE THERE.

SPECIFICALLY, WITH LANDSCAPING AS WE SAW A LOT OF MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE LANDSCAPING FIELD WE HAVE DONE 10 SEPARATE CONTRACTS, SO SOME ARE ABOUT SITE AIR WHY, EAST BOSTON OR ROXBURY AS WELL AS SLOPE CUTTING ON OUR DIFFERENT HILLS AND SLOPES.

SO THAT WAY WE CAN DIVERSIFY POPULATION AND NOT PUT ALL THE MOWING IN ONE BIG CONTRACT THAT GOES TO A BIG FIRM.

WE'RE ABLE TO WORK WITH THOSE SMALLER BUSINESSES.

>> EXCELLENT.

I WANT TO JUST SAY THANK YOU ON THAT NOTE.

REALLY AFFIRMING THE BREAKING DOWN OF THE CONTRACTS TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO SOME OF THE SMALLER LOCAL VENDORS.

THAT'S WONDERFUL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO CUT YOU OFF, COMMISSION INER, JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU AGAIN.

THEN JOIN MY COLLEAGUES OUTSIDE, SO FINISH UP THIS ROUND SO I CAN JOIN THEM OUTSIDE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR WORK AND YOUR PARTNERSHIP.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM PRESIDENT.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE AND THEN IT WILL BE COUNCILOR MEJIA AND COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR DETAILED RESPONSES TO ALL THE QUESTIONS.

I WANT TO FOLLOW UP.

I HAVE MY QUESTION ABOUT SHOPS.

I WANTED TO FOLLOW UP QUICKLY ON COUNCILOR BREADON'S COMMENTS ON TURF.

I HAVE MIXED FEELING ABOUT

TURFS, I HAVE TALKED TO OTHERS

ABOUT THIS.

I THINK IT CERTAINLY DOES CREATE A LONGER SEASON AND MAINTENANCE ISSUES ARE ELIMINATED WHEN WE GO TO TURF BUT I DO WORRY ABOUT OVER THE LONG-TERM WHEN WE'RE CONSTANTLY LEANING ON TURF AS THE RESPONSE WHEN WE'RE RENOVATING OR PUTTING IN A NEW PARK THAT EVENTUALLY OUR KIDS, AT LEAST RYAN'S KIDS, BECAUSE MINE ARE A LITTLE OLDER WILL NOT EVER PLAY ON REAL GRASS.

I HAVE AN EMOTIONAL FEELING ABOUT THAT AND I ALSO THINK THAT OVER THE LONG-TERM ALTHOUGH WE HAVE IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF TURF SO WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME SORT OF CONCERNS AROUND TOXIC EXPOSURE, I JUST ARE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

AT SOME POINT I WOULD LOVE TO BE THOUGHTFUL ABOUT ANALYSIS AROUND THE USE OF TURF AND THE OVERUSE I THINK OF TURF IN OUR PARKS. IF THERE'S A QUICK RESPONSE TO THAT I'M HAPPY TO TAKE IT OR RECEIVE IT BUT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT SHOPS.

>> I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, COUNCILOR.

WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THE BALANCE AND EDUCATE RESIDENTS AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS WHERE THEY PUSH FOR TURF FOR THE LONGER SEASON OR BETTER DRAINAGE, IF IT RAINS THAT MORNING YOU CAN STILL PLAY TO TURF FIELDS WHERE YOU CAN'T ON NATURAL GRASS.

BUT LOOK AT PLAYING HOURS ARTIFICIAL TURF, IF THERE'S X AMOUNT OF HOURS IN A WEEK, SHOULD NOT BE ARTIFICIAL TURF. YOU SHOULD BE USING NATURAL TURF.

WE NEED DO A BETTER JOB EDUCATING THOSE PUBLIC --  
[PLEASE STAND BY]

A WE NEED TO LOOK AT GEOGRAPHY. IT MAKES A LOT OF TENSE TO EXPAND THOSE RECREATIONAL PLAY HOURS BY GEOGRAPHY BUT DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE TO TAKE AWAY THE NATURAL TURF THAT HAS A HUGE

STORMWATER BENEFIT AND SOME CARBON SEQUESTRATION BENEFICIAL AND HEAT ISLAND EFFECT BENEFIT JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO EXTEND HOURS, ESPECIALLY IF THERE'S ANOTHER TURF FACILITY ADJACENT. AS YOU LOOK AT GEOGRAPHY AND HEAT ISLAND, STORMWATER, THAT IS PART OF OUR PLANNING MOVING FORWARD.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS, TO BE CONSIDERATE OF THAT WHEN WE'RE PLANNING ANY PARK -- PARK REDESIGNS.

BACK TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SHARPS AND IMPROPERLY DISCARDED NEEDLES IN PARKS.

KEEPING TRACK OF CALLS AND THE WORK OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT AROUND DISPOSING OF SHARPS AND WHETHER OR NOT STAFF IS TRAINED DO DISPOSAL OR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MOBILE SHARPS TEAM?

CURIOUS ABOUT SHARPS IN GENERAL AND MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE LIMITING THE NUMBER IN OUR PARKS AND DISPOSING OF THEM QUICKLY.

THANK YOU.

>> YES, COUNCILOR.

SO WE ARE KEEPING TRACK.

WE HAVE FORMS THAT EACH OF OUR REGIONS HAVE TO FILL OUT WEEKLY TO KEEP TABS ON HOW MANY NEEDLES THEY'RE FINDING, IF THERE'S ANY HOT SPOTS.

WE WORK IN CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH THE BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION AND THE SHARP TEAM FOR PROBLEMATIC AREAS.

I THINK THE HELP OF THE SECOND SHIFT ON WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY WILL HELP US BY RAMSEY PARK, MADISON PARK, THE GARDENS, CLIFFORD, AREAS WE SEE HIGH SPIKES IN NEEDLES WE'LL CONTINUE WITH THAT SO WE'RE ABLE TO DO IT.

WE STILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PUT IT THROUGH 311 SO SHARPS CAN RESPOND 3.

WHEN MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BOSTON  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
ARE ON SITE EMPTYING TRASH  
BARRELS OR PICKING TRASH, THEY  
CAN PICK UP SHARPS, THEY HAVE A  
BIOHAZARD CONTAINER IN THE  
TRUCK.

WE ACTUALLY HAVE A TRAINING  
GUIDE THAT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO  
SHARE THAT EACH NEW EMPLOYEE  
GETS AND WE DID A TRAINING WITH  
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH ON HOW TO  
PROPERLY PICK IT UP AND  
SHOULDN'T JUST PUT IT IN A PEPSI  
CAN OR COKE CAN OR SOMETHING.  
YOU KNOW, PEOPLE COME TO REDEEM  
CANS AND PUT THE NEEDLES BACK ON  
THE GROUND.

WORKING THROUGH WITH THEM TO  
MAKE SURE THEY'RE PROPERLY,  
SAFELY DISPOSED AND THE TEAMS  
THAT RIGHT EQUIPMENT FROM GLOVES  
TO PICKERS AND SAFETY BOXES.

>> GREAT.

YOU ALSO TRACKING THE NUMBERS,  
THE VOLUME OF NEEDLES WERE  
FINDING?

OR IF NOT, WHERE ARE THEY BEING  
DISPOSED?

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE  
BEING COUNTED SOMEWHERE.  
THAT'S A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM AND  
IT'S A BUDGET LINE ITEM, THE  
SHARPS DISPOSAL.

THANK YOU, WHETHER IT'S DIANNE  
OR COMMISSIONER WOODS.

>> SURE.

SO MY UNDERSTANDING IS AFTER WE  
PICK THEM UP IN THE BOXES WE  
EMPTY BOXES IN TO THE MAIN BOX  
WITH BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMISSION SO THEY ARE COUNTED.  
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S 24 HOUR  
TRAUMA OR WHAT GROUP THEY HAVE  
IN THERE.

IT IS COUNTED BY BPHC.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANKS.

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE BROCHURE  
YOU SHARE WITH NEW STAFF.

I DON'T KNOW IF DIANE OR SOMEONE  
HAD SOMETHING TO ADD.

IF NOT, I AM ALL DONE WITH MY  
QUESTIONS FOR TODAY.

THANK YOU.

>> DIANE, ANYTHING ON TRAINING THAT I MISSED?

>> NO.

WE'LL SEND OUT THE BROCHURE. JUST ONE QUICK POINT.

WHEN BPH IS NOT ABLE TO PICK UP THE SHARPS, THE EMS TEAM HAS ALSO BEEN PARTNERING AND HELPING OUR CREWS, PICKING THAT UP FROM THE YARD.

SO WE DEFINITELY MAKE SURE IT GETS IN TO THE RIGHT HANDS.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU, DIANE.

THANK YOU, EVERYBODY.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

COUNCILOR MEJIA AND THEN COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> THAT'S NOT WHAT THE CHAT SAID.

>> CAMPBELL HAD TO GO, SO IT'S

YOU.

>> WAIT A MINUTE.

>> I KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS READY, COMPANY ON, COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> OKAY.

A FEW QUESTIONS.

ONE IS SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HOW ARE WE FEELING BEING PREPPED FOR COVID-19, OPENING UP THE PARKS? ARE WE LOOKING AT HAVING HAND SANITIZERS ALL OVER, ALL THE PARKS?

LIKE LITTLE, YOU KNOW, THE LITTLE BOTTLES EVERYWHERE? JUST CURIOUS ABOUT SIGNAGE AND COMMUNICATION THAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT, THAT IS PART OF YOUR PLAN?

>> YES, SO RIGHT NOW WE ARE WORKING WITH THE STATE THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE GIVING GUIDANCE OF HOW PHASED OPENING SHOULD BE FOR OUR PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FACILITIES SO I THINK IT WILL BE A ROLL OUT AS WE GET A BETTER GRASP ON WHAT AREAS CAN BE OPENED WELL. ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIGH



CATCH AREAS, GATES, SWINGS,  
SLIDE, PEOPLE ARE COMING IN TO  
CLOSE CONTACT.

HAND SANITIZER OR HAND WASHING  
STATIONS ARE A BIG PART OF THE  
CONVERSATION.

I THINK IT'S A CHALLENGE TO TRY  
TO GET HAND SANITIZER RIGHT NOW  
SOMETIMES BECAUSE EVERYONE,  
THERE'S SUCH A NEED FOR IT.  
BUT THAT IS SOMETHING WE'RE  
LOOKING AT, IF THERE CAN BE  
STATIONS, PURELL STATIONS OR  
OTHER THINGS IN THE PARKS TO  
ENCOURAGE PEOPLE WHEN WE'RE ABLE  
TO GO OUT AND USE THEM THAT THEY  
CAN BE SAFE AND CLEAN AND WASH  
THEIR HANDS.

>> THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER WOODS, THAT'S YOUR  
APPROPRIATE TITLE?

>> YES, THANK YOU.

>> I DO, IN REGARD TO JUST KIND  
OF OUTREACH AND SIGNAGE, WOULD  
ANY INFORMATION THAT'S BEING  
SHARED, WOULD IT BE IN MULTIPLE  
LANGUAGES OR LOOK AT EAST BOSTON  
AND MAKING SURE THAT A LOT OF  
THE INFORMATION IS TRANSLATED IN  
SPANISH AND ENGLISH, LOOKING AT  
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY AND  
BASED ON THE CULTURAL LANGUAGES  
THAT ARE SPOKEN IN THESE AREAS,  
WHERE THESE PARKS ARE LOCATED,  
WOULD YOU BE DOING TRANSLATION  
OF THESE SIGNS TOO?

>> WE WILL BE.

THAT HAS BECOME A LARGE PRIORITY  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

WE WERE ABLE TO SPEND \$14,000  
THIS YEAR ON TRANSLATION  
SERVICES THROUGH LANGUAGE  
ACQUISITION OFFICE.

SO SOMETHING WE HOPE TO CONTINUE  
AND WE ARE SPECIFICALLY LOOKING  
AT IF IT'S AN AREA THAT HAS A  
HEAVY SPANISH-SPEAKING OR  
PORTUGUESE SPEAKING WE INCLUDE  
THOSE LANGUAGES IN THAT  
NEIGHBORHOOD.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

ONE THING I ALWAYS TALK ABOUT IN  
EVERY HEARING I AM, IS THAT

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT READ AND WRITE EVEN IN THEIR OWN NATIVE LANGUAGE.

SO JUST IN TERMS OF THE CULTURAL COMPETENCY PIECE OF MAKING SURE THERE'S VISUALS TO HELP FOLKS UNDERSTAND THOUGH IT WARNINGS. IT WOULD JUST, A RECOMMENDATION THAT I WOULD MAKE IN TERMS OF THE COMMUNICATION PIECE.

JUST SOMETHING FOR YOU TO PONDER ON AND THINK ABOUT.

AND THEN I'M CURIOUS, I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS WEIRD BUT I'M GOING THE ASK ANYWAY.

IT'S ABOUT OUR SPRINKLERS, YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOME PARKS ACROSS THE CITY THAT I SEE THAT WE HAVE WATER SPRINKLERS, SOME OF THEM ARE NOT FULLY FUNCTIONING OR WORKING.

JUST WONDERING, DOES THAT FALL AN IN TO YOUR JURISDICTION LIKE THE WATER SPRINKLERS DO?

>> IT DOES.

AS LONG AS THEY'RE IN THE CITY PARK THE WATER SPRAY DECKS AND SPRAY PLAY, WE WANT TO ALWAYS MAKE SURE THEY'RE WORKING ESPECIALLY IN THIS HEAT IN THE SUMMER, TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE COOLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES THAT MAY NOT HAVE THAT IN THEIR HOMES.

WE HAVE HAD GLITCHES, A LOT OF THE COMPANIES WENT TO COMPUTER CHIPS, SO THEY ARE RUN BY COMPUTER CHIPS TO TURN ON, TO TURN OFF, ET CETERA.

AND WATER AND COMPUTER CHIPS AS YOU CAN IMAGINE DON'T ALWAYS MIX.

I THINK THEY'RE GOING BACK TO A LOT OF THE OLD WAYS.

WE ARE PLAYING A CAT THAN MOUSE GAME TRYING TO FIX OUR WATER FEATURE.

>> OKAY.

AND I KNOW THAT I HAD LEARNED THROUGH MY PROCESS ON THE JOURNEY THAT DISTRICT COUNCILORS ARE ADVOCATING FOR THEIR OWN AND I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THE PROCESS BUT I'M GOING TO JUST,

I'M AT LARGE, BUT AS SOMEONE WHO LIVES AROUND THE PARK I FEEL LIKE I COULD TALK ABOUT ONE PARTICULAR PARK THAT I GO TO WITH MY DAUGHTER.

I HOPE COUNCILOR CAMPBELL DOESN'T THINK I'M OVERSTEPPING MY BOUNDARIES, BUT IT IS A PARK THAT, I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S A CITY PARK.

THIS MIGHT NOT FALL UNDERSTAND YOUR JURISDICTION.

ON THE CORNER OF THEODORE AND EDWARDS, IT BEGINS WITH AT, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE IT. ENGLISH IS MY SECOND LANGUAGE, YOU ALL, OKAY?

THAT AND EVANS, CORNER, I THINK THAT'S THE NAME OF THE PARK. THAT IS A CITY PARK?

>> YES.

>> THAT IS ONE OF OURS?

OKAY.

I SEE THAT'S UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND I'M HAPPY TO SEE, BUT I'M WONDERING IF THOSE WATER SPRINKLERS ARE GOING TO BE WORKING.

IS THAT PARK GOING TO BE WATER SPRINKLERS IN THE REDESIGN?

>> SURE.

I WILL LET LIZA JUMP IN BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE MORE SPECIFICS ON IT.

>> YES, THERE WILL BE SPRAY PLAY THERE WHEN IT REOPENS.

BUT IT WILL BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR A CHUNK OF THE SUMMER AS WELL.

IT'S NOT GOING TO OPEN FOR ANOTHER TWO TO THREE MONTHS. WE HAVE MORE CONSTRUCTION TO DO, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THERE SHOULD BE SOME TIME IT'S TOWARDS THE END OF THE SUMMER WHERE WATER PLAY COULD BE USABLE IF THAT'S APPROPRIATE IN TERMS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.

>> I'M USING MY PRIVILEGE HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR MY OWN DAUGHTER HERE.

>> THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

COUNCILOR, JUST SO YOU KNOW, LIZA IS BEING VERY HUMBLE.

LIZA INTRODUCED AN EQUITY ASSESSMENT IN TO THE PARKS CAPITAL PLAN A FEW YEARS BACK TO MAKE SURE THAT NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS GET REDONE, NOT JUST BECAUSE THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF CITY COUNCILORS AND OTHER PEOPLE ADVOCATING FOR THEM, BUT BECAUSE THEY DESERVE TO BE DONE AND THEY SERVE A COMMUNITY.

THAT'S ONE OF THOSE PARKS THAT BENEFITTED FROM LIZA'S ASSESSMENT.

>> WELL, I HAVE TO SAY, LIZA, I REALLY DO APPRECIATE YOUR ADVOCACY AND SO DOES EVERYONE AROUND MY WAY. SO THANK YOU.

AND THEN I'M ON A ROLL HERE, YOU ALL.

I DON'T SEE THE GAVEL.

I'M JUST CURIOUS ABOUT, AND I FORGOT WHERE I WAS GOING WITH MY QUESTIONING, BUT WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, COMMISSIONER WOODS, BEFOREHAND, SOMETHING, YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THE PARKS.

I GOT IT.

I REMEMBER.

IT HAS NOTHING TO THE WITH WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

SPECIFICALLY AROUND PUBLIC SAFETY AND NOT JUST AROUND NEEDLES.

I KNOW THAT'S A BIG ISSUE.

I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT CERTAIN PARKS THAT I GUESS ALSO SAFE PLAYING IN DO.

YOU WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE OUR PARKS MORE SAFER?

>> WE DO.

WE TRY ON SPECIFICALLY INCREASE OUR PROGRAMMING, WHICH WILL BE A CHALLENGE THIS SUMMER.

I THINK AT LEAST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER.

WE'RE TRYING TO PROMOTE MORE POSITIVE PROGRAMMING THAT HAPPENS IN A PARK WILL PUSH AWAY NEGATIVE ACTIVITY AND BEHAVIOR. ESPECIALLY NOW IF MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE'RE ENGAGED WITH BOSTON POLICE ON ISSUES AND

OUR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BECAUSE  
THEY SHOULD BE OPEN AND SAFE AND  
WELCOMING FOR ALL RESIDENTS.  
IT'S A PROBLEM IF PEOPLE DON'T  
FEEL WELCOME IN THEIR  
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND IT'S  
SOMETHING WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO  
PARTNER TO CHANGE.

>> I'M WILLING TO HELP WITH  
THAT.

PUT ME ON BOARD.

I HEAR MY TIME IS UP.

SO THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> GREAT.

NOW IT'S COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I JUST WANTED TO GO DEEPER IN TO  
MY DISTRICT.

I WANTED TO KNOW SPECIFICALLY  
ABOUT THE FLOWER BEDS ON  
BENNINGTON STREET.

THE LAST YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO  
GET FUNDING TO HELP AND THEY DID  
AN AMAZING JOB, PUTTING IN  
PLANTS, IT WAS THFL.

JUST WONDERING WHAT WE'RE GOING  
TO DO THIS YEAR, WHAT THE PLAN  
IS AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
THAT.

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY USE IT IS  
STADIUM A GREAT DEAL IN EAST  
BOSTON.

AND I'M CURIOUS ABOUT HOW MUCH  
MONEY THEY'RE GIVING TO THE CITY  
TO UTILIZE THAT FIELD.

AND MARY ELLEN WELCH, THE GREEN  
WAY, IT'S GREAT TO BE AT THE  
RIBBON CUTTING.

SAD WE LOST THE GIANTS IN  
ADVOCACY.

BUT CURIOUS ABOUT, I THINK WE'RE  
GETTING 400,000 OR SOME SORT OF  
LINE ITEM FOR THAT PARK.

AND WHAT WE'RE DOING WITH THE  
CABOOSE, SPECIFICALLY, TO LIVEN  
UP THAT AREA WHERE IT'S LOOKING  
AT PORTA POTTIES OR SOMETHING IN  
THE GREENWAY.

THAT'S ON EAST BOSTON.

I CAN JUST QUICKLY GO IN TO  
OTHER PARKS AS I GET UPDATES ON  
THE EDWARD PARK AND CHARLESTOWN,  
THE RIBBON CUTTING AND CAPITAL

INVESTMENT, PLANNED DO CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

I BROUGHT UP BEFORE THE COURT, THE SMALLER ONE, A LITTLE UNEVEN AND CRACKED.

IF THERE'S ANY INVESTMENT IN THAT.

THANK YOU, YOU BROUGHT UP THE RYAN PARK, SO I WON'T GO IN TO THAT.

THE NORTH END, WE'RE LOOKING AT FORESTER STREET PARK REPAVING AND AGAIN MAINTENANCE.

THAT PARK/PARKING LOT AND TRYING TO WORK ON THAT.

AND THEN OF COURSE THE TREE CANOPY.

IS THERE A PROGRAM LOOKING AT DOWNTOWN FOR TREE CANOPIES?

I KNOW THERE'S CERTAIN ITEMS THAT WOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL IN TERMS OF THE HEAT DURING THE SUMMER.

>> SO I'LL TRY ON GO THROUGH THEM ONE AT A TIME HERE.

SO ABSOLUTELY THAT YOU WILL SEE BENNINGTON STREET PLANTED THIS YEAR.

>> WONDERFUL.

>> I THINK ESPECIALLY NOW, MORE THAN 3 EVER, PEOPLE GETTING OUTSIDE, ADDING --

[PLEASE STAND BY]

THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR TOWARD THE PARKS DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS HAVE OTHER STUFF IN THE AGREEMENT WHEREAS THEY GIVE A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO A RESIDENT OF EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL, OR STUDENTS I SHOULD SAY FROM EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL AS WELL AS THEY'RE REQUIRED TO DO SO MUCH PROGRAMS INSIDE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL BUT DEFINITELY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL WITH THEIR ATHLETIC TEAMS TO GIVE THE PROPER SUPPORT AND TRAINING AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

SO THAT'S ALL PART OF THAT AGREEMENT.

IN TERMS OF THE EAST BOSTON GREENWAY,

[AUDIO PAUSED]

THE WORK THAT WE'LL BE DOING SPECIFICALLY ON THE MARY ELLEN WELCH GREENWAY.

[AUDIO PAUSED]

WE'LL WORK WITH HEIDI AND HER TEAM TO TRY TO FIX THOSE UP.

IN TERMS OF THE CABOOSE WE HAVE HAD A COUPLE INTERESTED PARTIES.

I THINK ONE WAS A COFFEE SHOP.

ANOTHER WAS AN ICE CREAM VENDOR,ER HAD SOME EXCITING IDEAS THAT COULD GO IN THERE.

I THINK ONE OF THE CHALLENGES IS

THERE IS NO ELECTRICITY TO THE

CABOOSE WHATSOEVER, SO IN

WRITING THAT RFP WE HAVE TO MAKE

SURE WE PUT OUT THERE THAT IT

DOESN'T COME WITH THE

ELECTRICAL, ET CETERA, SET UP.

WE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THAT IN

THERE AND I DON'T KNOW IF THAT

WOULD BE AS ADVANTAGEOUS TO

PEOPLE WITHOUT THE ELECTRICITY.

>> COULD YOU JUST MAKE IT A

SOLAR CABOOSE?

>> YES, SOMETHING TO LOOK IN TO.

MY ONLY THING IS AN ICE CREAM

MACHINE, THINGS LIKE, THAT I

HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT DRAW IS

IN TERMS OF ELECTRICITY OR

THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

BUT HAPPY TO LOOK IN TO IT,

SOLAR PANELS, DEFINITELY.

EDWARDS PARK, EDWARDS McCARTHY

THE IS DUE FOR A FALL

RENOVATION, THAT WE HOPED TO DO

EARLIER.

WE MADE SURE WITH THE KITCHEN

CUP FOLKS WE WOULD NOT BE IN

THEIR WAY DURING THEIR ANNUAL

CELEBRATION TO MAKE SURE THEY

CAN STILL HAVE THEIR TOURNAMENT

TAKE PLACE PENDING THE SOCIAL

DISTANCING AT THAT TIME.

AND WE'LL DEFINITELY LOOK IN TO

THE CRACK BECAUSE THAT WAS NOT

ON OUR RADAR.

WE'LL MAKE SURE WE DO THAT.

I KNOW FOSTER STREET PLAYGROUND

OR FOSTER STREET PARKING LOT AS

YOU MENTIONED IN NORTH END, WE

DID DO A COUPLE PATCHWORK JOBS

THERE.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING

IN A LINE ITEM AT ALL FOR ANY EXTRA PAVEMENT, BUT WE CAN LOOK IN TO THAT IF IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE DO THROUGH THE GENERAL PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND IF WE HAVE TO MAKE SOME AREAS, HAPPY TO SEND A CREW OUT TO LOOK AT THAT.

IN TERMS OF THE TREE CANOPY FOR DOWNTOWN, I THINK THAT WILL BE INCLUDED ESPECIALLY IN OUR URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN AS WE LOOK AT POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND THE NEED FOR TREES AND ENCOURAGE ANYONE THAT LIVES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA IF THEY SEE SPOT THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR THE TREE TO SEND IT IN TO 311 SO OUR URBAN FORESTRY CAN GO OUT, INSPECT, MAKE SURE IT'S IN THE GUIDELINES OF PLANTING A TREE AND WE COULD INCREASE THE CANOPY DOWNTOWN.

>> OKAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

BEFORE I DO MY QUESTIONS, I JUST WANTED FOR COLLEAGUES AFTER THIS PLANNING TO GO TO PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, RAISE YOUR HAND, OTHERWISE WE'LL GO STRAIGHT THERE ONCE I FINISH MY QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE CHIEF AND THE COMMISSIONER AND THE WHOLE TEAM.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.

I WANTED FIRSTLY JUST TO LAND BACK ON THE YOUTH PLAN FOR THE SUMMER, SPECIFICALLY THE YOUTH JOBS PLAN.

YOU REFERENCED IT A LITTLE BIT BUT JUST FEELS LIKE I KNOW IT'S SO HARD FOR ALL OF US TO COME UP WITH PLANS THAT ARE GOING TO BE SAFE RIGHT NOW, BUT AT THE SAME TIME LIKE WE KNOW IT'S NOT SAFE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.

AND OF COURSE THERE'S HUGE FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR YOUTH JOBS, THERE'S, YOU KNOW, YOUTH



DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

AND SO IT DOES SEEM LIKE COMPARED TO OTHER THINGS THE OUTDOORS IS A GREAT PLACE TO HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE BE THIS SUMMER.

SO I WOULD JUST LOVE TO HEAR A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT KIND OF THE PLANS FOR HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE SUMMER PARKS.

>> SURE.

AS YOU PROBABLY CAN IMAGINE WE HAVE ABOUT 300 YOUTH EVERY SUMMER THAT ARE EMPLOYED BY THE BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT, HELPING WITH SPORTS PROGRAMMING, HELPING WITH MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMMING, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT A DIFFERENT WAY THIS SUMMERW THE GOLF COURSES BEING OPEN WE'RE STILL LIKELY AN ABLE TO HAVE THE CADDY SCHOLAR PROGRAM TAKE PLACE PROBABLY A LITTLE SMALLER NUMBERS BUT STILL BE ABLE TO EDUCATE AND TRAIN YOUTH AT THE GOLF COURSES IN SMALLER NUMBERS OUT THERE, SO THAT'S ONE OPPORTUNITY.

WE ARE LOOKING AT DOUBLING OUR MURAL CREW FROM 15 TO 30 TO HAVE TWO SEPARATE MURAL CREWS THAT TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE 6 TO 7 WEEKS OF SUMMER, HELP BEAUTIFY PLACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

AND IF ANYBODY HAS ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF AREAS THAT COULD BE SUITABLE WE WOULD LOVE, WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW SPOTS TO ADD A LITTLE SPLASH OF COLOR.

IN ADDITION TO THAT I MENTIONED WE'RE COMING BACK WITH SOME SORT OF A CLEANING CREW WITH THE SPRING BEING OFFTLOIMENTS A LOT OF THESE CLEAN UPS, OFFLIMITS TO A LOT OF THESE CLEANUPS, PARKS THAT WE DON'T REGULARLY GET TO CLEAN OR ONE OR TWO TIMES A YEAR LEANING SUCH AS LIKE WOODLAND AREAS, WE'RE LOOKING AT TRYING TO GET UP TO 500 YOUTH HIRED BETWEEN PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS TO SPREAD THROUGH THE CITY IN

EVERY SINGLE NEIGHBORHOOD.  
I DON'T, I THINK THEY WILL BE  
ABLE, I DON'T THINK THEY WILL BE  
ABLE TO HAVE POWER TOOLS WITH  
SOME OF THE YOUTH BUT GO BACK TO  
OLD FASHIONED WEED WHACKERS,  
HEDGE CUTTERS, PAVE PICKERS TO  
BEAUTIFY THESE SPACES, THIS  
PROGRAM EXISTED IN THE '80s AND  
90s FOR A LOT OF VACANT LOTS.  
I DON'T THINK AS MANY VACANT  
LOTS EXIST ANYMORE HOWEVER WE'RE  
TRYING TO CHANGE THAT AND ADAPT  
THAT IN TO PARKS, URBAN WILD,  
DEAD END STREETS, ADD MORE CLEAN  
UP ALONG ROADWAYS.

SO WAYS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUTH  
ARE EMPLOYED, THEY'RE KEPT BUSY  
DURING THE SUMMER AND THEY HAVE  
INCOME COMING IN 3

[AUDIO PAUSED]

>> I JUST THINK I WOULD LOVE TO  
SEE US THINKING CREATIVELY.  
I REALIZE THIS IS HARDER TO SET  
UP INSTANTLY, BUT ABOUT KIND OF  
LIKE IF WE, I WOULD LIKE TO  
THINK THAT WE'RE AT A VACCINE  
AND WE'RE AT SOME KIND OF WORLD  
THAT'S A LITTLE MORE NORMAL COME  
NEXT SUMMER BUT SEEMS LIKE  
PLANNING MAKES A LOT OF SENSE.  
I WONDER IF WE COULD BE DOING  
MORE ROBUST OUTDOOR EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS IN SMALL GROUPS.

I WONDER IF WE SHOULD BE  
ACTUALLY SETTING UP A CAMP IN  
MARY CUMMINGS PARK AGAIN AND  
DOING CAMPING OUT THERE FOR  
THOSE WATCHING AT HOME, IS A  
PARK THAT WE MYSTERIOUSLY OWN  
OUT IN BURLINGTON, MEANT TO BE  
FOR EXPOSING KIDS TO THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS, DON'T GET MUCH USE OF  
IT FOR THE CITY.

I WOULD LOVE, SEEMS LIKE SMALL  
GROUPS THAT ARE CONSISTENT GROUP  
BUT DO SOMETHING OUTSIDE,  
WHETHER IT'S CAMPING, SAILING.  
THESE SEEM LIKE THINGS WE MIGHT  
WANT TO INVEST IN.

>> 100% I AGREE.

WE HAVE THE PERFECT OUTDOOR  
CLASSROOM SO ONLY MAKES SENSE TO  
START UTILIZING IT.

>> COUNCILOR, JUST SO YOU KNOW,  
THE CITY IS IN THE PROCESS OF A  
VERY LENGTHY COMPLICATED PROCESS  
OF WORKING THROUGH THE TRUST  
OFFICE AND THE TRUSTEES HAVE  
RESERVATIONS TO ACTIVATE THAT  
MARY CUMMINGS AGAIN FOR BOSTON  
URBAN YOUTH.

SO IT'S PRETTY EXCITING PROSPECT  
AND HAPPY TO SEND ALONG DETAILS.

>> I WOULD LOVE THAT.

I HAVE IN FACT GONE OUT TO THE  
PARK TO SEE IT.

I HAVE FLOWN KITES THERE AND  
IT'S AN AMAZING SPACE AND IT  
WOULD BE GREAT.

I KNOW WE HAVE MADE EFFORTS IN  
THE PAST TO MONETIZE IT BUT  
ABSENT ABILITY TO DO THAT, THAT  
THINKING ABOUT HOW WE ACTUALLY  
LET IT BE A SORT OF SPACE AWAY  
FROM THE CITY THAT OPENS UP OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDEAS, OUTDOORS  
IS A GREAT USE.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

I'LL MAKE A COUPLE REALLY QUICK  
COMMENTS JUST THAT I HOPE, I  
KNOW WE'RE GOING TO DOUBLE OUR  
TREE PLANTINGS, RIGHT?

THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LIKE  
HALF THE TIME DO THEM.

SO JUST SORT OF, YOU KNOW,  
CURIOUS ABOUT HOW WE'RE THINKING  
ABOUT HAVING THE OPERATIONAL  
CAPACITY TO, YOU KNOW, TRIPLE OR  
QUADRUPLE TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE  
TO MAKE UP FOR THE TIME WE'RE  
LOSING RIGHT NOW, COMMISSIONER.

>> SO WE WILL SEE THIS FALL VERY  
BUSY, TAKING ON WHAT WAS GOING  
TO BE THE FALL PLANTING AS WELL  
AS THE SPRING PLANTING, SO IT  
WILL BE VERY BUSY.

THEN GOING IN TO NEXT SPRING  
WE'RE GOING THE SEE PROBABLY THE  
START OF THE 2,000 TREES GOING  
IN TO IMPLEMENTATION, A NEW  
CONTRACT THAT WILL BE GOING OUT  
THERE TO ENSURE THAT NOT ONLY  
THE 2,000 TREES ARE PLANTED,  
THERE IS A WATERING SCHEDULE AND  
WARRANTY CHECK.

WE'RE HOPEFUL WITH THE POSITION  
OF AN ADDITIONAL ARBORIST THEY

WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER MONITOR THIS PROCESS AND WE CAN DO THESE CHECKS TO MAKE SURE THAT COMPANIES AREN'T JUST PLANTING THE TREE AND WALKING AWAY WITHOUT WATERING IT AND HOPING IN TWO YEARS IT SURVIVES WITHOUT WATERING, THAT WE CAN DO MORE SPOT CHECKS TO ENSURE THAT THE WARRANTIES, WATERING HAPPENED UNDERSTAND THE WARRANTY.

>> GREAT.

YOU MENTIONED THEY'RE HAVING THE EXTRA WATER FOR A YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

IS THERE A REASON WE CAN'T HIRE YOUTH TO WATER TREES, THAT IS A POTENTIAL YOUTH ACTIVITY?

>> I THINK WE CAN.

WE PARTNER RIGHT NOW WITH SPEAK FOR THE TREES.

I KNOW WE'LL HAVE TESTIMONY LATER AND WORK WITH THEM AS THEY TAKE ON SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS AND THEY ARE FUND THROUGH THE CITY, THROUGH THE DYEE PROGRAM, SUMMER YOUTH, SOMETHING TO EXPAND, ON IDENTIFYING SPOTS, COULD BE WATERING AS WELL, THE URBAN FORESTRY TEAM COULD JUMP ON, BE SUPPORTIVE.

>> I THINK THAT THE TREES PROGRAM IS AMAZING AND CERTAINLY HOPE THAT DAVID IS THINKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE'S A WAY TO SCALE IT UP AT ALL.

I THINK ALSO THAT PIECE OF TREE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT COULD BE A GOOD ROLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ONE THAT COUNCILOR EDWARD MENTIONED, NOAH HAS BEEN DOING. MY LAST COUPLE QUICK COMMENTS BECAUSE WE'LL HAVE TIME FOR MORE QUESTIONS.

THRILLED TO SEE INVESTMENTS IN THE CLARENDON STREET PLAYGROUND, MISSION PLAYGROUND, IMPORTANT SPACES FOR FAMILIES IN MY DISTRICT.

AND DEFINITELY THINK THAT A NUMBER OF COUNCILORS MENTIONED IT.

I THINK GETTING THE DEDICATED LINE ITEM FOR THE MOUNTED UNIT

WOULD HELP WITH PEOPLE.

I THINK A LOT OF WHAT WE HEAR FROM CONSTITUENTS IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT MONEY IS THERE AND WHETHER IT'S AT RISK.

I HEAR YOU, COMMISSIONER, SAYING IT'S NOT AT RISK.

WE LOVE THEM.

I THINK JUST KIND OF HELPING BREAK THAT OUT IN A BUDGET CLARITY WAY THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE THAT PEACE OF MIND ABOUT THIS VALUES, THE UNIT WOULD BE GREAT.

I'LL JUST SAY BASED ON A CONVERSATION WE HAD A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT I KNOW I HEAR A LOT IN MY DISTRICT ABOUT AN INTEREST IN TAKING THE TAR OUT OF ASPHALTED-OVER TREE PITS AND SOMETHING YOU'RE OPEN TO AS LONG AS THE ABUTTER FOR THE PIT IS OPEN TO IT.

SO LOOKING FOR SOME SLIGHTLY MORE STANDARD PROCESS OR SOME WAY OF PUBLICIZING FOR PEOPLE THAT IF THEY REALLY ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT ALL THE PITS ON THEIR BLOCK ARE TARRED OVER, THEY CAN EXSFROES THE CITY HEY, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE THESE REOCCUPIED.

I THINK FOLKS DON'T KNOW THAT'S THE CASE.

>> HAPPY TO BE STRATEGIC ABOUT THAT AND FIND WAYS THAT WE CAN MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO LET US KNOW WITH THE PITS.

I DO WORRY IF SOME ARE WITHIN ADA GUIDELINES BECAUSE I THINK SOME ARE GRANDFATHERED IN WITH THE SIZE OF THE SIDEWALKS, ESPECIALLY YOU IN BEACON HILL, IF THAT'S A CONCERN.

BE HAPPY TO LOOK CASE BY CASE BUT THAT'S MY GUESS AS TO WHY SOME MAY HAVE BEEN TARRED OVER.

>> WE'RE ALL ABOUT A SHARED STREETS APPROACH ON BEACON HILL.

I THINK WE CAN GET THERE WITH THIS.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S ME.

NOW I WILL JUST CHECK.

I DON'T SEE ANY BLUE HANDS

RAISED SO WE HAVE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME OF OUR IMPORTANT PARK ADVOCATE ORGANIZATIONS, SHE HAS BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY.

I WILL START ADMITTING THOSE FOLKS NOW.

FIRST UP, ONE SECOND.

THE FIRST THREE ON MY LIST, I'LL GET THEM ALL ADMITTED.

FIRST UP IS YOU LIZ FROM THE FRIENDS OF PUBLIC ART AND ALSO PUBLIC PARKS ADVOCATES.

LIZ, GO AHEAD.

YOU HAVE TO UNMUTE YOURSELF,

THOUGH.

>> HOW'S THAT?

>> PERFECT.

>> WELL, THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THIS IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION, AND FISCAL '21 BUDGET.

I AM LIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FRIENDS OF PUBLIC GARDENS AND WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY TO CARE FOR AND ADVOCATE FOR BOSTON COMMON, PUBLIC GARDENING INVOLVED.

THIS YEAR WE RECOGNIZE HALF A CENTURY OF THIS WORK BY SIGNING A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN WITH THE CITY, WHICH IS VERY EXCITING.

IT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR ENGAGED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO CARE FOR THESE ICONIC PARKS.

THE PARKS, NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, OVER 55,000 PEOPLE IN FIVE NEIGHBORHOODS.

THEY'RE MORE THAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.

THEY'RE USED INTENSIVELY IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD, SEE OVER 7 MILLION PEOPLE VISITING ANNUALLY.

FRIENDS INVEST OVER 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS DIRECTLY INTO PARKS CARE EVERY YEAR.

BUT IT'S CRITICAL THAT PRIVATE

SUPPORT NOT BE SEEN AS RATIONALE TO NOT ADEQUATELY FUND OUR PARTNERS, THE PARKS DEPARTMENT. AND I ENCOURAGE SEVERAL OF YOU, I WILL BE REPEATING WHAT I FELT IN MY LIFETIME THE VITAL ROLE THAT PARKS PLAY IN THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND EACH MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY HAS NEVER BEEN IMPORTANT.

IT IS SO CLEAR THAT PARKS ARE NECESSITIES.

EVERY OTHER PIECE OF SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY SHUT DOWN, OUR PARKS ARE OPEN, FREE, AVAILABLE TO ALL AND I LIKE HEARING ALL THESE QUESTIONS FROM EACH OF YOU HOW CAN WE GET PEOPLE BACK OUT THERE, HOW CAN WE GET YOUTH BACK OUT THERE? CERTAINLY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IS TRYING ON THINK THOUGHTFULLY ABOUT THAT AND HOW WE CAN CAREFULLY BRING PEOPLE OUT. GREAT FOR YOU TO BE ASKING THOSE QUESTIONS.

SO AS CHAIRMAN BOK SAID I'M ALSO SPEAKING AS A MEMBER OF BOSTON PARK ADVOCATES, AN IMPORTANT VOICE FOR ALL PARKS, FOR ENTIRE CITY.

AND WHILE CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR OUR CITY'S PARKS ARE ALWAYS WELL RECEIVED, WITHOUT MAINTENANCE SUPPORT THOSE INVESTMENTS CANNOT BE SUSTAINED.

EVERY YEAR YOU HAVE HEARD THIS FROM THE PARKS ADVOCACY COMMUNITY.

THERE FORE, WE'RE THRILLED THAT THE MAYOR'S BUDGET THIS YEAR IS RECOMMENDED SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RESOURCES FOR OPERATIONS.

IT IS REALLY GREAT TO SEE THE ADDITION OF FOUR STAFF POSITIONS FOR THE SECOND MAINTENANCE GROUP IN FRANKLIN PARK INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT.

GIVEN IMPORTANCE OF URBAN NATIONAL SYSTEM, HEARTENING TO SEE AN ADDITIONAL STAFF PERSON FOR THE URBAN WILD PROGRAM WHICH

SO IT'S THE CAPABLE SHOULDERS OF ONLY ONE PERSON RIGHT NOW, WHO IS IMPORTANT, YET ANOTHER PERSON TO EXPAND CAPACITY OF WHAT HE DOES SO WELL.

AGAIN, SINGING TO THE CHOIR, WE'RE VERY HAPPY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF FUNDING TO DOUBLE THE ABILITY TO HAVE TREES IN OUR CITY.

AND ALSO HAVE ANOTHER TREE CREW MEMBER.

THEY REALLY DO NEED CAPACITY.

AS WE ALL KNOW, TREES PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE BEAUTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF OUR CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS.

WE APPLAUD THE INCLUSION OF FUNDING FOR RENOVATION OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL, KENMORE MALL IN THE HEART OF THE SQUARE.

IT INCLUDES SENIORS AND STUDENTS AND IS IN GREAT NEED OF IMPROVEMENT.

AS LIZA MENTIONED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, FRIEND FUNDED A MASTER PLAN AND THE FUNDING PROPOSED TO COME FROM THE CITY WILL BE CRITICAL IN MOVING THIS PROCESS.

A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF THE PARTNERSHIP THAT THE FRIENDS AND PARKS DEPARTMENT ENJOYED. WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THESE IMPROVEMENTS A REALITY AND WE REALLY URGE TO YOU SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT AS YOU HEARD ON THE MASTER PLAN FOR BOSTON COMMON, REIMAGINING OUR FIRST IN THE COUNTRY PARK.

AND IT HAS BEEN A ROBUST COLLABORATIVE PROCESS, INCLUDING INPUT FROM OVER 6,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AS LIZA MENTIONED, MANY POPUPS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

WE'RE CHALLENGED BY HOW TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS WITHIN THE LIFE OF COVID-19, BUT WE ARE COMMITTED TO SEEING HOW WE CAN BRING THOSE VOICES OF THE



COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND NOT STOP THIS PROJECT.

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW WE CAN DO.

THEY'RE VERY PLEASED TO SEE 1.5 MILLION IN THE BUDGET TO CONTINUE THIS PROJECT AND MOVE TOWARDS EARLY ACTION WORK TO COME OUT OF THE PLAN.

THE MAYOR'S BUDGET FOR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REFLECTS THE CRITICAL NEED OF OUR PARKS AND FOR EVERIRIES DIDN'T OF BOSTON WHO SEEKS THEM FOR RESPITE AND RECREATION.

WE URGE THE CITY COUNCIL TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON THIS PROPOSED BUDGET.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, LIZ. AND FOR ALL OF YOUR WORK.

>> YOU'RE WELCOME.

>> NEXT UP, KAREN FROM THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY.

>> GREAT.

HI.

MY NAME IS KAREN, I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY.

REALLY HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY.

AND I KNOW PEOPLE HAVE MENTIONED THIS BEFORE, BUT WANT TO SAY I

HAVE BEEN REALLY, REALLY MOVED AND IMPRESSED BY THE AMAZING

THEME, YOU KNOW, CITY WORKERS OF ALL STRIPES, BUT THE PARKS

DEPARTMENT STAFF HAS BEEN OUT THERE PICKING UP GARBAGE.

RIGHT NOW DOING THOSE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT THINGS THAT I THINK A LOT OF FOLKS APPRECIATE.

THEY HAVE BEEN DOING IT DAY IN, DAY OUT AND NOW DOING IT

UNDERSTAND I THINK VERY, VERY COMPLICATED CONDITIONS.

I WANT TO SAY HOW INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL THE EMERALD NEXT CAST THE EMERALD NECKLACE,

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THEM.

MY SISTER IS AN HERBALIST AND WORKS WITH HOMELESS POPULATIONS.

ONE THING WE TALK ABOUT AS WE REFLECT, THERE IS NO CURE FOR COVID.

ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO IMPROVE OUR IMMUNE SYSTEMS AND TRY TO BE AS HEALTHY AS WE CAN.

I THINK PARKS AND NATURAL SPACES WE NOW KNOW IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT CAN HELP.

I REALLY WANT TO APPLAUD THE MANY THINGS THAT ARE IN THE BUDGET THIS YEAR, PARTICULARLY THE RECORD CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THAT ARE IN THIS PROGRAM, BOTH PAST YEARS IN FRANKLIN PARK, THE PATHWAYS BEING HEAVILY USED TODAY, IN A JAMAICA POND, THE MAYOR HAD AN INVESTED IN AND THIS TEAM INVESTED IN IN YEARS PAST.

VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE UPCOMING INVESTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE BACK BAY.

I ALSO REALLY THINK THAT AS I STATED IN MY LETTER, TO NOT REPEAT EVERYTHING, BUT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO ADDING A SWING SHIFT, NIGHT SHIFT, MORE PEOPLE ABLE TO RESPOND TO UPCOMING AND URGENT NEED IS GREAT.

AND I ALSO REALLY, REALLY APPRECIATE THE INCREASED FOCUS IN THIS BUDGET THAT HAD IS FOCUSING ON URBAN PARKS, URBAN TREES IN A WAY THAT PERHAPS WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO IN THE PAST.

I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I'M REALLY, REALLY PROUD OF WITH THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY WORK, WE HAVE A SHARED MASTER PLAN FOR ALL OF THE TREES IN GIS THAT WE USE WITH CITY OF BOSTON AND BROOKLINE.

SO I'M HOPING THAT KNOWS KIND OF THINGS, THAT KIND OF MANAGEMENT CAN BE EXPANDED THAT URBAN FOREST TREE PLAN COMES ABOUT AND I REALLY HOPE THAT IT DOES AND IT REMAINS IN THE BUDGET BECAUSE I THINK THAT THAT IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT.

I ALSO REALLY APPRECIATE THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT IS FOCUSING ON

AREAS WHICH LACK CANOPY.  
I THINK THAT IS A REALITY.  
WE KNOW THERE ARE SOME PARTS  
WITH MORE TREES, SOME WITH LESS,  
REALLY PROUD OF THE PARTNERSHIP  
WE HAVE AND THE EMERALD NECKLACE  
AND HOW WE TRACK EVERY TREE.  
BUT OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY  
DOESN'T HAVE THAT LEVEL OF  
INVESTMENT SO I THINK IT'S  
REALLY GREAT THAT THIS IS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THAT.  
I THINK MORE TREES PLANTED ARE  
FANTASTIC.  
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO PARTNER  
WITH SPEAK FOR THE TREES AND  
OTHERS TO HAND OUT TREES  
RECENTLY.  
I DO REALLY SHARE THE CONCERN  
THAT COUNCILOR BOK AND OTHERS  
ARE TALKING ABOUT IN TERMS OF  
THE SUMMER AND IN TERMS OF  
PROVIDING PROGRAMS.  
WE WORK WITH THE CITY THROUGH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND  
FAMILIES TO PROVIDE SUMMER  
PROGRAMS AND HIRE STUDENTS THAT  
WORK IN THE PARKS AND WE'RE  
REALLY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW  
WE CAN DO THAT, HOW WE CAN DO  
THAT SAFELY AND WE DON'T FEEL  
LIKE WE HAVE GUIDANCE YET ON  
THAT.  
SO I'M REALLY HOPEFUL THAT  
SHORTLY SOMETHING WOULD COME  
OUT.  
WE'RE ALSO TRYING TO SEE IF  
PERHAPS WE COULD SHIFT OUR  
PROGRAMS TO SOMETHING VIRTUAL.  
YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY  
KID WANT TO BE IN FRONT OF A  
COMPUTER ALL SUMMER BUT IF WE  
CAN DO SOME THINGS VIRTUAL, SOME  
THINGS OUTSIDE, YOU KNOW, WE  
REALLY DO WANT TO TRY TO DO  
SOMETHING SAFE BUT I THINK  
THAT'S, YOU KNOW, THAT'S THE  
CHALLENGE.  
I DO THINK THAT, I REALLY  
APPLAUD THE HIRING AND DIVERSITY  
PRACTICES THAT HAVE BEEN TALKED  
ABOUT TODAY.  
AND YOU KNOW, I THINK ONE THING  
OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I HOPE

THAT WE CAN PARTNER ON IS HOW WE  
COULD TAKE SPACES THAT ARE  
UNDERUTILIZED BETWEEN THE  
SYSTEM, CONNECT THE EMERALD  
NECKLACE AND THE CORRIDOR, AREAS  
NOT BESIDE A PARK, WHERE WE'RE  
SEEING MORE, POOR HEALTH  
OUTCOMES, ARE THERE WAYS TO MAKE  
NEW CORRIDORS?

I'M EXCITED THERE WAS A HEARING  
YESTERDAY ABOUT THAT.

I THINK THE EMERALD NECKLACE  
PROVIDES SOME OF THOSE IDEAS.  
I THINK THERE ARE STILL WAYS WE  
CAN MAKE THE EMERALD NECKLACE  
BETTER AND BIGGER AND PROVIDE  
MORE SPACES WITHIN THAT.

THE EMERALD NECKLACE IS 1,100  
ACRES AND IF YOU REMOVE THE  
WATER BECAUSE NOT EVERYONE CAN  
WALK ON WATER LIKE JESUS, REMOVE  
THE WATER AND DIVIDE IT BY A  
6-FOOT SPACE, COULD YOU FIT  
380,000 BOSTONIANS IN THE  
EMERALD NECKLACE.

SO WE CAN SPREAD PEOPLE OUT.  
WE JUST HAVE TO DO THAT AND WE  
HAVE TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT THAT.  
I KNOW IT'S A CHALLENGE BECAUSE  
EVERYONE LIKES TO LISTEN ALL THE  
TIME TO SIGNS, ET CETERA.

WE HAVE BEEN PUTTING OUT SIGNS  
THAT ARE GRAPHIC AS MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT WE  
HAVE A LOT OF LANGUAGES TO WORK  
WITH AND I'M PROBABLY AT TIME  
HERE, 2 MINUTES.

>> YES.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS  
BUDGET AND TRYING TO CONTINUE TO  
BUILD ON THE THINGS THAT HAVE  
STARTED.

THANK YOU.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, KAREN.

NEXT UP, DAVID AND THEN  
CAROLINE.

DAVID FROM SPEAK FOR THE TREES,  
YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

>> THANK YOU.

I WANT YOU TO ADMIRE THE TREES  
BEHIND ME HERE.

THANK YOU ALL.

A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AND TO SEE SO MANY WONDERFUL, FRIENDLY FACES, PEOPLE THAT I MISS AND HOLD DEAR.

AND I WANTED TO ESPECIALLY THANK RYAN WOODS AND THE PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK DURING THESE TRYING TIMES.

HAVE BEEN ACCESSIBLE PARKS THAT REMAIN SAFE AND CLEAN IS REALLY CRITICAL I THINK AND WE ALL CAN APPRECIATE THEM ESPECIALLY ON BEAUTIFUL DAYS LIKE TODAY.

MY NAME IS ED DAVID, I'M EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CO-FOUNDER OF SPEAK FOR THE TREES, A COMMUNITY URBAN FORESTRY NON-PROFIT IN BOSTON.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS WITH YOU.

IN ADDITION TO THE COMMENTS I'M ABOUT TO SHARE, I SUBMITTED TO ALL THE CITY COUNCILORS LAST NIGHT A LETTER OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY 25 ORGANIZATIONS AND OVER 70 INDIVIDUALS ASKING THAT YOU APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR \$500,000 FOR A MASTER PLAN AS WELL AS \$1 MILLION FOR INCREASED STREET TREE PLANTING AND CARE.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR URBAN FOREST AS WELL AS FOUR CRITERIA THAT SPEAKS FOR THE TREES BELIEVES THE URBAN MASTER PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE.

FIRST, TREES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO BUILD HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF THE TWIN CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19.

BY SEQUESTERING POLLUTANTS, COOLING AIR, FILTERING STORM WATER, PROVIDING MENTAL RESPITE, OUR URBAN TREES DO MUCH IN ENTERING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, MENTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF BOSTON'S RESIDENTS.

EVEN AS WE SIT HERE TODAY, WE SEE HOW INEQUITIES IN OUR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE ARE PLAYING OUT

AND HOW GAPS IN THE TREE CANOPY  
CARRY NEGATIVE HEALTH  
INDICATIONS.

THOSE WITH NEGATIVE HEALTH  
POLLUTION ARE AT INCREASED  
HEALTH RISK FOR COVID-19.

CLIMATE CRISIS HAS TWO EXPOSED  
RISKS, CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOODS  
FACE THE BURDEN OF HOTTER  
SUMMERS AND INCREASED FLOODING  
WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND  
POINT.

AT SPEAK FOR TREES WE BELIEVE  
BOSTON'S URBAN FORESTRY MASTER  
PLAN MUST NOT BE GUIDED BY  
PRINCIPLES OF TREE EQUITY WHICH  
I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING  
WITH THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT TWO  
YEARS AGO.

TREE EQUITY IS AN IDEA THAT  
THERE ARE DISPARITIES IN THE  
TREE CANOPY THAT OFTEN TRACK  
ALONG QUICK, RACING, HISTORICAL  
AND SOCIAL LINES.

LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS TEND TO  
HAVE LESS TREE CANOPY AND LESS  
AFFLUENT ONES.

TO MEET THE CALL OF TREE EQUITY  
AND I HOPE YOU SHARE WITH ME IN  
THAT CALL, TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS  
OF THE ADMINISTRATION URBAN  
FORESTRY MASTER PLAN, WE BELIEVE  
THE FOLLOWING FOUR CORE VALUES  
GUIDE THE PLAN.

FIRST, THE PLAN MUST BE HOLISTIC  
OR SHOULD SEE THE FOREST FOR THE  
TREES.

INSTEAD OF JUST BEING MADE AN UP  
OF A COLLECTION OF TREES, FOREST  
NEED TO BE THOUGHT OF AS A  
SYSTEM THAT WORKS TOGETHER TO  
SUPPORT WILDLIFE, PROVIDE  
ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
BENEFITS, AND BRING PEOPLE  
TOGETHER.

TREES RELY ON EACH OTHER AND ON  
US FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT.

SECOND, THE PLAN MUST BE  
COMPREHENSIVE, NEEDS TO COUNT  
THE RANGE OF SPACES AND  
ORGANIZATIONS AND NEEDS TO BRING  
THEM TOGETHER TO EXPLORE THEIR  
ROLE IN THIS WORK.

THIS INCLUDES PRIVATE AND PUBLIC

ORGANIZATIONS, STATE, CITY,  
FEDERAL AGENCIES, SCHOOLS AND  
RESIDENTS.

ANY PLAN SHOULD TAKE IN TO  
ACCOUNT MORE THAN JUST  
CITY-OWNED TREES.

THIRD, MUST BE COMMUNITY DRIVEN.  
URBAN TREES CARRY THE LARGEST  
HEALTH BENEFITS IN THE AREAS  
WHERE THEY ARE ROOTED  
PHYSICALLY.

THE WORK OF THE PLAN NEEDS TO  
MEET PEOPLE IN THE SPACE WHERE'S  
THEY LIVE AND BREATHE.  
AS SUCH, IT MUST ACKNOWLEDGE AND  
RESPOND TO DIFFERENCES OF  
GEOGRAPHY, CLASS, RACE,  
EXPERIENCES AND WELCOME A  
VARIETY OF OPINIONS AND VOICES.  
AND FINALLY, THE PLAN MUST BE  
INFORMED BY DATA.

BOSTON AS A CITY FILLED WITH  
BRAIN AND COMPUTING POWER.  
THE PLAN SHOULD WORK CLOSELY  
WITH LEADING RESEARCHERS IN THE  
FIELD TO CREATE A PLAN GUIDED BY  
THE BEST DATA AND SCIENCE  
AVAILABLE.

THE MAYOR'S REQUEST IS CRITICAL  
TO BUILDING A LONG-TERM VIBRANT  
URBAN FOREST.  
TO FULLY SUCCEED IT NEED TO BE  
WHOLE WITHIN AND  
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY AND DATA  
RICH IT WE ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT  
THIS PLAN TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE,  
METRICS AND BENCH MARKS FOR CITY  
AGENCIES, DEVELOPERS;NGOs SUCH  
AS OURS AND PARTNERS AND  
RESIDENTS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR  
PLANNING AND BUILDING AN URBAN  
FOREST FOR THE FUTURE.

WE AT SPEAK FOR THE TREES LOOK  
FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER WITH  
PARKS DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A  
LONG-TERM PLAN THAT ENSURES THE  
PRESERVATION AND GROWTH OF OUR  
URBAN FOREST.

OUR TREES, ALL OF THEM, ARE AN  
INVALUABLE ASSET.  
SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I  
YIELD TO THE CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU, DAVID.

REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR WORK.  
NEXT UP IS CAROLINE REEVES AND  
THEN WILL BE SONYA.

CAROLINE.

>> HI.

I'M CAROLYN REEVES, CO-FOUNDER  
OF THE MUDDY WATER INITIATIVE  
WITH THE INCREDIBLE JACKIE  
ROYCE.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE  
CHANCE TO BE HEARD TODAY.  
IT'S BEEN VERY EXCITING TO HEAR  
THE BROAD SWEEP OF THE CITY'S  
PLANS.

I HAVE BEEN LISTENING SINCE  
10:00 THIS MORNING.

BUT WE KNOW THAT WHAT ACTUALLY  
GETS DONE IS A SUM OF SMALL  
ACTIONS, WITH THE BUY-IN OF OUR  
COMMUNITIES.

THE MUDDY WATER INITIATIVE IS A  
GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION  
AND ADVOCACY GROUP COMMITTED TO  
CLEANING UP THE MUDDY RIVER,  
WHICH FLOWS THROUGH HEART OF OUR  
CITY, THE STRAIN ON WHICH THE  
EMERALD NEXT LACE IS STRUNG.  
THE MUDDY WATER INITIATIVE IS  
SUGGESTING TWO SMALL-SCALE PILOT  
PROGRAMS WITH BIG POTENTIAL THAT  
WE HOPE WILL BE ULTIMATELY  
ADOPTED ACROSS THE CITY TO  
PRESERVE OUR WETLANDS AND TO  
ENGAGE ALL OUR NEIGHBORS FROM  
THE SUNWAY, BACKBAY AND HARBOR  
IN CLEANING UP ONE OF OUR MOST  
PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESOURCES, OUR WATERWAYS.

WE SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL WHICH I  
HOPE THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN A LOOK  
AT AND AS YOU CAN SEE FROM, THIS  
WE'RE SUGGESTING TWO BOOM  
SYSTEMS TO STRING ACROSS THE  
MUDDY RIVER.

ONE TO SCOOP THE TRASH OFF THE  
SURFACE OF THE RIVER AND THE  
SECOND TO DEPLOY AND INNOVATIVE  
AND EXCITING NEW ACTIVATED  
CHARCOAL FILTER SYSTEM WHICH  
WILL FILTER PHOSPHORUS,  
HYDROCARBONS AND E.COLI OUT OF  
THE MUDDY.

A RIVER WHICH THE CHARLES RIVER  
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION CALLS ONE



OF THE TOP TWO MOST POLLUTED  
TRIBUTARIES OF THE CHARLES  
RIVER.

OUR FIRST PROJECT, THE WATER  
REMOVAL BOOM, WE'RE ASKING THE  
CITY FOR FUNDS TO HIRE AN INTERN  
TO OVERSEE THE VOLUNTEERS WE'RE  
GATHERING TO CLEAN UP OUR  
MUDDY'S TRASH.

WE'RE HOPING TO ENGAGE OUR URBAN  
YOUTH THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER  
CLEAN UP THE RIVER'S TRASH, TO  
TEST THE MUDDY WATER, AND TO  
HELP US RESEARCH HOW TO BETTER  
CARE FOR OUR GREEN AND BLUE  
RESOURCES.

THE MUDDY WATER INITIATIVE IS A  
GET IT DONE GROUP WHICH IS  
LOOKING FORWARD TO PARTNERING  
WITH THE CITY TO IMPROVE OUR  
PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE,  
WHICH INCLUDES CLEANING UP OUR  
URBAN WATERWAYS, AN INNOVATIVE,  
INCLUSIVE, FINANCIALLY  
ACCESSIBLE PROJECT.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR,  
COUNCILORS, CHIEF COOK,  
COMMISSIONER WOOD, FOR ALL YOU  
DO TO HELP US GREEN AND BLUE OUR  
CITY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANKS SO MUCH, CAROLYN.  
NEXT UP IT WILL BE SONYA AND  
I'LL JUST ASK, THEN SARAH  
FREEMAN.

I WOULD ASK THE OTHER ATTENDEES  
WHO ARE HERE, YOU'RE NOT ON MY  
TESTIMONY LIST BUT WE'RE HAPPY  
TO RECOGNIZE YOU IF YOU JUST  
RAISE YOUR BLUE HAND OR MAKE A  
COMMENT IN THE CHAT SO I KNOW  
YOU WANT TO TESTIFY AND NOT JUST  
WATCH THE HEARING.

SO SONYA IS UP NEXT AND THEN  
SARAH.  
SONYA.

>> ALL RIGHT.

WELL, THANK YOU, EVERYBODY.  
I'M SONYA, I'M THE COORDINATOR  
OF THE

[INAUDIBLE]

SO MANY OF YOU ARE COLLABORATORS  
ARE MOTHERS UNFRONT SO I THANK  
YOU FOR THAT.

I THANK YOU ALL.

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR FUNDING URBAN FORESTRY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ASSET.

A VIEWPOINT I KNOW MANY OF YOU ON THIS CALL SHARE AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

WHEN MY TEAM MET WITH MAYOR WALSH ABOUT THE EAST BOSTON AIR QUALITY CAMPAIGN, IT WAS GRATEFUL TO COMMISSIONER COOK WHO QUICKLY ADDED THAT WE HAVE THE LOWEST TREE CANOPY IN ALL OF GREATER BOSTON.

WE ARGUABLY SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST.

WITH ONE OF THE HIGHEST POPULATIONS OF CHILDREN WITH 360% GREATER CHANCE OF EXPERIENCING CHILDHOOD ASTHMA SYMPTOMS, OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE MANY HEALTH, SAFETY, BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC BENEFITS THAT TREES PROVIDE AND I KNOW I DON'T NEED TO SPELL THEM OUT FOR THIS CROWD.

BUT IF THERE HAS EVER BEEN A TIME TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMMEDIACY OF THIS ISSUE FOR RESIDENTS AT LARGE, IT'S BEEN THE LAST TWO MONTHS.

WE HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST POPULATIONS OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY INCREASED RATES OF ASTHMA, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND DOUBLED CROPD RATES, DISEASES THAT PUT THEM MORE AT RISK OF THE DEADLY IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 AND HIGHER TEMPERATURES ALIKE.

TREES ARE NOT ONLY ONE OF THE MOST PROSPECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAYS TO COMBAT HEAT ISLAND EFFECT BUT WAY TO MINIMIZE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE VERY DISEASES THEMSELVES.

BUT SIMPLY PLANTING TREES, MORE TREES ISN'T THE ENTIRE ANSWER ALTHOUGH IT'S A HUGE ONE.

OF COURSE THERE'S THE ISSUE OF GAS LEAKS, BUT BEYOND THAT CAREFULLY PLANTED LOCATIONS OF TREES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS CRUCIAL SO THAT THEY CAN NOT

ONLY FILTER AIR POLLUTION BUT SURVIVE IT.

WE ALSO NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER TREES SPECIES THAT DON'T EMIT HIGH VOLUMES OF [INAUDIBLE]

THE NEED FOR A MULTILINGUAL ENGAGEMENT PROCESS IS NECESSARY AS WE HAVE THE HIGHEST POPULATION OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND WITH 53% OF US RENTING, DIALOGUE AND EDUCATION AMONG ALL PARTIES IS CRUCIAL. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR SITUATION I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY WE NEED OUR OWN ARBORIST AND TREE WARDEN.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN THIS AS AGGRESSIVELY AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN AS A WAY TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR KIDS AND OUR ESSENTIAL WORKERS FOR DECADES TO COME.

AND I WANTED TO ADD THAT YOU MENTIONED THE NEED FOR MORE YOUTH OR SUPPORT TO PLANT THESE 2,000 TREES.

I KNOW A LOT OF MOMS, A LOT OF KIDS LOOKING FOR A LOT OF THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW.

SO PUT US AND OUR KIDS TO WORK. WE WOULD LOVE TO BE PARTNERS.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, SONYA.

THANKS TO MOTHERS OUT FRONT FOR ALL YOUR WORK.

ALL RIGHT.

NEXT UP IS SARAH AND THEN I'LL SAY ONE MORE TIME TO THOSE IN THE WAITING ROOM, IF ANY OF YOU WANT TO TESTIFY, RAISE YOUR BLUE HAND OR RESPOND TO THE CHAT, OTHERWISE SARAH WILL BE OUR LAST IN PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

SARAH.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> YES.

>> GREAT.

THANKS.

HI, EVERYONE.

I'M SARAH FREEMAN, JAMAICA PLAIN, ANN ARBOR WAY COALITION, WHICH IS THE PART OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE BEYOND JAMAICA POND AND

ON TO THE ARBORETUM AND FRANKLIN  
PARK.

ALSO A NUMBER OF THE PARK  
OVERSEERS FOR EMERALD NECKLACE  
CONSERVANCY.

AND AS SUCH, I'LL BE BRIEF,  
SAYING WE SUPPORT WHAT WAS IN  
THEIR LETTER.

WE HAVE WRITTEN OUR OWN LETTER.  
SO WITHOUT GOING IN TO DETAIL  
THE SECOND MAINTENANCE SHIFT,  
TREES, TREES, TREES, THE  
RANGERS, THE SHARPS, THOSE ARE  
THE BIG ITEMS.

I CAN SAY THE ONE LESS FEEL-GOOD  
PART OF THE LETTERS IS THE PARK  
RANGER.

WE LOVE THEM AND I APPRECIATE  
COUNCILOR BOK AND OTHERS  
REFERRING TO PEACE OF MIND TO  
SEE SOME NUMBERS IN THE  
OPERATING BUDGET.

IT'S MORE LIKE POST-TRAUMATIC  
STRESS FOR THOSE OF US WHO  
REMEMBER A TIME THAT THE UNIT  
WAS ON THE BRINK OF ELIMINATION.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR  
COMMISSIONER WOODS SAY THEY'RE  
NOT GOING AWAY, BUT IT WOULD BE  
SO MUCH BETTER TO SEE WHAT  
NUMBERS ARE THERE, WHAT DO THE  
FRIENDS NEED TO FUND RAISE FOR?  
SOME STRESS REDUCTION.

AND ON A PERSONAL NOTE I WILL  
JUST ADD THAT THINGS THAT CAME  
UP DURING THE HEARING, SO HAPPY  
TO HEAR THAT THE EXPANDED  
RECYCLING, THAT THEY SINCE  
PASSED, ALL THE URBAN WILD  
STUFF, THE GEESE, THE CITY HAS  
BEEN FABULOUS IN KEEPING THE  
PARKS OPEN DURING THIS PANDEMIC.  
AND THE BUDGET, BY VALUING THE  
PARKS AND KEEPING THEM AT A  
LEVEL THAT THEY WILL BE  
WELCOMING AND SAFE PLACES FOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH,  
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, I DON'T  
MEAN TO SOUND LIKE I'M  
COMPLAINING ABOUT THE AREAS FOR  
IMPROVEMENT.

THERE'S A LOT TO LIKE, BUT IT  
WOULD BE GREAT TO CLARIFY THAT  
RANGERS PART.

THANK YOU.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, SARAH.  
AND THANK YOU ALSO, GENEVIEVE IS  
NOT TESTIFYING BUT NOTES SHE  
SUBMITTED A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF  
THE BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT  
BUDGET WHICH I KNOW WE HAVE AND  
WILL BE INCLUDED IN TESTIMONY  
RELATED TO THIS HEARING.

I WANT TO THANK ALL MEMBERS OF  
THE PUBLIC FOR TESTIFYING,  
EVERYONE WATCHING FROM HOME, MY  
FELLOW COUNCILORS FOR THEIR MANY  
GOOD QUESTIONS AND ESPECIALLY,  
ESPECIALLY COMMISSIONER WOOD,  
CHIEF COOK, AND THE WHOLE PARKS  
TEAM FOR JUST LIKE ALL YOUR  
DEDICATED ANSWERS TO OUR  
QUESTIONS TODAY.

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR  
DEDICATED WORK EVERY DAY OF THE  
YEAR.

SO I THINK WITH THAT WE ARE  
READY TO ADJOURN.

THIS MEETING OF THE BOSTON CITY  
COUNCIL IS NOW ADJOURNED.

EVERYONE ENJOY A COUPLE MORE  
HOURS OF SUNSHINE IN A SAFE AND  
SOCIALY DISTANT WAY.

>> THANK YOU, EVERYBODY, GOOD TO  
SEE EVERYONE'S FACES.

>> THANKS, EVERYBODY.

WE WILL.

>> BYE.

>> THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

>> THANK YOU.