

;;;Boston City Council 180524

>> GOOD MORNING EVERYONE I'M
MARK CIOMMO THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS
AND MEANS AND THE DISTRICT NINE
CITY COUNCILOR.

TODAY IS THURSDAY, MAY 24.

WE ARE HERE WITH OUR GOOD
FRIENDS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT AND PARKS DEPARTMENT
TO REVIEW THE FY19 BUDGET FOR
PARKS AS IT PERTAINS TO DOCKETS
0559-0563.

ORDERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 19
OPERATING BUDGET INCLUDE ANNUAL
APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENTAL
OPERATIONS, ANNUAL APPROPRIATION
FOR THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, AND
APPROPRIATION FOR OTHER
POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.
APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC RAIL
IMPROVEMENTS, AND APPROPRIATION
FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT 0564-0565,
CAPITAL APRORATIONS INCLUDING
LOAN ORDERS AND LEASE AND
PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

I LIKE TO REMIND FOLKS THIS IS A
PUBLIC HEARING BROADCAST LIVE
AND RECORDED ON CHANNEL 8
COMCAST RCN 82, VERIZON 1964,
AND STREAMED AT
BOSTON.GOV/CITY-COUNCIL-TV.
SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
AT THE CONCLUSION -- ACTUALLY I
WILL DEPART A LITTLE FROM THE
NORMAL PROCEDURE.

I HAVE A HARD FIVE-MINUTE STOP
ON THE FIRST ROUND.

I AM GOING TO ALLOW FIVE FOLKS
WHO SIGNED UP FOR TESTIMONY TO
PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THAT
TIME, AND THEN AT THE CONCLUSION
OF THE SECOND ROUND WE'LL HAVE
THE REST OF THE TESTIMONY.

THERE IS ONE MORE SESSION THAT
WE HAVE FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY
ONLY THAT WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 5 BETWEEN 2:00 TO
6:00 P.M.

THAT'S WHEN MEMBERS OF THE

PUBLIC CAN COME TO THE CHAMBER AND PROVIDE PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON ANY ASPECT OF THE FY19 BUDGET AS THIS IS THE LAST DEPARTMENTAL HEARING PRIOR TO VOTES.

IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL MY COLLEAGUES, COUNCILOR FRANK BAKER TO MY LEFT, COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS COMMITTEE. TO MY IMMEDIATE RIGHT.

TO MY FAR LEFT AGAIN COUNCILOR TIMOTHY MCCARTHY.

TO MY IMMEDIATE LEFT, COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE.

TO MY FAR LEFT AGAIN, COUNCILOR SACK JOSH ZAKIM.

AND ANDREA CAMPBELL AND COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU.

AND WELCOME COMMISSIONER, CHIEF, AND YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR.

A PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS MORNING.

[SPEAKING AWAY FROM MIC] -- DENNIS ROACH WHO LEADS OUR FINANCE AND ALSO NICOLE, FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT. THE REASON WHY OUR PARKS LOOK LIKE THEY ARE IN SUCH GREAT SHAPE, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT TEAM WE HAVE AT PARKS AND RECREATION. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT MAYOR WELL WELL FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN A ROW IS RECOMMENDING THE LARGEST BUDGET IN PARKS AND RECREATION HISTORY.

IT IS PART OF THE PLAN TO MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF IMAGINE BOSTON AND CLIMATE RATE BOSTON, APPROACH TO CLIMATE PLANNING.

AND OPEN SPACE PLAYS AN INCREASINGLY LARGE ROLE AND IMPORTANT ONE ENSURING THAT BOSTON CONTINUES TO BE A HEALTHY, INNOVATIVE AND THRIVING PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK.

THE HISTORIC RECOMMENDED BUDGET REFLECTS THAT, ALLOWING US TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS WE HAD IN THIS FISCAL YEAR FY18 BREAKING GROUND ON THE OPEN SPACE ON THE FOUR POINT CHANNEL, THE

FLOODWALL ON THE EAST BOSTON GREENWAY AND MAKING STRIDES ON PROVIDING ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE TO ALL BOSTONIANS.

MAYOR WALSH MADE INCLUSION AND EQUITY PRIORITIES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION THROUGH HIS PARKS FIRST INITIATIVE.

MAKING SURE THE PRINCIPLES INFORMED ALL DECISIONS WE MADE, ESPECIALLY ENSURING CHILDREN FROM ALL NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE ACCESS TO SPORTS ENRICHMENT AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS.

OF COURSE, IN ADDITION TO THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET, THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTED AND EXCITED TO WORK WITH THE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY ACT.

AND INCLUDING INCLUSION IN EQUITY AS PARKS FIRST ALSO.

LASTLY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR CITYWIDE PLAN, IMAGINE BOSTON, THE CLIMATE READY BOSTON TEAM CONTINUES TO SHOW US WHERE BOSTON IS MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO AVOID IT.

AND WORK ACROSS THE CITY, ESPECIALLY MOKLEY PARK WHERE THERE IS AN ONGOING PROCESS. DEVELOPING THE DESIGNS, THE PARKS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO INTERGREAT THESE IDEAS INTO OUR CAPITAL PLANS. THANK YOU AGAIN.

AND IF IT PLEASES THE CHAIR, I'D LIKE TO GIVE COMMISSIONER COOK THE FLOOR TO GIVE YOU MORE DETAIL ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

>> SURE, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU CHIEF AND THANK YOU MR. CHAIR.

AS YOU SAID BEFORE, I AM CHRIS COOK AND I HAVE THE GREAT HONOR OF BEING THE PARKS COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON.

IT'S A GREAT HONOR BECAUSE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK FOR THE BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

THEY WORK VERY HARD, A BIG MANDATE.

THERE IS A LOT OF ACREAGE AND
THEY WORK EVERY DAY VERY
DILIGENTLY TO MAKE SURE THOSE
SPACES ARE CLEAN AND THAT THEY
ARE ACCESSIBLE, AND THAT THERE
AN EQUITY IN HOW WE DISTRIBUTE
OUR RESOURCES.

AND VERY, VERY PROUD TO WORK
WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE
DEPARTMENT.

JUST VERY QUICKLY THOUGH, I
WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T
MENTION THE EXTRAORDINARY
CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR PARK
PARTNERS IN MANY OF THE SPACES.
LAST NIGHT WE ACTUALLY HAD A
PARKS PARTNER EVENT CELEBRATING
SOME OF OUR KEY STRATEGIC
PARTNERS.

GREAT PARKS ARE MADE BY GREAT
PEOPLE.

AND OFTEN WHEN YOU SEE A REALLY
WELL-MAINTAINED SPACE, THAT'S
BECAUSE THERE'S A GROUP OF
CITIZEN VOLUNTEER WHOSE ARE
ORGANIZED HELPING TAKE CARE OF
THAT SPACE.

I WOULD BE REMISS TO SAY THAT
ALL OF THE GREAT WORK IS US
ALONE.

IT IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
COMMUNITY.

AND SOME OF THOSE FRIENDS GROUPS
ARE, YOU KNOW, GRAND TOTAL OF
TWO PEOPLE WHO ORGANIZE WEEKLY
CLEAN-UPS.

AND SOME OF THE FRIENDS GROUP
RAISE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR
OUR PARKS.

SO EACH ONE OF THEM IS VERY
IMPORTANT AND WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT THEM.

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO PUT
THIS BUDGET BEFORE THE COUNCIL'S
CONSIDERATION.

IT REPRESENTS A LOT OF STRATEGIC
INVESTMENTS, THINGS WE HAVE
NEVER TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE THAT
WE SHOULD.

THINGS LIKE ARTIFICIAL TURF
MAINTENANCE MUCH PUTTING IN A
LOT OF ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS
THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE, TO EXTEND

THEIR LIFE IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY THAT'S IN OUR GENERAL BUDGET. WE HAVE ALSO OTHER IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS WE'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT.

I'D LIKE TO TURN IT OVER BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOR ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT THIS BUDGET.

>> THANK YOU COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF.

LET ME FIRST ECHO YOUR COMMENTS REGARDING THE CREWS IN THE FIELD, CHRIS LEE IN MY DISTRICT, RONNIE MATERA.

WE ALWAYS HAVE TO WORK WITH PAUL MCCAFFREY.

IF YOU WANT A TREE, YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH GREG MOSSMAN AND MAX DINE AND YOU.

AND THEY DO GREAT WORK AND ARE VERY RESPONSIVE, WORKING ON THE IMPACTS ON THE PARKS AND ALL THE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

THEY WEIGHED IN ON SO MANY OF THEM AND THE BETTERMENT OF ALL OF THOSE SPACES.

AND I JUST WANT TO THANK.

THOSE I MISSED, I APOLOGIZE BUT YOU DO HAVE GREAT STAFF.

AND A COUPLE OF ITEMS ON THE BUDGET.

YOU HAVE, YOU KNOW, A LITTLE SOUTH OF \$600,000 ADDITIONAL FOR EMPLOYEES.

CAN YOU SPEAK A LITTLE TO IS THAT INCREASES?

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING?

MORE STAFF?

A FEW MORE POSITIONS?

>> SURE I WILL HAVE DENNIS TAKE YOU THROUGH THE DIFFERENT REASONS WHETHER IT IS CPA FOR INCREASES, BUT I WANT TO CALL OUT TWO INCREASES.

ONE IS HEIDI SHORK AND THEY ACTUALLY STARTED OUT IN THE PARKS DEPARTMENT.

OFTEN A LOT OF HER ART INSTALLATIONS INVOLVE ACTUAL NATURAL ELEMENTS.

AND SO SHE'S MOVED BACK TO THE

PARKS DEPARTMENT.
WE HAVE A LOT OF WALL SHE CAN
BUTIFY.
SHE IS STILL WORKING BUT WILL BE
BASED OUT OF THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT.
AND AN INVESTMENT IN THE PARK
RANGER SYSTEM.
WITH THAT SAID I WILL TURN IT
OVER TO DENNIS ROACH TO ANSWER
IT MORE FULLY.
>> THE ADDITIONAL IN THE
INCREASE IS THE COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING YOU PREVIOUSLY
MENTION THE BUT ADDITIONAL FIVE
SEASONAL STAFF ADDED TO THE CREW
TO SUPPLEMENT OUR STAFF WE HAVE
EVERY SUMMER.
ADDING FIVE SEASONAL STAFF OUT
THERE CLEANING, MAINTAINING ALL
OF OUR PARK SYSTEMS.
AND THAT'S A VERY STRATEGIC AND
IMPORTANT INVESTMENT.
>> I ECHO THAT.
FOR YEARS WE WENT THROUGH THE
VERY LEAN YEARS, ESPECIALLY
IN '08, '09, '10, '11, TO SEE
THE PARK'S ABILITY TO EXPAND.
DO YOU STILL HAVE THE NIGHT
CREW?
>> WE DO.
>> GREAT, GREAT.
CAN YOU SPEAK A LITTLE TO THE
PARK RANGERS?
I KNOW, YOU KNOW, THE FRIENDS
GROUPS THAT HELP SUPPORT, THAT
ACTUALLY HELP KEEP IT

THROUGH THE ROUGH YEARS.
>> DENNIS CAN ANSWER FINANCES
BUT IT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR ME TO
TALK PHILOSOPHICALLY HOW THE
CITY IS APPROACHING IT.
A PERIOD OF TIME THE PARK RANGER
PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY THE
MOUNTED UNIT PARK RANGER FOR
LACK OF A BETTER TERM WAS ON THE
CHOPPING BLOCK WHETHER THE CITY
WOULD ACTUALLY FUND IT.
THAT'S NO LONGER THE CASE.
THE CITY IS FUNDING THE PARK
RANGER PROGRAM, PARTICIPATING IN
THE FUNDING AROUND THE MOUNTED
UNIT.

AND THAT IS AFFORDING THE OPPORTUNITY, I WON'T SPEAK FOR THEM, THEY ARE ACTUALLY HERE AND CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, THAT IS AFFORDING THE FRIENDS GROUP TO GO THROUGH A TRANSFORMATION WHERE THEY SUPPORT THE PROGRAM BUT DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BASELINE FUNDING OR THE PERIOD WILL BE CANCELED.

FOR YEARS THERE WAS AN MOA, BUT FOR THE FUNDING THE PROGRAM WOULD BE ERADICATED.

THAT IS NOT THE CASE TODAY. THE MAYOR IS COMMITTED TO THE MOUNTED UNIT AND WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE FRIENDS GROUP WHERE IT IS A PARTNERSHIP AND NOT A SITUATION WHERE IF THEY DIDN'T FUND IT THE PROGRAM WOULD GO AWAY.

>> THE ONLY THING I WOULD ADD THE FULL-TIME POSITION CHRIS MENTIONED THAT IS ADDED TO THE BUDGET THIS YEAR IS FOR A STABLE OPERATIONS TYPE PERSON.

THAT WOULD ALLOW SOMEBODY TO BE DEDICATED TO THE STABLE AND EMPLOY OTHER PARK RANGERS HELPING OUT AROUND THE STABLE MORE IN THE FIELD.

>> AND WE HAVE BOSTON CALLING THIS WEEKEND AND THE AREA HARVARD STADIUM.

I WAS WONDERING HALF YEAR I SAW SOME PARK RANGERS AROUND, YOU KNOW, TROTTING AROUND THE CHARLES RIVER RESER

-- RESERVATION, AROUND THAT AREA.

IS THAT POSSIBLE TO HAPPEN AGAIN?

>> I SUSPECT IT WAS NOT OUR RANGERS, BUT WILL I REACH OUT TO OUR COLLEAGUES AT DCR TO SEE IF IT WAS THEM.

>> IT PROBABLY WAS.

THEY LOOK THE SAME THOUGH.

>> THEY DO THERE.

AND I SUSPECT IT WASN'T OUR RANGERS.

BUT I AM CHECK BACK ON THAT.

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I KNOW

THERE WAS CONCERN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON SMITHFIELD, ESPECIALLY WITH THE INVESTMENTS THAT THE CITY IS MAKING IN SMITH, AS WELL AS OUR PARTNERS WITH SAMUELS AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND EVERYONE ELSE PARTICIPATING.

WE ACTUALLY DIDN'T SEE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SMITHFIELD FROM THE FESTIVAL LAST YEAR, BUT I WILL CHECK WITH DCR TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE APPROPRIATE COVERAGE.

>> I LOOK FORWARD TO PHASE II AND THANKS FOR SEEDING THAT IN THE CAPITAL BUDGET AS WELL. I APPRECIATE IT.

AND TO REMIND MY COLLEAGUES, WE ARE GOING TO A HARD FIVE-MINUTE STOP BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO TAKE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AFTER THE FIRST ROUND.

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES COUNCILOR BAKER.

NOT HERE, TO COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> ALLOW ME TO SPEAK AS QUICKLY AND EFFICIENCY AS POSSIBLE I WANT TO HEAR FROM THE ADVOCATES, ALL OF YOUR TEAM THAT'S WITH YOU UP THERE.

YOU GUYS DO AMAZING WORK.

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS NEVER OPERATED AS WELL AS IT IS RIGHT NOW IN MY EIGHT YEARS ON THIS BODY.

TREMENDOUS CREDIT GOES TO YOU. DELIGHTED TO SEE THE MAYOR'S INVESTMENT.

I WANT TO SEE THAT INVESTMENT GROW EVEN MORE.

LET'S TICK THROUGH SOME THINGS. THE BOSTON PARKS RANGERS UNIT, I WANT TO SEE ONE MORE ADDITIONAL PARK RANGER.

I THINK WE NEED THAT.

IT IS SUCH AN AMAZING PROGRAM. PARTICULARLY AROUND THE EMERALD NECKLACE, CAN WE GET ONE MORE ADDITIONAL PARK RANGER IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET?

>> TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, I THINK I WOULD BE REMISS IF I

DIDN'T APOLOGIZE TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND TO THE BUDGET OFFICE.

WHEN I FIRST STARTED, DENNIS AND I WERE WORKING HARD ON BRAINSTORMING ON THIS PROJECT. THE WAY I APPROACHED IT THE FIRST SEVERAL YEARS WAS ACTUALLY TO LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL SEASONAL RANGERS, BECAUSE I FELT THAT WHAT WE NEEDED WAS JUST A STRONGER PRESENCE AND MORE BODIES.

WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE AT THE TIME, AND I AM EMBARRASSED AS I HAVE GROWN NOT ONLY A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP BUT A FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM, IS HOW HIGHLY SKILLED THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE.

AND WHAT OFTEN HAPPENS, THROUGH THE TRAINING PROCESS OF THEM BECOMING SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS, THEY GET TRAINED, THEY GO THROUGH THE FAIRLY RIGOROUS PARK RANGER TRAINING, AS WELL AS TRAINING AS AMBASSADORS OF THESE SPACES.

AND THEN BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED THIS TRAINING, THEY BECOME VERY WELCOMED CANDIDATES FOR WHETHER IT IS BHA POLICE OR OTHER, YOU KNOW, COLLEGE CAMPUS POLICE OR THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT THEMSELVES.

WE HAD A VERY HIGH TURNOVER RATE FOR THE SEASONAL RANGERS.

I THINK WORKING WITH THE BUDGET OFFICE MOVING FORWARD, I THINK WHAT WE'D LIKE TO DO IS LOOK AT SOME OF THAT SEASONAL DEPLOYMENT WE HAVE AND LOOK AT IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY WHERE WE CAN TRANSLATE IT INTO FDE'S.

OF COURSE THAT WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE BUDGET AND HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED WITH EVERYTHING THAT THE CITY HAS TO CONSIDER, BUT I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EMPHASIS IN MY FIRST THREE YEARS.

LOOKING FORWARD NOT TO DIMINISH SEASONAL WORKERS, BUT NOTHING LIKE AN FTE TO GIVE SOMEONE THE

SECURITY TO BE IN A POSITION.
>> SOMEONE USED THE ANALOGY THAT
IT IS LIKE IF YOU KEEP PLANTING
THE SAME TREE YEAR AFTER YEAR IT
IS NOT GOING TO BE A MATURE
TREE.
IT IS GREAT TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE.
SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS, HOW MANY
ARE UP?
>> NONE ARE UP, BUT THIS IS IT
THE BIG WEEKEND.
THIS IS THE TIME TO SHINE.
IF YOU NEED PROTECTION IN OUR
PARKS, THE SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS
GO UP THIS WEEKEND.
>> HOW MANY ARE GOING UP?
>> I BELIEVE SEVEN BUT I CAN
DOUBLE CHECK
>> AND HOW MUCH ARE WE SPENDING
ON SUNSCREEN?
>> WE'RE SPENDING ZERO DOLLARS.
>> BECAUSE OF A GENEROUS
DONATION FROM IMPACT MELANOMA.
>> THAT IS RIGHT.
>> HOW MUCH HAVE WE SPENT IN THE
LAST YEARS?
>> THAT WOULD BE ZERO DOLLARS.
>> THANK YOU.
AND THE FILLING STATIONS,
INCLUDING MORE OF THOSE.
I LOVE THOSE, GET RID OF THE
PLASTIC BOTTLES.
ARE THEY SPECS IN ALL OF OUR YOU
ARE IN PARKS?
>> WE DON'T PUT IN A WATER
FOUNTAIN UNLESS IT IS IN A
HISTORICAL PARK.
AND EVEN WHEN WE RENOVATE THE
PATHWAYS WE INSTALL THOSE.
>> JAMAICA -- TWO PUBLIC
MEETINGS AND THE TIMELINE ON
THAT?
>> WE ARE LOOKING AT A FALL BID.
THAT'S VERY AMBITIOUS.
IF THE NEXT COUPLE OF PUBLIC
MEETINGS GOING WELL WE COULD BE
ON TRACK FOR A FALL BID, LOOKING
AT SPRING CONSTRUCTION.
>> AND BILLINGS FIELD, WE NEED A
LITTLE HELP.
I SEE YOU WITH YOUR TWO
BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS, ANY
INVESTMENT FOR THAT?
>> DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE

COURTS?

>> TWO FACTORS.

PART OF OUR COURT RENOVATION PROJECT, THEY ARE GOING UNDER THE KNIFE THIS FALL TO RENOVATE THE TWO BASKETBALL FIELDS, BUT THE BASEBALL DIAMOND THAT NEEDS LOVE AND WORK, PART OF OUR BALL FIELD REPAIR.

WE STARTED THAT PROJECT, ALREADY DOING EDGES AND ARE FINISHING THAT PROJECT THIS SUMMER AND FALL AND REGRADING AND RESTRUCTURING THE INFIELD ALMOST LOOKING LIKE A NEW INFIELD BY THE FALL.

>> FANTASTIC.

15 SECONDS CLOSING WITH A STATEMENT.

COUNCILOR PRESSLEY AND I DO HEARING A STREET TREE COVERAGE AND CANOPY COVERAGE AND HOPING TO HAVE A HARD NUMBER TO GROW IT AND SUPPORT THE GREAT WORK WE ARE DOING.

4:59, THANK YOU ALL.

>> THANK YOU.

WE SINCE HAVE BEEN JOINED MY CITY COUNCILORS MICHAEL FLAHERTY TO MY LEFT, KIM JANEY TO MY RIGHT, AND COUNCILOR LYDIA EDWARDS BACK TO MY LEFT, THANK YOU.

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES COUNCILOR TIMOTHY MCCARTHY.

>> AND THE FIVE-MINUTE STOP SINCE THE LAST BUDGET HEARING.

>> WELL DONE, MARK.

>> YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES NOW.

>> AND THE MIC IS NOT EVEN ON.

ANYWAY, THANKS VERY MUCH

COMMISSIONER AND TEAM.

VERY HAPPY TO HAVE YOU GUYS HERE.

I HAVE NO PROBLEMS SAYING THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE DEPARTMENTS.

I WAS THERE EIGHT YEARS AND LOVED IT WHEN I WAS THERE.

THE COMMITMENT DISTRICT FIVE FOR THE PARK AND RESERVATION ROAD.

ALL THE PLAYGROUNDS WE REBUILT, IT IS REALLY UNBELIEVABLE.

I AM VERY HAPPY WITH THE WALSH

ADMINISTRATION AND THE FACT THE
ADMINISTRATION IS
RE-ESTABLISHING ITSELF AS A
CAPITAL PLAN BASE.

THINGS YOU CAN SEE, TOUCH,
THINGS THAT KEEP FAMILIES HERE.
THE MAYOR'S CUP HOCKEY AND
BASEBALL.

I ACTUALLY FOLLOW COUNCILOR
ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE THROUGH
HER WORLD THROUGH THE HOCKEY AND
BASEBALL MAYOR'S CUB.

MY SON ACTUALLY DID SOME
SCOREKEEPING AND EVERYTHING AND
BULLY SAID HE DOES A REALLY NICE
JOB AND EVERYBODY SEEMS REALLY
HAPPY.

IT IS NICE TO MEET KIDS FROM ALL
OVER THE NATION, OR FROM ALL
OVER THE CITY.

WHEN WE WERE TALKING WINNING
THE MAYOR'S CUP A COUPLE OF
TIMES IN BASEBALL WHEN I WAS
COACHING AND NOW WHEN HE IS
GRADUATING I FEEL REALLY OLD IS
REALLY WHAT I AM SAYING.

THE BASEBALL DIAMONDS LOOK
GREAT.

A NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE PARKS.

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEES?

HOW MANY SLOTS DO WE HAVE OPEN?

HOW MANY DO WE NEED?

>> COUNCILOR, IF YOU COULD FIND
THE ONE DEPARTMENTHEAD THAT
WOULD TELL YOU THAT THEY HAVE
ENOUGH BODIES.

>> THEY ALL DO.

>> YEAH.

>> I WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE TABLE WHEN YOU SAY OH, YEAH,
WE HAVE PLENTY.

>> WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT WE
HAVE TO BE MORE STRATEGIC ABOUT
HOW WE DEPLOY THE WORK.

BEFORE WE ASK THE TAXPAYERS TO
RE-INVEST INTO FTE'S WE HAVE TO
MAKE SURE THAT OUR INVESTING IN
THE MOST EFFICIENT EMPLOYMENT OF
WORK.

ONE THING WE HAVE DONE RECENTLY
IS WE'VE GIVEN FALL FIELD
MANAGEMENT TO ONE INDIVIDUAL,

GARY DRYER AND HE DOES
EXTRAORDINARY WORK.
THAT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE.
THERE WAS A REGIONAL APPROACH
AND THERE WAS DIFFERENCES IN HOW
THE FIELDS WERE TAKEN CARE OF.
THAT IS ONE THING THAT HAS BEEN
IMPROVED.

WE ARE NOW INTO THE MOWING
SEASON.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR IS THERE A
SMALL INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY
TO MAKE SURE WE ARE MOWING IN A
WAY THAT NOT ONLY MAINTAINS THE
BALL FIELDS WE HEAR THE MOST
ABOUT, BUT ALSO THOSE WE DON'T.
MAKING SURE THERE IS EQUITY IN
THE WAY WE TAKE CARE OF THE
PARKS.

I AM LET DENNIS TALK ABOUT SOME
OF THE TECHNOLOGY WE ARE LOOKING
AT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF VEHICLES.

>> WE ARE IN TALKING WITH PUBLIC
WORKS WHO ROLLED OUT HIGHLY
ADVANCED G.P.S. SOFTWARE SYSTEM
ALLOWING US TO TRACK VEHICLES IN
THAT.

AND ALSO TRACKING MOWERS.
CAN PUT G.P.S. UNITS ON THIS AND
SEE IF WHEN HE HIT THE FIELD,
SHOWING YOU THE OUTLINE IT DID
AND HOW LONG IT TOOK YOU TO DO
THE FIELD.

THAT WAY YOU CAN STRATEGICALLY
DEPLOY RESOURCES HOW LONG IT IS
TAKING ON EACH FIELD, AND
WORKING CLOSELY WITH WORKS AND A
PROGRAM WE HOPE TO ROLL OUT TO
TEST THE SOFTWARE.

>> ONE OF THE FOLLOW-UPS ON
THAT, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT IS
SOMETHING HAPPENING THAT IS
DIFFERENT, GARY IS AWARE AND HE
WAS WATCHING THE 311 QUEUE FOR
THE COMPLAINTS AND WORKING WITH
THE SCHEDULE, THAT FREES UP THE
DISTRICT CREWS TO TAKE CARE OF
INDIVIDUAL FIELDS THEMSELVES.
THE SOUTH BOSTON CREW IS
CURRENTLY TAKING CARE OF M
STREET AND THE BALL FIELD TREE
TAKING CARE OF MOWIBLY, A LARGE
FACILITY AND BURDEN FOR THE
CREW.

AND I THINK IT IS RESULTING IN BETTER LEVELS OF SERVICES IN PLACES LIKE MEDAL OF HONOR AND SOME OF THE SMALLER FIELDS.

>> AND I AM AT 4:20, NOT EATING UP ANYMORE TIME.

AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT GOLF COURSES.

BOTH GOLF COURSES WERE LISTED TOP 10 IN MASSACHUSETTS FOR MUNICIPAL COURSES AND THAT'S A HUGE FEATHER IN YOUR CAP.

DENNIS ROACH HAS BEEN, YOU KNOW, PHENOMENAL WITH THE WHOLE GEORGE WRIGHT REDESIGN AND REBUILDING OF THE COMPLEX.

I PLAYED NINE HOLES THIS MORNING AT FRANKLIN PARK.

AT 5:30 A.M., NOT ON THE CLOCK. WE HAD THE HYDE PARK 150 MAJOR KICKOFF, TURNING 150 YEARS OLD. WE HAD 250 PEOPLE IN THE GEORGE WRIGHT CLUBHOUSE, AND A LOT OF IT HAD TO DO WITH DENNIS' WORK. IT WAS A GREAT EVENT AND ONE THING I WANT TO TELL YOU IS THAT WHEN I WAS WALKING THE MAYOR AROUND, INTRODUCING HIM, THERE HAD TO BE ABOUT 70% OF THE PEOPLE THAT WERE AT THE EVENT HAD NEVER BEEN INSIDE OF THE CLUBHOUSE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IT IS A GOLF CLUBHOUSE. IT IS NOT. IT IS A CLUBHOUSE FOR THE PEOPLE.

WHEN THE MONEY IS SUNK INTO THAT BUILDING, IT IS GOING TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF HYDE PARK FOR THE NEXT 80 YEARS.

IT IS AN 80-YEAR INVESTMENT AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT.

>> COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU TO THE CHAIR AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE WORK YOU DO.

WE DO USE IT QUITE A BIT AND MENTIONED THE BASEBALL CUP LAST YEAR AND MY BOYS' TEAM LOST AT A BAD CALL AT THE PLATE.

>> I AM VERY SORRY TO HEAR THAT. I AM REALLY, REALLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

>> WE CAN REVIEW THE TAPE AT ANY TIME.

I WOULD LIKE TO QUESTION THE OFFICIALS THAT CALLING THOSE GAMES.

>> YEP.

>> AND THAT WILL BE SOMETHING WE TALK ABOUT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES, I AM SURE, UNTIL WE RECLAIM THE CUB FOR DORCHESTER. TALKING ABOUT PERMITTING THE FIELDS.

HOW MANY PERMITS WE ISSUE, WHO ARE THE GROUPS WE ARE ISSUING TO, ARE THERE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PERMITS.

>> SURE, IT'S A GREAT QUESTION. AND I DON'T KNOW DENNIS HAS THE SPECIFICS ON HOW MANY PERMITS WE ISSUE, BUT WE CAN FORWARD IT TO YOU.

THE COSTS, CURRENTLY THERE ARE ZERO COSTS FOR SOMEONE PROPOSING A PERMIT.

THERE ARE EMOTIONAL COSTS WHERE YOU HAD A PHONE CALL OR FAX SOMETHING IN, NOW IT IS ALL ONLINE AND HOPEFULLY A LITTLE EASIER.

THIS WAS REALLY OUR FIRST FULL YEAR OF USING ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEMS.

WE SOFTLY ROLLED IT OUT BEFORE. WHAT WE ARE FINDING, THE FOLKS THAT ARE REALLY GOOD AT USING COMPUTERS HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IT.

AND FOLKS THAT MIGHT HAVE SOME TROUBLE, IT CREATES A BARRIER FOR THEM.

NOWHERE NEAR THE SAME AMOUNT OF VOLUME, BUT WE ARE STILL SEEING PEOPLE SHOW UP IN PERSON WHO NEED ASSISTANCE AS FAR AS PERMITTING.

AS FAR AS GROUPS, I CAN TALK OF PERMITTING PRIORITY.

THE FIRST THING THAT HAPPENS WITH ANY OF OUR FIELDS, WE SCHEDULE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS. AND WE DO THAT WITH THEIR ATHLETICS OFFICE.

AFTER THAT, WE ALLOW THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TO SCHEDULE YOUTH

SPORTS.

AND AFTER THAT IT'S WHATEVER'S LEFT FOR ADULT LEAGUES AND OTHER FIELDS.

I DON'T KNOW, IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

>> I CAN ANSWER THE NUMBERS.

IT'S 5100 PERMITS ROUGHLY WE SCHEDULE IN OUR PARKS EVERY YEAR.

THAT'S UP QUITE A BIT OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, 20%, 30% OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. MORE ACTIVITY HAPPENING IN THE PARKS.

THAT'S EVERYTHING FROM ATHLETIC EVENTS, ROAD RACES, MOVIES, CONCERTS, WEDDINGS, RALLIES. WE HAVE LISTS THAT WE CAN PROVIDE OF WHO IS PERMITTING IN THE PARKS AND HOW MUCH THEY PAY. THEY DO NOT PAY A FEE FOR THE PERMIT, BUT DO PAY LIGHTING FEES, THING LIKE THAT.

>> ANY PERMIT FOR ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH SPORTS AND ADULT LEAGUE, NPS, FREE PERMITS.

HOW DO WE DEEM WITH COMPANIES THAT PERMIT THE SPACE?

>> IT IS AN AREA WE HAVE TO GET BETTER AT.

ONE THING BEFORE THE BUDGET OFFICE, A PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES TO LOOK AT.

LOOKING AT SPECIFICALLY SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITTING.

WHEN I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE AT THE ARTS TOURISM SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICE WE DEVELOPED A FEE STRUCTURE FOR CITY HALL PLAZA.

I THINK ESPECIALLY FOR-PROFIT GROUPS BUT FRANKLY EVEN NON-PROFIT GROUPS WITH IMPACT, YOU HAVE TO JUDGE THEM A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENTLY.

SOMEONE IS GOING TO HAVE A CONCERT AND THERE'S GOING TO BE SPONSORSHIPS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT CONCERT, 2,000 OR 3,000 PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SHOW UP AT A PARK AND HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PARK, THEY SHOULDN'T BE PAYING THE SAME AS THE FOLKS WHO LIVE

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHO ARE USING A BASEBALL FIELD AS AN AMMENITY TO GET YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN SPORTS.

THAT'S AN AREA WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTNERING WITH THE LAW DEPARTMENT AND THE BUDGET OFFICE, AND OF COURSE HAVE TO PRESENT IT TO THE CITY COUNCIL AT SOME POINT.

WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO CREATE A BURDEN ON YOUTH SPORTS, NOT ON NON-PROFITS, SPECIFICALLY NOT NON-PROFIT SERVING YOUTH. BUT IF THERE ARE LARGE ORGANIZATION USING THE PARKS FOR LARGE EVENTS WE SHOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE SOME OF THAT BENEFIT.

>> I HAPPENED TO BE HAVING A CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH A RESIDENT ABOUT -- THAT THIS HAPPENING WAS HEARING TODAY AND ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FOR-PROFITS.

AND THEY ARE PAYING UP TO \$80 TO BE MEMBERS OF SOME OF THESE, YOU KNOW, QUOTE/UNQUOTE SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT THEY ARE FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES USING OUR SPACE.

IF THOSE USAGE REQUIRED, THE LIGHTS WHICH CAN BE EXPENSIVE, ARE WE CHARGING FOR LIGHTS?

>> IF IT IS AN ADULT LEAGUE WE CHARGE THEM FOR LIGHTS.

>> AND WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR LIGHTS?

>> WE CAN GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT.

THERE IS AN HOURLY CHARGE, COUNCIL.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> COUNCILOR ZAKIM.

>> THANK YOU.

CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WILL JUMP RIGHT INTO IT I SEE WE HAVE A VERY STRICT TASK-MASTER OVER THERE TODAY. ON THE RANGERS, I DO APPRECIATE COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF AND THE MAYOR'S COMMITMENT TO FUNDING THE PARK RANGERS AT LEVELS WE HAVE NOT SEEN IN THE PAST. IT SEEMS EVERY YEAR WE DO HAVE

MORE AND IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.
BUT I WANT TO ECHO COUNCILOR
O'MALLEY'S COMMENTS.
HOW INTEGRAL THE RANGERS ARE,
NOT JUST TO SAFETY AND SECURITY
FOR THE PARKS, BUT AMBASSADORS
TO THE CITIES.
PARTICULARLY DOWNTOWN PARKS, THE
COMMON, THE MALL, IT IS MORE
APPROACHMENT I THINK FOR
TOURISTS, VISITORS WHEN THEY SEE
SOMEONE ON THE HORSE.
IT IS GOOD INTERACTION I THINK
WITH THE CITY, GOOD INTERACTION
WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.
I WOULD WANT TO SEE WHAT MORE WE
CAN DO ON THAT.
I KNOW WE ADDED ONE POSITION TO
THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.
CAN YOU TELL ME THE DOLLAR
AMOUNT FOR THAT INCREASE?
>> ROUGHLY \$40,000 RANGER I
LEVEL FUNDED JOB.
>> A SECOND WOULD BE \$40,000?
TO ADD THAT.
HOW MANY FULLTIME RANGERS DO WE
CURRENTLY HAVE?
>> THERE ARE 13 FULLTIME
RANGERS.
>> AS MOUNTED?
>> I DON'T KNOW THE BREAKDOWN.
I THINK THERE'S ROUGHLY SIX
MOUNTED WITHIN THAT.
>> I KNOW THAT THE CHIEF IS
TRAINING A COUPLE OF INDIVIDUALS
RIGHT NOW, SO WE CAN GET THAT
INFORMATION BACK TO YOU.
>> AND ARE THERE PLANS, AND I
WOULD SAY THIS IS CERTAINLY
GOING TO BE ONE OF THINK
SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN
A RE-SUBMITTED BUDGET THE
ADDITIONAL OF AT LEAST ONE MORE
POSITION THERE.
I THINK WE INVEST A LOT IN OUR
PARKS.
I THINK FROM MAINTENANCE,
CAPITAL STANDPOINT AND
OPERATIONS, MAKING SURE THEY ARE
SECURE, SAFE AND WELCOMING IS
ALSO WORTHY OF INVESTMENT.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ADDITION
OF ANOTHER PERMANENT POSITION.
DO YOU HAVE PLANS MOVING FORWARD

TO EXPAND THIS FORCE?
OR IS THIS SOMETHING WE'LL JUST
CONTINUE DOING?
>> WELL AGAIN, THE DISCUSSION,
AGAIN I WILL TAKE OWNERSHIP OF,
INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR MORE
SEASONAL DEPLOYMENT, MAYBE
PURSUING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOOK
AT TRANSLATING THAT INTO
FULLTIME EMPLOYEES AT SOME
POINT.
>> I THINK THAT IS AN IMPORTANT
STEP.
I KNOW I AGREE WITH YOU AND I
THINK EVERYONE DID, WITHOUT
SEASONAL WOULD BE A GOOD
APPROACH.
AND DESPITE BEST INTENTIONS AND
REAL INVESTMENT WE REALIZE WE
NEED PERMANENT POSITIONS.
I WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO SEE
THAT.
I WANT TO APPLAUD FOR THE ONE
NEW POSITION IN THE BUDGET,
WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SECOND.
SOMETHING I THINK WE REALLY CAN
FIND THERE.
AND JUST QUICKLY, I KNOW AS THE
WINDTHROP SQUARE, AND THE PUBLIC
FIELD AND HOW ARE WE DOING ON
PLANNING FOR THE SPENDING?
A LOT IS CONTINGENT ON SALES AND
PERMITS GRANTED, THAT SORT OF
THING.
>> SURE.
WE ACTUALLY IF YOU LOOK AT THE
BUDGET, THE MAYOR HAS ALLOCATED
REGARDLESS WHEN THE WINTHROP
MONEY ARRIVED, MASTER PLAN TO
START AT BOSTON COMMON AND
FRANKLIN PARK.
WE HAVE \$500,000 FOR BOSTON
COMMON AND OTHER FOR THE PARK.
AND BOSTON COMMON UTILIZING
DIFFERENT PLANS, AND FRANKLY
PLANS DEVELOPED BY OUR PARTNERS,
FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN,
AND CREATING A UNIFYING THEORY
AMONG THE DIFFERENT PLANS THAT
EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS.
WE'RE DEVELOPING THE RFP IN
CONVERT WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE
PUBLIC GARDEN.
THEY ARE GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN

THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
AND THEN, ALSO, WE'RE GOING TO
BE TAKING THAT OUT TO THE
COMMUNITIES.

WE'RE LOOKING THIS SUMMER HAVE
DESIGNERS ON BOARD, AND
REVIETIZE HOPEFULLY WITHIN
VESTMENTS NEXT YEAR.

>> GREAT, I LOOK FORWARD TO
THAT.

BEFORE I END THAT, I FEEL I AM
RUNNING LOW ON TIME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE FRIENDS' GROUPS.

I KNOW THE FRIENDS GROUPS I WORK
WITH IS FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC
GARDEN AND THE MOUNTED PUBLIC
RANGERS.

SOMETIMES HAVING SLIGHT
DISAGREEMENTS ON ISSUES,
PARTICULARLY ON PRIORITIES WHICH
IS COMPLETELY NATURAL.

AND I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN A GREAT
PARTNER AND WE WILL PROBABLY
HEAR FROM SOME REPRESENTATIVES I
SEE HERE FROM THOSE
ORGANIZATIONS.

I APPRECIATE THAT WORK AND THE
ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT.
LIKE YOU SAID, SEEING THE HIGHER
PARKS BUDGET EVERY YEAR IS
CERTAINLY EXCITED.

I JUST WISH WE COULD GET IT A
LITTLE HIGHER, MAYBE \$40,000
HIGHER THIS YEAR FOR ANOTHER
RANGER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF FOR YOUR TEAMS.

>> COUNCILOR FLYNN.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR CIOMMO.

I REITERATE WHAT COUNCILOR ZAKIM
MENTIONED.

I ALSO REPRESENT SOME OF THE
BOSTON COMMON AND I'D ALSO LOVE
TO SEE MORE SERVICES FOR -- MORE
FUNDING FOR PARK RANGERS.

THANK YOU TO YOU AND THE MAYOR
FOR THAT GREAT PROGRAM.

AND I KNOW WE TALKED,
COMMISSIONER, SEVERAL TIMES
ABOUT INDUSTRY PARK IN THE PAST
AND I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN UP
THERE RECENTLY.

THE STAFF FROM THE PARKS ARE

DOING A GOOD JOB THERE.
IT'S JUST SOMETHING WE JUST NEED
TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON, STAY ON
TOP OF.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> AND THE BASKETBALL COURT
ITSELF NEEDS SOME WORK.
AND THE OUTFIELDS ALSO NEED SOME
WORK, TOO.

BUT IF WE CAN STAY ON TOP OF
THAT.

>> ABSOLUTELY, COUNCILOR.

I HAVE TO SAY, AND IT WAS
ACTUALLY BECAUSE YOUR STAFF
BROUGHT ME OUT THERE, THAT
BASKETBALL COURT IS THE WORST
BASKETBALL COURT THAT I HAVE
SEEN IN MY FOUR YEARS SINCE I
HAVE BEEN THERE.

SO WE'RE GOING TO BE APRIL
-- ADDRESSING IT WITH A QUICK
FIS FIX WITH SOME FUNDS
AVAILABLE, BUT ALSO WITH OUR
COURTS PROGRAM, I BELIEVE IN THE
FALL IF NOT THE SPRING.

>> THANK YOU.

AND ALSO MOKLEY PARK IS A FOCUS
OF THE MAYOR, THE ADMINISTRATION
AND YOURSELF.

AND THE SAME THING WITH THE
LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD AND THE BABE
RUTH FIELD.

IF WE CAN GET ATTENTION TO THOSE
FASHION -- PARKS AS WELL.

I KNOW YOU ARE TRYING AND
APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE DOING
THERE.

>> WE ARE WORKING HARD ON IT AND
WILL CONTINUE TO DO BETTER.

I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
THAT YOURSELF, AND CERTAINLY
COUNCILOR FLAHERTY MADE A
PRIVATE FOR US, IS THE
IMPORTANCE MUCH ACTUALLY
COMMUNICATING TO THE USERS WHO
USE IT THE MOST.

FOR A LONG TIME THERE'S BEEN A
DISCONNECT, FOR WHATEVER REASON,
BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
AND PARKS DEPARTMENT.

AND SO THINGS THAT COULD HAVE
BEEN EASILY SOLVED AND REMEDIED
QUICKLY BY MAINTENANCE CREWS
WENT UNADDRESSED.

THOSE CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE
NOW AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL
CONTINUE TO GROW THOSE.

ONE THING WE DID IS CHARLIE, OUR
SUPERINTENDENT FOR DORCHESTER
AND MATTAPAN, HE USED TO HAVE
MATTAPAN THROUGH DORCHESTER UP
TO SOUTH BOSTON.

WE CREATED A NEW DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE SOUTH
END, AND SOUTH BOSTON.

AND THAT IS CHRIS NEPP.

AND HE GREW UP IN THE PARKS IN
SOUTH BOSTON AND WE THINK IT
WILL LEAD TO BETTER

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SOME OF
THE RESIDENTS AND SOME OF THOSE
FIELDS.

IN ADDITION, BY HAND-PICKING UP
THE SOUTH END AND SOUTH BOSTON
IT EASED THE BURDEN ON LYNNON
PHILLIPS OUR SUPERINTENDENT FOR
ROXBURY, GIVING HIM LEFT PARKS
TO LOOK AT.

SO HOPEFULLY IT RESULTS IN
BETTER DELIVERY SERVICES.

>> THANK YOU COMMISSIONER.

GOING INTO I'LL SAVE THE SOUTH
END FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

QUICKLY ON CHINA TOWN, WE HAVE
THE PARK AND THE VILLAGE, AND
SMALL PARKS IN CHINA TOWN.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPACE.

I WAS IN CONVERSATION MANY TIMES
WITH THE ROSE KENNEDY GREENWAY
PEOPLE.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE PARK IN
THE CHINA TOWN SECTION LOOKS AS
NICE AS THE ROSE KENNEDY
GREENWAY IN DOWNTOWN BOSTON.

BUT I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR
HELP TO MAKE SURE WE STAY ON TOP
OF THE GREENWAY PEOPLE TO MAKE
SURE, YOU KNOW, THAT THE
GREENWAY AND CHINA TOWN LOOKS
BEAUTIFUL, ALSO.

ALSO, THE PARK AND THE VILLAGE
LITTLE PARK THERE, OVERALL WHAT
CAN WE DO IN CHINA TOWN TO
IMPROVE SPACE, MAKE IT EASIER
FOR KIDS TO ENJOY AND THE
ELDERLY TO ENJOY.

NOT ENOUGH SPACE BUT LONG-TERM
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT

CHINA TOWN.

>> SO WHEN YOU LOOK AT OPEN SPACE IN A LOCATION THAT'S FULLY BUILT OUT LIKE CHINA TOWN, TWO INHERENT PROBLEMS.

ONE IS WHERE IS THE NEXT PARK GOING TO BE, BECAUSE THERE IS NOT SPACE FOR PARK.

AND THEN IT'S OK, WHAT CAN THE EXISTING PARKS BE?

SO WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALLY LOOK AT APPEAR -- AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM.

NOT CHINA TOWN PROPER, BUT YOU LOOK AT THE EDGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE WITH THE BIOSWELL WE FROM IN THERE THAT YOUTH BUILD HELPS US MAINTAIN AND THE FRIENDS GROUP. I THINK YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT WHAT SOLUTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY PROGRAM IN SOME OF THOSE SPACES. WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMETHING LIKE TI TUNG IT IS BY FAR THE SMALLEST LOT WE HAVE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

IT IS VERY, VERY SMALL, NOT A LOT OF ADDITIONAL PROGRAM THERE. AND THEN WE HAVE TO LOOK AT NON-TRADITIONAL SPACES.

>> AND THERE ARE A LOT OF KIDS IN THE AREA, TOO.

>> THERE IS A TON AMOUNT OF KIDS.

AND YOU LOOK AT THE SPACES AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT BEING A PARTNER NOT JUST ON THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SIDE, BUT ALSO RECREATION DIVISION.

WE LOOK AT FREE EVENTS AND CAN YOU TAKE PLAZAS OVER ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, AND THE PROGRAMMING.

AND YOU SEE IN PLACES LIKE CHINA TOWN BOY, IT REALLY NEEDS IT.

A BASKETBALL COURT THAT AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES A VOLLEYBALL COURT, AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES A BASKETBALL COURT IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AND STRATEGY.

AND ANOTHER SHUT-OUT TO THE GREENWAY.
WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED, THEIR LITTLE PORTION, NO ONE EVER DREAMS THERE WOULD BE A PLAYGROUND FEATURE THERE.
AND IT WAS JUST THROUGH A PILOT PROGRAM THEY PUT IN THE LITTLE TOT LOT FEATURE THERE NOW.
GOD HELP THEM, THEY WILL NEVER BE TAKEN OUT THE PLAYGROUND THERE THEY NEED A PLACE TO PLAY.
AND HOW THEY KNOW -- RENOVATE THEY WILL ALWAYS BE A PLAYGROUND FEATURE.

I WANT TO BE RESPECTIVE OF TIME. I GET EXCITED, BUT IT IS NOT AN EASY SOLUTION BUT ONE WE ARE WORKING TOWARD.

>> THANK YOU I WANT TO SEE THE TOT LOT IN THE GREENWAY IMPROVEDISM KNOW IT IS THE GREENWAY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND I AM NOT THAT IMPRESSED WITH IT I THINK THEY NEED TO DO MORE WORK ON IT.

>> THE ONLY THING I WOULD SAY IS THAT I AM EXCITED IT EXISTS AND IT ORIGINALLY WASN'T INTENDED TO BE THERE.

AND THE FACT THAT THERE'S A WAY FOR KIDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT LANDSCAPE IS EXCITING.

>> THANK YOU COMMISSIONER.

>> THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILOR CAMPBELL.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR CIOMMO.

AND THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING FOR SOME PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN BETWEEN.

I APPLAUD YOU FOR THAT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND COMMISSIONER COOK, CHIEF, YOUR INCREDIBLE TEAM, SOME OF WHOM ARE SITTING HERE AND OVER HERE AND ALSO MANY OF WHOM AREN'T HERE, THANK YOU.

IN MY OFFICE, AND I SPEAK FOR NOT JUST MYSELF, MY TEAM MEMBERS AS WELL, PARKS DEPARTMENT IS ONE OF THE BEST.

WHETHER I AM SITTING SOMEWHERE RANDOMLY ON A SATURDAY AND GET A MESSAGE ABOUT CLEANING SOMETHING

UP, AND I SEE YOUR TEXT.
AND IN A COUPLE OF HOURS THE
PARK IS CLEAN, IT IS DONE.
THAUVENG -- THANK YOU FOR BEING
A PARTNER.
I FORGOT TO START MY CLOCK.
I WILL BE QUICK, FIVE MINUTES.
AND SINCE TAKING ON THE NEW
ROLE, MET WITH A GROUP MUCH
ADVOCATES, SOME OF HERE AND WILL
PROBABLY TESTIFY ABOUT THE
BOSTON COMMON MASTER PLAN AND
SEEKING \$500,000 TO DO THAT.
DO YOU HAVE THAT?
IF SO, GREAT.
IF NOT, WHERE IS IT?
>> WE DO.
WE HAVE IT AND IT'S REPRESENTED
IN THIS BUDGET.
WHAT THAT WILL ENABLE US TO DO
IS NO MATTER WHAT THE FUNDS
ACTUALLY ARRIVE INTO OUR BUDGET,
THAT WILL NOT DELAY THE PLANNING
PROCESS.
>> THANK YOU.
>> THE HORAMBI PARK, ADDITIONAL
FUNDING FOR PHRASE II.
>> THAT IS CORRECT.
>> IS IT FULLY FUNDED?
WHERE ARE WE WITH THAT?
>> IT IS AMAZING, RIGHT.
IT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SPACE, 45
ACRES.
IT REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS
OPPORTUNITY, ESPECIALLY WITH THE
ADJACENT NEXT TO FRANKLIN FIELD.
WE HAVEN EXTRAORDINARY CAPITAL
INVESTMENT REPRESENTED IN THIS
BUDGET HERE.
THAT REPRESENTS A PHASE II
BUDGET.
WE ARE IN CONSTRUCTION FOR PHASE
I RIGHT NOW.
PHASE II WE SET PRIORITIES WITH
THE COMMUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THE
MASTER PLAN WE ALREADY DID.
I THINK IT IS OPPORTUNITY TO
LOOK AT PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS.
>> AND WE HOPE THE SOCCER FIELDS
AND THE PATHWAY LIGHTING, IT IS
A TRUE EXTENSION OF PHASE I.
>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK ON
THIS, TOO.
IT IS FANTASTIC.

>> YOU'RE WELCOME.
AND ALSO APPLYING FOR ADDITIONAL
PARK GRAND FOR PHRASE II TO
SUPPLEMENT THE BUDGET.
WE WOULDN'T KNOW UNTIL WE GET
THE GRANT THAT WE GOT IT BUT IT
WILL HELP US STRETCH THE BUDGET
FURTHER AND BE ABLE TO DO MORE.
>> I ALWAYS TELL THE
COMMISSIONER, IF I CAN WRITE
LETTERS OF SUPPORT, WHATEVER I
CAN DO, IT IS FANTASTIC GOING TO
THIS EQUITY WE ARE ALWAYS
TALKING ABOUT IN EVERY SERVICE.
PARTICULARLY GREEN SPACES AND
MAKING SURE DORCHESTER,
MATTAPAN, THEY ARE GETTING
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THIS IS
PROBABLY A BIG ONE.
PROBABLY NOT CELEBRATED ENOUGH,
BUT THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND
ADVOCACY.
I AM LOOKING AT MY TIMER HERE.
THE \$50,000 BURIAL FUND.
WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THAT?
ARE WE TALKING TO TINA?
AND THANK YOU TO YOU AND THE
MAYOR AS WELL.
>> THE MAYOR AND THE CITY
COUNCIL AND BUDGET OFFICE
RECEIVE CREDIT.
NOT AN EASY PROCESS TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO ADDRESS THIS
COMPLICATED ISSUE, AND CERTAINLY
SOMETHING OUT OF THE BAILIWICK
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE.
AND I WILL TURN IT OVER TO
DENNIS ROACH.
>> WE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF
DEVELOPING MOA WITH THE
INSTITUTE.
IT IS SIGNED GOING THROUGH CITY
HALL FOR FINAL APPROVAL TO PAY
THE FUNDS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR,
WHICH IS FY18.
THOSE FUNDS EXIST, ARE READY TO
BE TRANSFERRED OVER AND
TRANSFERRED OVER IN THE NEXT TWO
OR THREE WEEKS.
THE FUNDS EXIST IN THE BUDGET
NEXT SEASON AS WELL.
IT IS A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT THE
CITY COMMITTED TO.

IT IS A THREE-YEAR SIGNED MOA AS WELL.

IT IS ABOUT READY TO THE FINALIZED.

>> AWESOME AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND MY COLLEAGUES FOR SUPPORTING IT.

IT IS A JOINT EFFORT, AS WELL AS THE MAYOR.

AND I UNDERSTAND IT IS NEW BUT THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MY LAST QUESTION, AND I AM LOOKING AT MY TIME, HAS TO DO WITH ALL THE WORK YOU ARE DOING WITH MOUNT HOPE AND MY ROSENDALE.

I LOVE THEM DEARLY, GOING BACK AND FORTH BUT NEVER ANY LOVE LOSS.

AND THE CEMETERY PRESERVATION ACT, WHY IT IS GOOD FOR THE CITY, THE MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY IS OFTEN SOMETHING I POINT TO.

I KNOW HAVE YOU DONE SOME THINGS HERE AND THERE, BUT I'M ASSUMING THAT THE LEVEL OF WORK NECESSARY, THE FOUNTAIN AND ALL OF THAT, WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL CPA PROPOSAL OR SOMETHING ELSE?

>> I THINK SO.

LOOKING AT MOUNT HOPE, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

LOOKING AT THE CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTINGS, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT NOT TO PRIORITIZE ACTIVE RECREATION THAT AFFECTS YOU. THAT IS WHY IT RISES TO THE STOP YOU SEE HOW MANY KIDS CAN BE PLAYING THERE.

YOU AND LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FACILITIES, LIKE MOUNT HOPE, IF THEY SUFFER THROUGH YEARS OF NEGLIGENT NOT INVESTING IN CAPITAL.

THE IDEA IT COULD BE PRESERVATION, AND BECAUSE THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS GROWING, PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO USE THE CEMETERY AS OPEN SPACE.

GO FOR WALKS THERE, TAKE DOGS THERE, AND THINGS THAT HAVE HIGH VALUE ON PRESERVATION.

>> THANK YOU AND WE WILL
CONTINUE CONVERSATION ON THAT.
I SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL PARK
RANGER AND I THINK WE ARE ALL
GOING TO SEE THAT.

THEY ARE ADVOCATING AND POWER TO
THE ADVOCATES.

THANK YOU, COUNCILOR CIOMMO.

>> COUNCILOR WU.

>> THANK YOU MR. CHAIR AND GOOD
AFTERNOON EVERYONE.

I WANTED TO START WITH, ECHOING
SO MANY FOLK'S COMMENTS ABOUT
THE GREAT WORK YOU ALL DO, AND
THERE'S NOT A PART OF THE CITY
WHERE PEOPLE AREN'T SO ATTACHED
TO THEIR BELOVED LOCAL PARKS.
AND SO MANY THINGS I ENJOYED
WITH MY KIDS AND SEEING UP CLOSE
THE TANGIBLE WORK AND HOW MUCH
WORK GOES INTO IT.

CAN WE START WITH URBAN WILDS?
I AM CURIOUS WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I SEE THERE'S SOME FUNDING NOW.
AND OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF
YEARS.

>> SURE.

AS FAR AS THE CAPITAL PLAN,
COUNCILOR.

EVERY YEAR FUNDING FOR URBAN
WILDS.

THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, A LOT OF
THAT HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON A FEW
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES JUST
BECAUSE THEY ARE SO LARGE.
ALLENDALE WOODS TOOK UP A LOT OF
A APPROPRIATION FOR A YEAR AND
HALF OF THE ALLOCATION, AND ALSO
ABLE TO TEAM UP WITH A
PARTNERSHIP GRANT FOR SHARON
WOODS FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS.
NOW MOVING INTO A CYCLE WHERE WE
CAN START AGAIN MAKING SMALLER
INVESTMENTS AND MULTIPLE
PROPERTIES.

DENNIS, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO
ADD?

>> I THINK THE ONLY THING I
WOULD ADD, \$350,000 CAPITAL
ALLOCATION YOU MENTIONED IS ALSO
SUPPLEMENTED IN THE FUND FOR
PARKS BY GRANDZ WE RECEIVED

-- GRANDZ AND THAT IS ACTUALLY
OUT TO \$400,000, \$500,000,

\$600,000 DEPENDING ON THE GRANT WE GET.

>> WE ARE HAPPEN TO FOLLOW WITH THE BREAK DOWN FOR FY19.

>> AND WHAT COUNCILOR CAMPBELL WAS TALKING ABOUT, A LOT OF NEED AND INTEREST.

SPEAKING OF EXTERNAL GRANTS WHAT IS THE INTERNAL MECHANISM OR STAFFING TO GO AFTER THESE?

DO YOU THINK THERE IS MORE OUT THERE, IF YOU HAD MORE STAFF TO FOCUS ON IT THE CITY CAN KEEP BUILDING IT?

>> I THINK THERE IS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITY BUT AGAIN HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE MAXIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE.

WE HAVE A VERY HARD WORKING STAFF AND THE VEHICLE WE USE IS FOR BOTH PARKS AND RECREATION. AND ESTABLISHED IN MASS GENERAL LAWS, SO WE HAVE STATE-ENABLING LEGISLATION TO DEVELOP THE NON-PROFIT.

WE HAVE THIS NON-PROFIT VEHICLE WE CAN RAISE FUNDS FOR SPECIFIC PARKS AND RECREATION, WHETHER IT IS CAPITAL WORK OR OPERATING FUNDS TO AUGMENT BUDGET.

>> IS IT SEPARATE STAFF?

>> NO.

IT IS NOT.

UNDER THE DISTRICT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RYAN WOODS, WE HAVE A DIRECTOR AND SHE ORGANIZES MANY OF OUR ASKS WHETHER IT IS CORPORATE OR NON-PROFITS OR NATIONAL GRANT MAKING.

CAPITAL SIZE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ELIZA, WE APPLY FOR MOST OF THE TRADITIONAL PARK GRANTS FROM NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OR OTHER GROUPS.

THE TEAM FOCUSING ON TRADITIONAL PARK FUNDING AND FEDERAL, STATE, NON-PRIVATE PARTNERS AS WELL AS FOLKS THAT FOCUS ON CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY.

THERE IS MORE WE CAN DO.

I BELIEVE THERE IS A UNIVERSE THAT WOULD SUPPORT BOSTON PARKS. IT IS REALLY ON US BEFORE WE GO BACKS TO THE TAX POSITIONS AND

CAPITAL WORK, IT BEHOOVES US TO
CONCENTRATE ON THAT CAPACITY.
>> DO YOU FEEL LIKE IN THIS
CURRENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AT
THE FEDERAL LEVEL THAT'S HAVING
ANY IMPACT ON OUR TRADITIONAL
EXTERNAL FUNDING?
>> OH, I APOLOGIZE COUNCILOR, I
WAS READING SOMETHING WHILE YOU
WERE TALKING.
IT IS MY FAULT.
>> DO YOU FEEL LIKE --
>> I CAN PRETEND I HEARD YOUR
QUESTION, BUT I DIDN'T.
>> YOU KIND OF BROKE IT DOWN
INTO SEPARATE CATEGORIES,
PHILANTHROPY, PRIVATE SECTOR,
ETC. DOES THE CURRENT FEDERAL
ADMINISTRATION SORT OF, DOES
THAT WHOLE SITUATION AFFECT
ANYTHING FROM BOSTON PARKS?
>> IT IS A GREAT QUESTION AND
ONE THAT WE WOULDN'T KNOW.
I THINK YOU'RE PROBABLY HEARING
THIS FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT
ADVOCACY GROUPS THAT THE WAY
THOSE GRANT CYCLES WORK, YOU'RE
GIVING THE GRANT AND YOU ALMOST
RECEIVE THE MONEY TWO OR THREE
LATERS ON A REIMBURSEMENT CYCLE.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN THAT CYCLE TO
SEE IF THE CLIMATE AFFECT THE US
YET.
ONE OF THE THINGS WE ARE
GRATEFUL FOR IS OUR PARTNERSHIP
NOT ONLY WITH THE BUDGET OFFICE,
BUT THE OFFICE OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.
AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE DIRECTOR
OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO SEE
ARE THIS GROUPS WE HAVEN'T BEEN
APPROACHING THAT WE CAN NOW
APPROACH.
>> I AM SORRY, I FORGOT TO SET A
TIMER.
I HOPE MR. CHAIR WILL CAN YOU
TELL ME OFF WHENEVER.
>> THAT'S FIVE.
>> OK THANK YOU.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.
>> I DIDN'T GIVE YOU MY WARNING.
>> WE WILL STOP BEING HONEST
WITH EACH OTHER AND WE CAN KEEP
TALKING.

>> COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.
>> COMMISSIONER AND YOUR TEAM,
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE -- I ONLY HAVE FIVE
MINUTES I HOPE YOU ARE FEELING
BETTER.
YOU HAVE A GREAT TEAM AND
SPEAKING TO MY INTERACTIONS WITH
THE COMMISSIONER AND DENNIS.
AND WHETHER YOU CALL THEM ON A
LATE FRIDAY NIGHT OR FIRST THING
MONDAY MORNING, THEY ARE SUPER
RESPONSIVE.
THEY IMMEDIATELY JUMP ON
WHATEVER THE ISSUE IS.
THE ISSUE IS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT
PARKS-RELATED AND IMPORTANT TO
THE PERSON CALLING.
VERY RESPONSIVE AND RESPECTFUL
WHICH WE APPRECIATE.
AND IT SEEMS IT IS TRULY A
SHARED PARTNERSHIP.
I THINK THEY CAN BOTH ATTEST TO
THE TIMES I REACHED OUT, AND THE
DAYS AND HOURS I AM PREACHING
OUT AND THEY DON'T SHY AWAY FROM
THE TOUGH CONVERSATION OR TOUGH
PHONE CALLS.
IT IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR MAYOR
AND THE TEAM PUT TOGETHER, AS
WELL AS YOUR TEAM CHIEF.
COMMISSIONER, TOUCHING BASE ON
STAYING MAYBE -- LET ME FIRST
SAY I WILL ECHO AND REITERATE MY
SHOWERS AS LONGEST-SERVING
COUNCILOR TO PARK RANGERS.
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE AND
WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE MOUNTED
FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THAT
IS A CONVERSATION FOR A
DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT.
THEY HAD TREMENDOUS VALUE ON A
NUMBER OF FRONTS FROM P.R. TO
PUBLIC SAFETY.
AND I WOULD HE CAN -- ECHO THAT
AND THE NEED TO FOCUS AND GIVE
THEM MORE ATTENTION FOR
ARBORIST, THE TREE PRUNING AND
FREE -- TREE PLANTING.
IT IS A DAUNTING TASK AND MAYBE
TIME TO TALK ABOUT INCREASING
THEIR CAPACITY.
AND THE LANDSCAPING CREWS, MY
UNDERSTANDING FROM DEALING WITH

THE ISSUES THAT YOU AND I AND DENNIS TALK ABOUT, THERE IS ONLY ONE LANDSCAPING CREW CITYWIDE.

>> FOR BALL FIELDS.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE CREWS THAT MOW THE GRASS.

IT DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL OF CARE A CERTAIN PARK NEEDS.

LOOKING AT A LITTLE PARK WITH A 22-INCH PUSH MOWER THAT IS THE DISTRICT CREW.

LOOKING AT THE LARGE MOWING OPERATION, THERE'S ONLY ONE CREW THAT GOES AROUND THE CITY AND ACTUALLY DEALS WITH LARGE MOWING.

>> GIVING OBVIOUSLY THE ANTICIPATED CPA FUNDS AND ANTICIPATED MITIGATION WE ARE IN A GREAT POSITION AS A CITY TO REALLY KIND OF TAKE WHAT YOU DO AND WHAT YOUR TEAM DOES TO A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL, I THINK, OUR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND BALL FIELDS.

THEY ARE THE JEWEL OF OUR CITY AND I THINK WE HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY WITH THAT TYPE OF INVESTMENT TO KIND OF REALLY HIT THE THROTTLE ON THAT STUFF.

SO MAYBE THIS FOR DENNIS, SO WE SORT OF PROBABLY REACT, I AM CALLING AND DEPLOYING STAFF DIRECTLY TO FIELDS UNDER CERTAIN SITUATIONS.

I THINK I CALLED YOU LAST YEAR, THE CITY HOSTING THE DISTRICT FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE PARENTS AND VISITING TEAM GO TO THE FIELD AND IT WAS A DISASTER.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> YOU GUYS HAD TO SORT OF DEPLOY MOWERS AND SCRAPERS AND SOLVERS AND LINE CREWS.

SORT OF DEPLOY RIGHT THERE.

IS THAT FROM A MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE, IS THAT THE BEST WAY WE SHOULD BE TACKLING IT?

>> NO, COUNCILOR, IT IS INEFFICIENT AS YOU WOULD GUESS. THAT'S SORT OF THE HOPE WITH THE TECHNOLOGY AND SOME OF THE INNOVATION WE ARE LOOKING AT, ARE WE GETTING THESE ON THE

AMOUNT OF TIMES A WEEK AND
AMOUNT OF TIMES A MONTH WE
SHOULD BE GETTING.
WHAT IT DOESN'T FACTOR IN, WHAT
TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T FACTOR IN, IS
WEATHER EVENTS.
MAYBE THEY GET THERE.
IT DOESN'T FACTOR IN WHEN
SOMEONE IS DOUBLE PARKED IN
FRONT OF A PARK AND WE HAVE TO
WAIT FOR DPD TO MOVE THEM ALONG
SO WE CAN GET THE LARGE MOWER
INTO THE PARK.
THAT BEING SAID IT IS CERTAINLY
NOT EFFICIENT AND THE BEST USE
OF THE CITY'S RESOURCES TO BE
REACTING TO EMERGENCIES.
SO THE IDEA IS TO GET TO A PRO
ACTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALL
OF THESE SPACES.
WHAT THAT'S GOING TO REQUIRE IS
REQUIRE SOME STRATEGIC
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OK WHERE DO
WE USE CONTRACTS AND WHERE DO WE
DEPLOY OUR WORKERS?
BECAUSE THERE IS CERTAINLY
ENOUGH WORKERS FOR OUR
ECOSYSTEM.
CURRENTLY EAST BOSTON STADIUM,
AS WELL AS MILLENNIUM PARK AND
WEST ROXBURY WE USE CONTRACTED
SERVICES THERE.
NOW THE REASON WE DO THAT, THEY
ARE SUCH LARGE FIELDS -- AND I
WAS GOING LONG, IT SHOULDN'T CUT
IN.
>> HE IS FILLABUSTING.
>> THE ANSWER IS NO, WE ARE NOT
EFFICIENT BUT GETTING BETTER
EVERY DAY.
>> AND THE EMPLOYEES, YOU BREAK
IT INTO DISTRICT OR DIVISIONS,
IS IT STILL MY UNDERSTANDING
THAT SAY WHEREVER YOU LIVE IN
THE CITY YOU DRIVE TO THE SITE
AND THEN YOU GET IN YOUR TRUCK,
AND THEN YOU DRIVE ALL THE WAY
BACK.
FROM A TIME MANAGEMENT
PERSPECTIVE DOES IT MAKE SENSE
FOR A PARKS AND WRECK DECREE
CREATIONAL EMPLOYEE FROM EAST
BOSTON GET OUT OF THE CAR,
THROUGH THE TUNNEL, CHECK IN,

HEY I AM HERE, REPORTING FOR DUTY.

THE CLOCK IS RUNNING AND NOW THEY TURN BACK AROUND AGAIN. CAN'T WE HAVE A SITUATION WHERE EMPLOYEES ARE GOING DIRECTLY TO THE SITE THEN THE CLOCK STARTS? WE WASTE TIME ON COLUMBIA ROAD AND IN TUNNELS AND ZIG ZAGS ALL OVER THE CITY.

CAN WE HAVE A SITUATION FROM MANAGE MANY PERSPECTIVE WHERE THE EMPLOYEE REPORTS TO THE SITE?

OR IF NOT, WHY NOT?

>> WE CAN.

>> I AM DONE.

>> THE ANSWER IS WE CAN.

AND WE HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED A FEW EXAMPLES OF THAT. FOR INSTANCE WE DO HAVE EMPLOYEES REPORTING TO EAST BOSTON STADIUM.

WE THINK THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY WITH THE ALI BUILDING TO HAVE SOUTH BOSTON REPORT THERE USING SOME BASIC TECHNOLOGY, THAT MUNICIPAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES WITH THE CARDS AND KEY IN AND KEY OUT.

AND THEY HAVE TO BE OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FOREMAN MAKING SURE THERE IS NOTHING HAPPENING.

BUT MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE REALLY GOOD PEOPLE AND JUST WANT TO GET TO WORK.

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE IN TRAFFIC FOR AN HOUR.

THE OTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE IS CASSIDY FIELDHOUSE IN BRIGHTON.

WHEN WE RENOVATE WE FEEL IT IS HOME OF A CREW.

>> THANK YOU FOR MY COLLEAGUES GOING OVER A LITTLE BIT.

>> COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND I WILL ECHO THE PHRASE AND WANT A GIVE A SHOTTOUT TO LINCOLN FOR HIS AMAZING WORK THIS MORNING. A COUPLE OF QUICK QUESTIONS. LAST WEEKEND I THINK IT WAS I HAD THE HONOR OF JOINING WITH

VETERANS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AT B2, DOING THE PARADE AND IT WAS CELEBRATING SOME VETERANS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

BUT ALSO PEOPLE ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE JUSTICE VETERANS MOMENTAL PARK. CAN WALK ME THROUGH THAT BRIEFLY WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS.

>> LIZA IS THE HE CAN EXPERT AND I WILL HAVE HER TAKE YOU THROUGH IT.

>> WE FINISHED THE THE CONCEPTION YAM -- CONCEPTUAL DESIGN A LITTLE LESS THAN A YEAR AGO AND FUNDING IN THE FY19 BUDGET TO TAKE THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN THROUGH.

>> IS THAT THE \$700,000?

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

AND THE PART WORK THAT BECOME THE MEMORIAL IN THE PARK, THAT RECEIVED A SUBSTANTIVE BROWN FUND GRANT AND THEY ARE DOING THE FUNDRAISING TO PUT THE MEMORIAL DESIGN INTO FABRICATION.

>> IS THAT THE FRIENDS GROUP?

>> VETERANS AND FRIENDS.

>> HOW MUCH IS NEEDED TO GET US TO THE DESIRED AMOUNT?

>> THE GAP IN THE ART FUNDING I BELIEVE AROUND \$350,000.

>> OK.

WONDERFUL.

ON THE SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK, CAN YOU JUST TELL ME WHERE WE ARE WITH THAT?

>> SURE.

WE OPENED UP BIDS I BELIEVE LAST WEEK.

>> YEAH.

>> I THINK LAST WEEK WE OPENED UP BIDS.

THE BIDS ACTUALLY CAME IN \$100,000 HIGHER THAN WHAT WE ACTUALLY ANTICIPATED.

>> HOW WILL THAT IMPACT THE PROJECT?

I THINK RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED IT IS STALLING THE PROJECT.

>> IT COULD.

BUT WHAT IT DOES MEAN, WE HAVE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH THE

BUDGET OFFICE.

THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS SAY
WAS THERE SOMETHING INHERENTLY
WRONG WITH WHAT THE DESIGNER WAS
PUTTING OUT TO BID.

WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT PART.
THEN START A CONVERSATION IS
THERE VALUE ENGINEERING THAT
TAKES PLACE THERE?

SOME CHOICE OF MATERIAL THAT
PROBABLY WASN'T THE RIGHT CHOICE
OF MATERIAL?

AND THEN HE JUST HAVE TO
NEIGHBORING SURE IT WAS ACTUALLY
COMPETITIVE BIDS.

WE'RE FULLY COMMIT THE TO SOUTH
BEND LIBRARY PARK AND THE
RENOVATIONS.

YOU PROBABLY KNOW IT IS A UNIQUE
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN US AND THE
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND WE ARE
WORKING ON THE SOLUTION.

>> THAT PROCESS, HOW LONG DO YOU
THINK IT WILL TAKE?

>> WE ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH
BUDGET THIS WEEK -- I APOLOGIZE,
NEXT WEEK.

>> I WILL ADVOCATE THAT MOVES
FORWARD, AND I THINK THAT IS
IMPORTANT.

I WAS WONDERING, I KNOW I AM NOT
TIMING, SO PLEASE STOP ME.

I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING ON THE
MULCH ISSUE.

AND GERTRUDE HOUSE PLAYGROUND
FROM THE LOVE YOUR BLOCK AND I
APPRECIATE THAT.

I WANT TO POINT OUT THE PILE IS
GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER AND
ANY DAY NOW I AM EXPECTING A
NEIGHBOR TO PUT UP A FREE MULCH
SIGN.

IF IT IS NOT GONE SOON --

>> IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE GONE TWO
WEEKS AGO.

>> I KNOW YOU ARE WORKING ON IT,
BUT IT IS GETTING SMALLER.

I DON'T WANT US TO LOSE THE
MULCH THE CITY HAS.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL.

HOW MUCH IS INVESTED IN THAT?

AND THIS WAS IN EARLIER
HEARINGS.

>> SURE.

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO TEASE OUT HOW MUCH IS BEING INVESTED IN IT BECAUSE A LOT OF IT IS JUST MANPOWER. WE SPEND A FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF OUR MAINTENANCE CREW'S TIME CHECKING SPACES FOR NEEDLES.

CREWS HAVE TO BE VERY VIGILANT ABOUT SPACES THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO BE BEFORE, SO I THINK FOR US IT QUANTIFIES INTO MANPOWER TIME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

AS FAR AS ACTUAL --

>> HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SAY IN THE MANPOWER TIME THAT WE ARE DEDICATING IN TERMS OF DOLLARS? AND/OR HOURS?

>> YOU KNOW, COUNCILOR, IT WOULD ALMOST BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR ME TO GUESS.

WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THIS -- IT WAS NOT ABNORMAL FOR A PARKS CREW TO SLOW DOWN, TAKE A LOOK INTO A PARK, SEE IF IT WAS REALLY, REALLY MESSY AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY COULD GET TO THE MESSY ONE, AND THEN MAYBE COME BACK TO THAT PARK BEFORE. WE REALLY CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THAT.

SO NOW CREWS SHOULD BE GETTING OUT OF THEIR VEHICLES AND LOOKING THROUGH SOME OF THESE SPACES JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE SAFE.

WHEN YOU START THINKING ABOUT THAT, IT POTENTIALLY COULD ADD UP.

>> AND I WANT TO -- I HAVE A COUPLE OF MORE QUESTIONS I WILL SAVE FOR THE SECOND ROUND.

CARTIES PLAYGROUND AND FRASHG -- FRANKLIN PARK.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR SNOW REMOVAL.

WE HAD LOTS OF CONVERSATIONS MAKING SURE PARKS IN ROXBURY IN PARTICULAR, BUT OTHER PARTS OF MY DISTRICT, DORCHESTER, SOUTH END, ARE BEING MEDICAL MAINTAINED IN TERMS OF SNOW REMOVAL.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

MR. CHAIR.

>> COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> THANK YOU.

AND I SAY THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR WORK IN EAST BOSTON AND CHARLESTOWN AND THE NORTH END. SO I JUST STARTED THE TIME, SORRY.

SO I JUST WANTED TO ASK A COUPLE OF BIG-PICTURE QUESTIONS AND I WILL GET DOWN TO THE PARKS IN MY DISTRICT.

IN TERMS OF CPA FUNDING, DOES YOUR BUDGET ACCOUNT FOR CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF PROJECTED FUNDS TO COME IN?

>> NO, IT DOESN'T.

AND SORT OF FROM AN ETHICAL STANDPOINT WE KIND OF CAN'T, RIGHT, BECAUSE THE WHOLE BASE LINE PREMISE OF CPA IS THAT IT WOULDN'T REPLACE EXISTING CAPITAL FUNDS.

WE HAVE BEEN VERY DILIGENT ABOUT THE PROJECTS WE APPLIED FOR NOT EXISTING IN THE CAPITAL BUDGET. THE ONLY ASTERISK THAT I WILL PUT ON THAT IS THAT WE DO HAVE PROJECTS THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM ADDITIONAL FUNDS SO WE APPLIED FOR THINGS LIKE ADD ALTERNATES WHEN BIDS COME IN HIGH.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT A PROJECT LIKE WESTLAND AVENUE GREATS AND THE FENWAY, WE COULD BENEFIT FROM CPA TO DO WORK WE COULDN'T WITH THE EXISTING BUDGET.

>> AND I ASK ABOUT THE CPA FUNDING AND WE MENTIONED PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS. A LOT OF FRIENDS OF SUCH AND SUCH PARK, FRIENDS OF WHATEVER. MY CONCERN IS WHEN YOU HAVE THE CPA FUNDING AND CAPABILITY TO APPLY FOR THE FUNDS, AND MAYBE AN ACTIVE FRIENDS OF WHATEVER PARK, THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EQUITY THAT MIGHT END UP BOLSTERING SOME PARKS WAY BEYOND OTHER PARKS.

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE COMPENSATING, OR IS THAT ON YOUR RADAR RIGHT NOW, MAKING SURE WE

HAVE EQUITY IN OUR PARKS?

>> OH, YEAH.

IF THERE IS A THREE-LEGGED STOOL OF PARKS AND REC IT IS ACCESS, EQUITY -- WE CAN'T KEEP IT ALL IN OUR HEAD AND HELP MAKE THE DECISIONS.

AND DATA CAN HELP US MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS.

BUILDING THE CAPITAL BUDGET WORKING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL, MAYOR'S OFFICE AND BUDGET OFFICE, BUT ALSO WORK OFF ACTUAL SCORES FOR OUR PARKS.

SO WE HAVE A PARK INSPECTION PROGRAM.

THAT TRANSLATES INTO A SCORE.

THAT TRANSLATES INTO A SHEET.

AND THEN IF THE NUMBER IS LOW, WE GO OUT AND INSPECT THAT PARK AND DEEM WHETHER OR NOT IT'S WORTHY OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SOURCES OF FUNDING NOT BE DRIVERS AS TO WHAT PARKS GET RENOVATED, IT IS WHAT PARKS DESERVE TO BE RENOVATED.

>> THANK YOU.

GOING INTO THE PARKS IN MY DISTRICT, I AM JUST CURIOUS ABOUT THE TIMELINE FOR NOISE PARK.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT. AND WE HAVE BEEN HERE AT THE TABLE EXPECTING THINGS TO HAPPEN THERE AND IT HAS BEEN DELAYED.

>> IT HAS.

>> TELL ME AGAIN WHETHER ARE THE SHOVELS GOING IN?

>> THIS IS JUST AS DEPRESSING AS THE SOUTH END LIBRARY.

WE HAD THE BID OPENING, VERY EXCITED AND THE BID CAME IN \$600,000 HIGHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE BUDGETED FOR THE PARK, EVEN WITH EXTERNAL FUNDS.

NOW VERY QUICKLY WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS WITH THE BUDGET OFFICE TO SEE IF THERE WAS SOMETHING INHERENTLY WRONG WITH THE DESIGN, DO WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REBID.

BUT WE ARE COMMITTED TO GETTING INTO CONSTRUCTION THIS FALL.

DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANYMORE
PLAYING TIME IN EAST BOSTON,
ESPECIALLY WITH THE -- IT WOULD
BE VERY DISASTROUS TO LOSE
ANOTHER SEASON OF SOCCER AND
SOFTBALL IN EAST BOSTON.
WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DO THAT.
IN ADDITION, OUR POOR
MAINTENANCE CREWS WHO ARE TRYING
TO MAINTAIN NOISE AT A VERY HIGH
LEVEL, THEY HAVE BEEN
ANTICIPATING THIS INFUSION.
I IF I THIS WE DON'T GET NOISE
GOING, THE MAINTENANCE CREWS IN
EAST BOSTON ARE GOING TO REVOLT
AGAINST ME, SO.
>> SWITCHING OVER TO THE NORTH
END, WE HAD A MEET I GO THINK ON
MONDAY WHERE WE REPRESENTED
DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR PARKS.
AND THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AT THE
RESILIENCY, HOW WE ARE GOING TO
DESIGN THE PARKS.
I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST
QUESTIONS WAS REALLY ABOUT
SYNTHETIC VERSUS REAL GRASS.
>> SURE.
>> YOUR DEPARTMENT IS ASSISTING
ON THE TURF.
THE SYNTHETIC TURF.
IS THERE A BETTER OPTION?
A LOT OF FOLKS ARE DEBATING
THAT.
I HAVE 30 SECONDS.
>> THAT WAS THE 30-SECOND --
>> OK.
>> BECAUSE IT'S 30 SECONDS, WHAT
I WILL SAY IS THAT WE LOOK AT IT
AS THE ABILITY TO WHAT GETS THE
MOST KIDS PLAYING THE MOST,
RIGHT.
AND SO YOU LOOK AT A WATERFRONT
PARK, THE CONDITIONS THE FIELD
IS NORMALLY IN.
YOU LOOK AT THE BRUNT IT TAKES
FROM WINTER STORMS.
THAT FIELD IS NEVER READY FOR
LITTLE LEGAL OPENING DAY IN
QUALITY CONDITIONS AS OTHER
PARKS IN THE CITY UNLESS IT IS
ARTIFICIAL TURF.
SAFETY CONCERNS AND THINGS LIKE
THAT, WE ARE HAPPY TO MEET WITH
ANY OTHER GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT

IT.

WE UNDER THERE IS A LOT OF
DIALOGUE.

WE HAVEN'T HAD LINKS TO SAFETY
CONCERNS REGARDING THE TURF.
WE HAVE LOOKED AT ALL OF THOSE
ARTICLES AND STILL FEEL IT IS
THE SAFER OPTION.

BECAUSE WHAT IT DOES, IT MAKE
THE FIELD LEVEL, IT MAKES THE
FIELD A CONSISTENT PLAYING
SURFACE.

THAT ACTUALLY PREVENTS MORE
INJURIES THAN WHEN THERE'S A
POORLY-MAINTAINED NATURAL FIELD
THERE.

AND BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION IT
WOULD BE VERY, VERY DIFFICULT
FOR US TO MAINTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE
AND SOCCER FIELDS THERE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> GREAT, THANK YOU.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO GO TO HALF OF
THE FOLKS SIGNED UP FOR PUBLIC
TESTIMONY.

WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, IF YOU
WANT TO COME DOWN TO THAT
PODIUM.

AND SOME FOLKS DIDN'T CHECK THE
YES BOX, BUT I WILL CALL YOUR
NAME ANYWAY.

ALICIA ZIP, ANNETTE-BORNE, DIANE
CASTLER ARE THE FIRST THREE
NAMES.

>> ALL RIGHT.

GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> AFTERNOON NOW.

MY NAME IS ALICIA AND I LIVE IN
DORCHESTER AND I AM SON THE
STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NEWLY
FORMED FRIEND OF THE BOSTON
SCHOOLYARDS.

WE WILL BE ADVOCATING FOR THE
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY
TO COMMIT TO SUPPLY THE FUNDING
NECESSARY FOR THESE BEAUTIFUL
GREEN SPACES THROUGHOUT THE
CITY.

WILL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE
BENEFIT OF OUR NEIGHBORS, AS
WELL AS OUR STUDENTS.

AS YOU KNOW THE SCHOOL YARDS ARE
AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PARK

LAND NOT ONLY FOR TEACHING BUT
FOR NEIGHBORHOODS.
IT IS IMPORTANT THE CITY
SUPPORTS SCHOOL YARDS, PARKS AND
OTHER GREEN SPACES WITH THEIR
BUDGETARY CHOICES AND
PRIORITIES.

AS I BELIEVE MOST OF YOU KNOW,
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS
SPENT OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS IN
A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO
IMPROVE, REVITALIZE AND
TRANSFORM THE BPS SCHOOL YARDS.
AND IT IS PART OF THE SCIENCE
CURRICULUM AND STUDENTS
BENEFITTED FROM THE STUDENT TO
LEARN DIRECTLY IN NATURE.
WE CANNOT ALLOW THESE AMAZING
RESOURCES TO SCHOOL YARD TO BE
NEGOTIATED.

NOT JUST FOR THE GOOD OF OUR
STUDENTS, BUT OUR FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBOR WHOSE USE THE PARKS AND
THE LARGER PARKS AS A RESPITE
FROM THE COP CREATE JUNGLE.
WE ARE LUCKY TO LIVE IN A CITY
LIKE BOSTON THAT ACTUALLY HAS A
LOT OF PARK SPACE.
BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN TAKE IT
FOR GRANTED.

THE BIGGER PICTURE, THEY ARE
ALSO DOING THEIR PART TO HELP
PROTECT US FROM THE RAVAGES OF
CLIMATE CHANGE.

I WANT TO MENTION YESTERDAY I
READ MAYOR WALSH MENTIONED A
THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO EXPAND THE
RELATION AND HIGHLIGHT THE WORLD
COMMUNITY GARDEN IN BOSTON
NEIGHBORHOODS.

AND MOST OF THE SCHOOL YARDS ARE
ALSO CONSIDERED COMMUNITY
GARDENS.

SO WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL DO
EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO

ADVOCATE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE
SCHOOL YARDS WHICH I HAVEN'T
HEARD MENTIONED AT ALL.

I KNOW THEY ARE SORT OF OFF IN
THE DISTANCE, BUT THEY ARE PARKS
AND PEOPLE USE THEM AS PARKS.
AND WE NEED TO TREAT THEM THAT

WAY AS WELL.

I DO HAVE A HANDOUT I CAN GIVE
TO YOU GUYS AS WELL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

>> I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE
CHRISTINE PAUF IS HERE
REPRESENTING THE CPA COMMITTEE.

>> I AM ANNETTE BOURNE AND BEING
ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF
THE TO SAVE THE HORSES WHERE THE
ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE
MOTORCYCLES.

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL PROGRAM.
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT CONTINUE.
IT NOT ONLY BRINGS HUMANENESS TO
THE PARK, TO THE VISITORS, IT IS
A TREMENDOUS INCENTIVE FOR THEM
TO GO AROUND THE PARKS, FEEL
SAFE AND ENJOY THEM.

AND ALSO THEY SERVE CEREMONIAL
DUTY, WHICH I THINK IS AGAIN FOR
THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING HONORED
OR WHATEVER AUTHOR THE
CEREMONIAL DUTIES, IT IS VERY
IMPORTANT.

AND I SECOND WHAT MY PREDECESSOR
SAID, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> GOOD MORNING.

I AM DIANA CASTLER A RESIDENT OF
THE BACK BAY.

I FREQUENT THE COMMONWEALTH
MALL

MALL
AND I SEE THE HORSES ON THE MALL
AND PARTICULARLY IN THE COMMONS.
MY EXPERIENCE IN WATCHING THEM
IS THAT I AM AWED BY THEM.

BUT ALSO HAVE SEEN SMALL
CHILDREN COMING ALONG AND JUST
LOOKING AT THOSE HORSES AND
BEING AMAZED.

AND THEY ALSO HAVE SUCH A
PRESENCE FOR SAFETY AS WELL.
SO I'M VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT
WE'LL BE ADDING ANOTHER RANGER,
AND I WOULD ALSO SUPPORT THE
IDEA OF ADDING STILL A SECOND
NEW RANGER.

BUT TO SPECIFICALLY ASK THEY BE
TRAINED AS MOUNTED RANGERS, NOT
SIMPLY JUST RANGERS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

JAN WALDMAN, MACAELA WALDMAN,
AND PAT ALVAREZ.

>> CHAIR AND COUNSEL MEMBERS, I
AM MACAELA WALDMAN A FORMER
VOLUNTEER OF THE MOUNTED UNIT.
I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE AND
PRESENT MY TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF
ADDING MORE PARK RANGERS, OR
MORE PERMANENT POSITIONS FOR THE
BOSTON RANGERS MOUNTED UNIT.
AS A PAST VOLUNTEER I HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW SOME
OF THE RANGERS AND HORSES.
IN THE SPRING OF 2012 I
VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MOUNTED UNIT
AS MY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROJECT
HELPING TO CARE FOR THE HORSES.
I ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE
HORSES AND SPENDING TIME WITH
THE RANGERS DURING MY
INTERNSHIP.

I CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE
MOUND THE EVEN OVER THE SUMMER.
DURING MY TIME VOLUNTEERING, THE
PERMANENT STAFF WERE CONSTANTLY
TRAINING PART-TIME EMPLOYEES,
TEACHING THEM HOW TO CARE FOR
HORSES AND CARE FOR AND WORK
WITH THE HORSES.

WHEN I VISITED THE MOUNTED UNIT
DURING THE WINTER BREAK
INTRODUCED TO NEW PART-TIME
EMPLOYEES.

EVERY TIME I VISITED UNIT THERE
IS ALWAYS A NEW PART-TIME
EMPLOYEE TRAINED.

THE BENEFIT OF A FULLTIME STAFF
CANNOT BE OVERSTATED BOTH IN
TERMS OF EFFICIENCY OF TRAINING
AND HAVING CONSISTENCY TO THOSE
CARING FOR HORSES AND GOING OUT
ON PATROL.

THE PARK RANGERS MOUNTED UNIT IS
AN IMPORTANT UNIT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY, PATROLLING THE PARKS
THAT COMPRISE THE EMERALD
NECKLACE, AND A MORE IMPORTANT
ROLE AS PUBLIC RELATIONS
AMBASSADORS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

I HAVE SEEN FIRST-HAND CHILDREN
AND ADULTS BE DRAWN TO THE
HORSES AND ENGAGED IN

CONVERSATION WITH THE RANGERS,
CREATING GOODWILL AND SENSE OF
CALM AND SECURITY.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER MY
TESTIMONY.

FOR THE ADDITIONAL PERMANENT
POSITIONS OF THE BOSTON RANGERS
MOUNTED UNIT, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> IS JAN HERE?

>> PAT.

>> I AM HERE WITH PRO OTHER
PEOPLE, ALL TALKING ABOUT THE
SAME THING.

SO CAN THE THREE OF US STAND
HERE TOGETHER?

>> THANK YOU.

>> FIRST I THANK THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT.

YOU ARE SO AMAZINGLY AWESOME AND
WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO
FROM HELPING US WITH OUR GOATS A
COUPLE OF YEARS AGO TO JUST
KEEPING OUR PARKS AND OUR
PLAYGROUNDS AND BALL FIELDS AND
URBAN WILDS AS CLEAN AND
BEAUTIFUL AS YOU CAN.

WE'RE HERE TODAY SPECIFICALLY TO
TALK ABOUT THE URBAN WILDS.

THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM PARKS,
DIFFERENT FROM BALL FIELDS,
DIFFERENT FROM PLAYGROUNDS.

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THERE IS NO
LINE ITEM IN THE BUDGET TO
MAINTAIN THE URBAN WILDS.

THE URBAN WILDS ARE CRITICAL
BECAUSE THEY'RE CONSERVATION
LAND, WOODLAND, AND THEY ARE IN
THIS TIME OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT
IN THE CITY, AND ALWAYS, THEY'RE
CRITICAL TO HELPING US MITIGATE
THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN
BOSTON.

THE TREE CANOPY CLEANS AND COOLS
THE AIR, THE TREE ROOTS HELP ASO
MUCH THE WATER, KEEP IT CLEAN
AND HEALTHY, AND IN ADDITION TO
ALL THAT, IT PROVIDES A
DIFFERENT KIND OF EXPERIENCE FOR
RESIDENTS.

THERE IS A LOT OF RESEARCH
SHOWING PEOPLE WHO SPEND TIMES
IN THE WOODS OPPOSED TO

PLAYGROUNDS AND PARK HAVE LOWER
BLOOD PRESSURE, LOWER
DEPRESSION, AND EVEN USED TO
TREAT ADHD IN CHILDREN.
AND WE HAVE EIGHT IN HYDE PARK.
I CERTAINLY WORK AS THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE
SOUTHWEST BOSTON CDC AND SOMEONE
WHO MANAGING THE YOUTH JOBS
PROGRAMS THAT DOES THE URBAN
RESTORATION.
WE WORK WITH FIVE FRIENDS
GROUPS.
WE TRY OUR BEST IN THE SPRING TO
DO CLEAN-UPS, TRASH PICK-UP,
MOWING.
THE YOUTH TRY THEIR BEST TO DO
TRAIL REBUILDING AND PRUNING,
BUT IT IS OVERWHELMING.
THIS WINTER SO MANY DOWNED TREES
ACROSS THE ROAD, TREES BROKEN IN
HALF.
THE INVASIVE PLANTS, BUCKTHORN,
POISON IVY, JAPANESE KNOT WEED,
WIND THEIR WAY UP THE HEALTHY,
NATIVE TREES AND SQUEEZE THEM TO
DEATH AND KILL THEM.
THE SOIL IS DEGRADES AND
COMPANIES DUMP, AND ALL OF THAT
CREATES EVASIVE GROWTH.
THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED FOR
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET FOR
THE WILDS.
AS FRIENDS AND YOUTH GROUPS WE
CANNOT POSSIBLY DO JUSTICE TO
THE URBAN WILDS, THANK YOU.
>> WHITNEY LAGONDE AND WHOEVER
LIVES AT 200 CLARINGTON STREET.
AIR IS I CAN'T FREEMAN.
>> WE'RE PART OF THE SAME GROUP.
I APOLOGIZE, I SIGNED THE WRONG
SHEET, APOLOGIZE.
BUT I AM WITH PAT AND HER AS
WELL TO ADVOCATE FOR THE URBAN
WILDS.
AND PAT SAID IT VERY SUCCINCTLY.
WE HAVE AN ISSUE WITH THE URBAN
WILDS IN EAST BOSTON, THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE WE DO NOT HAVE A LOT
OF ACREAGE AND ONE IS THE COMMON
DON STREET OVERLOOK.
AND YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MANY
PEOPLE DO NOT REALIZE IT IS AN
URBAN WILD.

AND WE CLEAN IT UP.
CLIMB OVER THE FENCE -- MAYBE I
AM NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT IS
CORRECT BUT CLIMB OVER THE FENCE
AND REALLY ARE CAPTURING A LOT
OF DEBRIS AND FOSTERING A LOT OF
STEWARDSHIP.
IT IS CRITICAL FOR RESILIENTLY.
A BUCKLING SEAWALL, INVASIVE
SPECIES.
IT IS IN A VERY CRITICAL AREA OF
WETLANDS.
WE TALK ABOUT CLIMATE, TALK
ABOUT CONSERVATION, AS PAT SAID
WE REALLY NEED TO INCREASE THE
AMOUNT IN THE BUDGET TO
MAINTAIN.
BECAUSE IT IS OVERWHELMING FOR
US AS VOLUNTEER GROUPS.
AND ALSO CRITICAL AREAS NOR
CLIMATE RESILIENTLY, AND FRANKLY
FOR EDUCATION IN COMMUNITIES
LIKE EAST BOSTON IT IS REALLY
CRITICAL.
WE ARE HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR MORE
OF THE BUDGET FOR URBAN WILDS,
THANK YOU.
>> THANK YOU.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON.
I AM WHITNEY, AND IN THE
CUSTOMER I COORDINATE THE
SOUTHWEST BOSTON CDC'S GREEN
TEAM PROGRAM WHICH HIRED BOSTON
YOUTH TO PREPARE WALKING TRAILS,
REMOVING EVASIVE SPECIES AND
EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE
PROPER USE OF THE WOODS.
DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS KEY
CANNOT KEEP UP THE EFFORTS.
INCLUDING THE HAZARDOUS TREE
PRUNING, PLANT MANAGEMENT,
EROSION CONTROL, SIGNAGE REPAIR
AND REPLACEMENT.
WALL REPAIR, CARPENTRY,
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF BULKY
WASTE.
THIS ROUTINE SITE MAINTENANCE
NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING
THE URBAN WILDS HEALTHY, BUT THE
WOODS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS TO
ENJOY.
THEREFORE WE URGE YOU TO ADD A
LINE ITEM FOR THE URBAN WILD
MAINTENANCE TO THE CITY'S ANNUAL

BUDGET, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

JANE ARKABA, AND LIZ DEIZA.

>> HI EVERYONE, I AM SARAH
FREEMAN FROM JAMAICA PLAIN.
ON BEHALF OF THE ARBORWAY GROUP
FROM THE EMERALD NECKLACE AND
MANY RELATING ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES.

THE D.C. PARKWAY, WE DON'T HAVE
ANY DIRECT QUESTIONS FOR THE
ARBORWAY.

BEING WITHIN BOSTON WE CARE
DEEPLY ABOUT BOSTON'S PARKS AND
WISH THEM TO BE THE BEST THAT
THEY CAN BE.

SO IN THAT SPIRIT, WE DO
APPRECIATE THE BOSTON HAVE BEEN
VERY GENEROUS TO THE PARKS
RECENTLY.

BUT THERE'S STILL SO MUCH ROOM
FOR IMPROVEMENT AND SO PLEASE
DON'T TAKE THE COMMENTS AS
CRITICISM, BUT RATHER RAISING
THE BAR, RIGHT.

SO WITHOUT BEING TOO REPETITIOUS
THE PARK RANGERS MOUNTED UNIT,
GRATIFYING TO HEAR THE
RECOGNITION THAT THE SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES ARE NOT A GOOD
LONG-TERM PLAN.

AND THAT A LOT OF EFFORT IN THE
TRAINING FOR VERY SHORT RETURN.

SO ANYTHING YOU CAN DO.

THEY DID LOSE SIX POSITIONS 10
YEARS AGO, AND REBUILDING THE
BEST YOU CAN DO, WE WOULD
SUPPORT.

THE MUDDY RIVER RESTORATION
PROJECT, I AM SORRY TO SAY I
COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT'S
DESCRIBED IN THE BUDGET.
WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT THERE IS
SOME MONEY.

I AM NOT SURE WHAT IT'S FOR, BUT
IN THE CONVERSATIONS I HAVE BEEN
IN, THERE'S A LOT OF CONCERN
THAT PHASE I THAT HAD A RIBBON
CUTTING WITH MUCH FANFARE A YEAR
AGO AND NAMED AFTER THE FORMER
PARK COMMISSIONER, WHAT IS THE
STATUS THERE?

WHO IS TAKING CARE OF IT?

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE

HEARING FOR MAINTENANCE, BUT A QUESTION THAT IS IT ON MANY MINDS.

I SEND AN EMAIL TO THE ARBORWAY COLLISION YESTERDAY ASKING FOR PEOPLE'S COMMENTS A WEEK AGO, AND THEN YESTERDAY, AND HERE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT CAME FROM THE GROUP.

ONE FROM -- AND THIS APPLIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

A LOT OF HISTORIC STONE WALLS THAT ARE FABULOUS MUCH THEY ADD TO BOSTON'S CHARACTER.

BUT THEY DO REQUIRE SOME CARE. AND SOMEONE WHO LIVES ON PRINCE STREET, PARALLEL TO PARKMAN DRIVE RIGHT NEXT TO THE POND, SAYS IT'S REALLY HARD WATCHING THIS WALL DETERIORATE.

ANY FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE HISTORIC WALL WOULD BE GREAT, EVEN IF IT'S FOR INITIAL MAINTENANCE TO REMOVE THE STRANGLE VINES THAT DIG INTO THE STONE.

A PLEA IN GENERAL FOR BOSTON TO BE SENSITIVE ABOUT STONE WALL ONGOING MAINTENANCE.

WATER FOUNTAINS AT THE ARBORETUM ARE IN VARIOUS STATES OF REPAIR FROM WORKING TO HAVING NOT BEEN WORKING FOR MULTIPLE YEARS.

MIGHT BE A LARGER PROBLEM THAN THE FOUNTAIN ITSELF BECAUSE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN EFFORTS TO FIX THAT.

THE SUMMER'S COMING, CLIMATE CHANGE.

IT IS HOT OUT THERE AND WANT PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO FILL UP REFILLABLE BOTTLES INSTEAD OF BRINGING PLASTIC INTO THE PARKS. TWO MORE QUICK ITEMS.

ONE FROM A RESIDENT WHO HAS SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME KNOCKING ON PEOPLE'S DOORS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO PLANT OR CARE FOR NEWLY-PLANTED TREES SAYS CARING FOR AND REPLACE DEAD STREET TREES AND HELPING HOMEOWNERS GET A FRONT YARD TREE WILL DO A LOT TO IMPROVE OUR LOCAL AIR QUALITY AND SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, FROM ME,
I THINK I'VE SAID THIS A NUMBER
OF YEARS, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THE ANSWER IS.

BUT I WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE
RECYCLING IN OUR PARKS.

SO THAT WHEN PEOPLE DO BRING A
PLASTIC BOTTLE, IT DOESN'T END
UP IN THE POND OR ON A PATH OR
SOMETHING AND HAVE TO PAY AN
EMPLOYEE TO COME AND PICK IT UP
OR WAIT FOR VOLUNTEERS.

SO I KNOW THEY DO EXIST IN SOME
PLACES, LIKE THE ARBORATIUM.
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY.

>> THANK YOU, SARAH.

>> HI, I AM FREDRICKA, A
LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT AND A
LONGTIME PARKS PARTICIPANT.

I WILL TAKE THIS IS REALLY
SOMETHING EVERYONE SHOULD COME
TO A HEARING FOR THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT AND LISTEN TO
EVERYONE SPEAK.

THE COUNCILORS AND RESIDENTS.
IT IS SO EDUCATIONAL AND ONE
GETS A TRUE APPRECIATION FOR THE
MAGNITUDE OF OUR RESOURCES AND
ASSETS, AND ALSO THE
ACCOMPANYING PROBLEMS THAT GO
WITH THOSE.

YOU'VE SEEN ME BEFORE TALKING ON
BEHALF OF THE BOSTON MOUNTED
PARK RANGERS.

WELL, IT'S DEJA VU, I'M BACK AND
I AM ASKING FOR YOUR INCREASED
SUPPORT FOR THE BOSTON PARK
RANGERS MOUNTED UNIT.

THEY ARE A VITAL AND EFFECTIVE
SECURITY PRESENCE.

NOT ONLY IN THE BACK BAY
DEFENSE, WHICH I SPEND MOST OF
MY TIME INCLUDING IN THE VICTORY
GARDEN AREA, BUT THROUGHOUT THE
EMERALD NECKLACE PARK SYSTEM.
THEY ARE VITAL SECURITY, AS WELL
AS AMBASSADORS.

I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR CHRIS
COOK SAY THAT WE ARE GREATLY
RELIEVED, AND THANK YOU AND THE
CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR OVER
THE YEARS HAVE INCREASED THE
BUDGET FOR THE BOSTON PARK
RANGERS MOUNTED UNIT.

TO GET AWAY FROM SUCH A GREAT
FUNDRAISING EFFORT ON BEHALF OF
THE NON-PROFIT GROUP, THAT MAKES
EVERYONE SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT.
BUT WE NEVER SLEEP WELL ENOUGH.
SO I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THE
BUDGET CALLS FOR ONLY ONE NEW
POSITION, PERMANENT POSITION.
AT THIS RATE IT WILL TAKE YEARS
TO RECONSTITUTE THE UNIT TO THE
PRE-DOWNTURN LEVELS.

MEANWHILE, THE NEED FOR SECURITY
IN OUR PARKS CONTINUE TO GROW
WITH MORE ACTIVITIES TAKING
PLACE IN OUR PARKS.

SOME OF IT INCREASINGLY
PROBLEMATIC.

THE MOUNTED UNIT IS A VALUABLE
COMPONENT OF A GREATER EFFORT
THAT IS NEEDED TO KEEP THESE
PROBLEMS AND THE KIND OF
PROBLEMS THAT WE'RE EXPERIENCING
IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, TO
KEEP THEM FROM SPIRALLING OUT OF
CONTROL.

IT'S MORE THAT THE VALUE OF THE
RANGERS, FOR THEIR SECURITY, IS
TO PREVENT THE PROBLEMS THAT GET
REALLY FRANKLY ALMOST
UNMANAGEABLE.

SO WITH THE VETTING OF PERSONNEL
AND TRAINING TAKING A LOT OF
TIME TO GET THE ACTUAL RANGERS
OUT INTO THE NEED, WE REALLY
NEED UP-FRONT FUNDING.

SO I'M REQUESTING THAT THE
EQUIVALENT, IN WHATEVER FORM
THIS TAKES, OF THREE NEW
POSITIONS BE ENABLED BY THE
COUNCIL.

AND PLEASE SUPPORT THE EFFORTS
OF CHRIS AND THE CHIEF TO GET
THIS PROGRAM STRENGTHENED.
WE NEED IT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD,
WE NEED IT THROUGHOUT THE
EMERALD NECKLACE PARKS, THANK
YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HELLO, THANK YOU FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF
OF THE PARKS IN THE CITY AND IN
OUR DOWNTOWN.

IT'S WONDERFUL.

I AGREE WITH FREDDY I THINK

EVERYONE SHOULD COME AND HEAR THE HEARINGS AND HEAR ABOUT THE HARD WORK THAT IS BEING DONE BY THIS INCREDIBLE DEPARTMENT, AND WHAT NEED TO BE DONE TO MAKE THE PARKS STRONG.

I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN.

THESE ARE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FOR OVER 35,000 PEOPLE IN FIVE NEIGHBORHOODS, BUT THEY ARE MUCH MORE THAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, THEY ARE GREEN SPACES USED INTENSELY BY THE ENTIRE CITY AND BEYOND.

WE HAVE BEEN SOMETHING RECORD CROWDS COMING IN.

AS SOON AS THE WARM WEATHER HITS YOU CAN'T EVEN GET THROUGH THE CROSSING FROM THE COMMON INTO THE GARDEN, SO MANY PEOPLE ARE USING THESE AMAZING PARKS.

INVESTING OVER \$1 MILLION DIRECTLY INTO THE PARKS, BUT IT IS CRITICAL THAT PRIVATE SUPPORT NOT BE SEEN AS A RATIONAL FOR NOT CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IN RAISING THE BUDGET YEAR AFTER YEAR.

WE'D LIKE TO SEE THIS GO UP.

WE ARE HAPPY TO SAY IT IS GOING UP AND IT IS GREAT, BUT WE CAN'T FEEL TOO COMFORTABLE ABOUT THAT. PARTICULARLY IF YOU GOT CPA FUNDING.

THOSE OF US WHO WORKED HARD TO PASS THAT ARE EXCITED, BUT WANT TO SEE THE BASE LINE BUDGET FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT NOT START TO SLUMP BECAUSE OF GETTING MONEY FROM THE CPA.

TO GET THE PARKS THE BEST IN THE NATION, WHICH IS WHAT THE MAYOR'S VISION IS, TO GET THIS IT TAKES RESOURCES.

AND MONEY COMING IN FROM THE WINTHROP SQUARE AGREEMENTS IS WONDERFUL TO SUPPORT MASTER PLANNING IN BOTH THE BOSTON COMMON AND FRANKLIN PARK, AND COMPLETION OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE.

VERY EXCITED TO WORK WITH THE

PARKS DEPARTMENT ON THAT MASTER PLAN FOR THE BOSTON COMMON AND LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT WHAT THEIR VISION IS FOR OUR USE IN CENTRAL PARK.

BUT A LOT OF THE BUDGET MONEY IS CAPITAL, AND WE STILL NEED YOU HEARD FROM US YEAR AFTER YEAR GETTING MORE MAINTENANCE MONEY BUT NEED CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MAINTENANCE REALM TO KEEP UP WITH THE MAINTENANCE NECESSARY FOR ALL GREEN SPACES IN BOSTON.

TWO YEARS AGO THE MAYOR'S BUDGET ADDED A SECOND MAINTENANCE SHIFT TO THE COMMON, A WONDERFUL AND HELPFUL THING.

HOWEVER IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY MEETING IN OTHER PART, SHIFTS HAVE TO BE PULLED OFF TO DEAL WITH THE NEEDS.

WE NEED TO SERVE THE COMMON'S NEEDS AND EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD'S NEED.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO PRESS OUT ONE PRESSING NEED IN THE DOWNTOWN PARKS IN THE PARKS AND GARDEN, AND SERVING FOR THE MAINTENANCE CREW AND STORE AMONG FOR SWAN BOATS.

IT IS PAST OVERDUE FOREIGN -- FAR RENOVATIONS. YOU HEARD FROM THE COMMISSIONER WHEN IT IS POPULAR THE BIDS COME IN HIGH.

AND THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, 000 OF THE RESCOPE THEY HAVE, THE GOAL IMPROVING AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE.

WE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THAT. KNOW IT IS THE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND NOT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT DEALING WITH BUILDINGS.

AND KNOW A LITTLE BUILDING IN THE PARK IS NOT GOING TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY AND HAPPILY AGAINST POLICE AND FIRE STATIONS.

BUT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BUILDING SERVING THE MAINTENANCE CREW AND SWAN BOATS AND IMPORTANT GREEN SPACE AND NEED TO GET IT BACK ON THE DOCKET FOR SUPPORT AND REN KNOW

ADMINISTRATION BEFORE IT
DETERIORATES FURTHER.
THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE TREE
COVER INCLUDING ONGOING CARE FOR
THEM, ON THE STREETS AND THE
PARKS.

AND TREES COOL THE EARTH AND
STORE CARBON.

THEY ARE OUR SINGLE BEST
MITIGATORS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
THE PARKS'S DEPARTMENT THE FIRST
TIME HAS \$100,000 FOR
MAINTENANCE OF THE PARKS TREES,
WHICH IS REALLY WONDERFUL TO
SEE.

I AM GOING TO ASK IT IS MANY
TIMES THAT BECAUSE THE NEED THUT
OUR PARKS IS A LOT MORE THAN
\$100,000.

SO LET'S KEEP THIS TREND GOING
AND I AM -- IMPROVE MAINTENANCE
OF PARKS AND CITIES TREES.
AND A BUDGET FUND HEARING AT
1:00, NOW LATER, BUT I WILL MAKE
A NOTE ABOUT THE PARK FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS.

IT IS WORTH KNOWING THIS YEAR
\$1.2 MILLION APPROPRIATION IS
USED PRIMARILY FOR PARKS
MAINTENANCE STAFF.

THIS IS A PRACTICE BEGUN IN
CRISIS IN THE 1980S DURING
PROPOSITION 2.5.

IT HAS SINCE BECOME ROUTINE.
THE CITY SHOULD BE FUNDING THIS
STAFFING NEED FROM THE BUDGET
AND USING THE FUNDS RESOURCES
FOR PARKS CARE AND IMPROVEMENTS
ACCORDING TO THE FUNDS' PURPOSE.
AND LASTLY, WE DO APPLAUD THE
PERMANENT PARKWAY AND HEARING IT
FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE.

THE FORCE IS HALF THE SIZE AS 10
YEARS AGO AND NUMBERS OF PEOPLE
ARE POURING INTO THE DOWNTOWN
PARKS.

AND A SPRING SUNDAY YOU SEE KIDS
CLIMBING TREES IN THE GARDEN,
BICYCLES RIDING THREW, DOGS OFF
A LEECH AND NOT A RANGER IN
SIGHT.

A SECURITY AND AMBASSADOR FORCE
AND THEY ENFORCE REGULATIONS AND
WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR THE

REGULATIONS TO BE ENFORCED.
AND WE ADVICES TO THOSE OF
OTHERS.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

KAREN BRODER.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYBODY I AM
JULIA DUNHU, THE PRESIDENT OF
THE FRIEND GROUP FOR THE MOUNTED
RANGER UNIT.

I WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES
BECAUSE I AM SURE THAT EVERYBODY
IS STARVING.

I THINK YOU HAVE MY LETTER, AT
LEAST I HOPE YOU HAVE MY LETTER
ELECTRONICALLY, I WILL BE VERY
EFFICIENT HERE, I HOPE.

FIRST I WANT TO THANK THE MAYOR
AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE PARK RANGERS.
WITHOUT THEM, I AM NOT SURE WHAT
WOULD BE HAPPENING TODAY, BUT WE
THANK THEM DEEPLY.

SECONDLY, I AM DEFINITELY IN
FAVOR OF PRUDENT USE OF FUNDS.
THAT'S ESSENTIAL.

HOWEVER, NOT AT THE COST OF THE
SECURITY OF THE PARKS.

IT'S OPINION 10 YEARS, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, AND IT IS DOWN
SIX POSITIONS.

WE CAN'T GO ANOTHER THREE YEARS
WITHOUT GETTING THEM FULLY
FUNDED.

SO I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT
THE MAYOR PUT ONE POSITION IN,
AND I AM SURE THAT WILL HELP
WITH DEPLOYMENT, THAT'S A GREAT
IDEA.

AND I APPLAUD COUNSELORS THAT
WILL SUPPORT ONE MORE POSITION.
I AM HERE TO IMPLORE YOU TO
THINK OF ADDING TWO MORE
POSITIONS.

THAT WAY IT WE DO THIS NEXT
YEAR, THEN THE RANGER UNIT WILL
BE EFFECTIVE.

AND 1200 ACRES IS AN AWFUL LOT
OF PROPERTY TO LIMP ALONG IN.
SO I AM BEGGING YOU, PLEASE
CONSIDER THAT, THANK YOU SO
MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HI KAREN, AND I THINK THAT I
WAS THE NAME YOU WERE TRYING TO

CALL, SORRY.

MY PARENTS GAVE ME THAT NAME AND NOW I HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.

I AM THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVEANCY. I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL HAS GIVEN THIS DEPARTMENT.

I WORKED AT TWO OTHER CITY PARKS DEPARTMENTS, NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO, AND PEOPLE DON'T WORK FOR PARKS UNTIL THEY REALLY WANT TO.

IT'S A REALLY HARD JOB. THESE GUYS PHONES RING ALL THE TIME, I AM SURE AS YOURS DO. AND I CAN TELL THEY REALLY, REALLY CARE ABOUT THE PARKS THAT THEY ARE HERE TO SUPPORT.

I WANT TO MENTION TWO THINGS PRIMARILY. NUMBER ONE, ALSO CONTINUING THE COURSE OF VOICES YOU ARE HEARING TODAY TO ADD TO THE PARK RANGERS' BUDGET.

TO PROVIDE FOR FULLTIME EMPLOYEES. YOU KNOW, IT IS REALLY, REALLY HARD TO WORK WITH A SEASONAL STAFF.

SO IF THERE COULD BE AN INCREASE, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TWO OR THREE NEW PEOPLE, THAT WOULD BE FANTASTIC. THE EMERALD NECKLACE, AS ACTUALLY MANY, MANY PEOPLE SAID TODAY, PARTICULARLY AREAS AROUND THE FENWAY ARE PARTICULARLY SUFFERING FROM VERY COMPLICATED PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES RIGHT NOW AND I THINK THE HORSES MIGHT BE NEEDED IN A DIFFERENT WAY NOW MORE THAN EVER.

IN A WAY WE HADN'T APPRECIATED IN THE PAST. I AM VERY INTERESTED TO SEE IF THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THIS COUNCIL.

AND THE MAYOR'S BUDGET. I'M VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN PROVIDING, THAT THE MAYOR'S BUDGET PROVIDES FOR THE PARK'S DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL SO MUCH MORE TO DO.
THE CITY PARKS ARE THE PLACINGS WHERE PUBLIC REALLY COMES TOGETHER.
IT'S REALLY THE SPACE THAT CAN PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
PEOPLE OF ALL DIFFERENT MEANS TO CONNECT AND MOVE TO THE NEXT PLACE IN TERMS OF CONNECTING WITH THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES.
SO THE PARKS ARE REALLY THE PLACE WE NEED TO PUT MONEY.
I KNOW A LOT OF TIMES WE THINK ABOUT THE WAYS THAT OTHER -- DIFFERENT AGENCIESES AND DEPARTMENTS CAN SUPPORT OR COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES AND I THINK THOSE ARE ESSENCE -- ESSENCE -- ESSENTIAL AS WELL.
AND BUT WE DON'T HAVE STUDENTS TAKE TESTS IN PARKS AND SOMETHING THAT IS IT MEASURABLE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND AS MORE AND MORE DATA COMES OUT THE QUALITY OF OUR PUBLIC SPACE HAS BETTER IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN MORE WAYS THAN REALIZED IN THE PAST.
THE LAST THING I WANT TO MENTION IS AROUND THE MUDDY RIVER.
OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS YOU SEE MORE AND MORE OF ME AND ADVOCATES AS THE MUDDY RIVER PROJECT COMPLETES THE FIRST PHASE.
AS THE PIECE OF THE PROJECT BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS DEPARTMENT AND DCR AND OTHER AGENCIES TO MAINTAIN.
IT IS AN IMPORTANT AREA WHERE IT DAYLIGHTED A SECTION OF THE RIVER.
THAT IS THE SECTION BY THE LANDMARK CENTER.
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AND A NEW PROJECT FOR US.
IT'S A NEW LANDSCAPE PLANTED WITH NEW NATIVE PLANTS, AND I THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO START TO DO UP AND DOWN THE NECKLACE

AS PHASE II OF THE ARMY CORPS
PROJECT MOVES FORWARD.
WE HAVE TO GET CREATIVE HOW WE
DO THAT AND I AM EXCITED TO WORK
WITH EVERYONE HERE TO DO THAT.
MAYBE THERE ARE SOME LESSONS WE
CAN LEARN FROM THE URBAN WILDS
PROGRAM THAT ALSO DEALS WITH
SOME OF THE SAME LANDSCAPES.
MORE AND MORE LOOKING INTO THE
FUTURE THE LESSONS FROM THE
DESIGN THAT THEY BLESSED POST
WITH, WITH THE EMERALD NECKLACE,
IT IS HOW WE MANAGE ALL LANDS IN
THE BOSTON AREA AND I HOPE WE
CAN LEARN INVALUABLE LESSONS AND
GET IDEAS AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO
PROTECT THE ENTIRE CITY FROM
WHAT IS A CHANGING WORLD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

IS ANYBODY ELSE WISHING TO
TESTIFY?

SEEING AND HEARING NONE I WILL
RETURN TO OUR QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER, I WANTED TO ALSO
RECOGNIZE THE GOOD WORK OF TOM
SULLIVAN.

I HAVE I THINK JUST THE MARKET
STREET BURIAL BOUND MAINTAINED
BY PARKS AND EVERGREEN.

THAT IS NOT CONSIDERED
HISTORICAL, IS THAT RIGHT?

>> I DON'T THINK IT IS BIG H
HISTORICAL AS LANDMARKS BUT WE
TREAT IT AS A HISTORICAL
PROPERTY.

>> AND I APPRECIATE LAST YEAR
THE PATHWAYS AND WORKING WITH
TOM AND RESTORING ANTIQUE SIGNS.

AND WE HAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT,
YOU KNOW, POSSIBLY TAPPING CPA
FUNDS IN THE COMING YEAR.

AND I HAD MEETINGS WITH
CHRISTINE, I THINK, TO MAKE THEM
ALL UNIFORM WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT
IMPROVEMENT.

AND I'M COMMITTING TO WORKING
WITH THE FOLKS FROM CPA AND
TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE TO KIND
OF SPONSOR THAT.

BUT TOM COULD ACTUALLY HELP
MAYBE BECAUSE HE HAD THAT

CONTACT WITH THE SIGN
RESTORATION COMPANY.
AND THAT WOULD, I THINK,
COMPLETE, YOU KNOW, THE
ADDITIONAL IMPROVE.
S OVER -- IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE
YEAR AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT.
AND I WANT TO GET A BETTER SENSE
AS SOMEONE WHO VOTED FOR THE
SQUARE TO GO FORWARD, I THINK IT
WAS A GOOD VOTE.
AND WE HAD THE BDPA DOWN HERE
THE OTHER DAY TALKING ABOUT THE
FIRST INSTALLMENT I THINK IS
COMING, \$102 MILLION.
AND I FORGET THE BREAK DOWN.
DO YOU KNOW THE BREAK DOWN OF
THE BHA MONEY GOING TO THE
COLONY, TO THE COMMON, FRANKLIN
PARK.
>> THE BREAKDOWN AS FAR AS THE
OPEN SPACE IS THAT THERE'S \$28
MILLION DESIGNATED FOR FRANKLIN
PARK, \$28 MILLION DESIGNATED FOR
BOSTON COMMON AND \$11 MILLION
DEDICATED TO COLUMBIA ROAD.
COLUMBIA ROAD, THE ONLY THING I
WOULD ASTERISK THERE IS WORK TO
BE CONSIDERED AS A PARK OR GREEN
SPACE, HAS ECOLOGICAL VALUE, SWM
THE ABILITY TO GET PEOPLE TO AND
FROM BOSTON HARBOR, THE CRITICAL
LINK MISSING FROM THE OLMSTED
PLAN.
AND WE'RE ALSO LOOKING TO
OPERATIONALIZE SOME OF THE
FUNDS.
AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRIENDS
OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN, DEVELOPING
A TRUST WHERE 5 MILLION OF THE
\$28 MILLION PUT IN TRUST AND
THAT WOULD GIVE US NOT ONLY A
FUND WE COULD RE-INVEST IN AS
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS IN
THE CITY, BUT WHAT WE DO IS USE
THE INTEREST TO AUGMENT
MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES ON BOSTON
COMMON.
WHAT'S VERY IMPORTANT IS LIKE
CPA, THE APPROACH IS TO AUGMENT

NOT SUPLANT.

>> AND I WANTED MORE CLARITY.

THE \$28 MILLION FOR THE PARKS,
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I
VOTED FOR IT.

THINKING IN TERMS OF CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS?

IF IT IS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS,
IS THIS MONEY GOING TO PAY THE
DEBT SERVICE FOR CAPITAL?

HOW IS THAT GOING TO WORK?

>> IT'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION.
WE HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT THAT
FAR ABOUT IT, WHETHER OR NOT YOU
WOULD ACTUALLY BOND SPECIFICALLY
ON THAT, AND THAT'S NOT
SOMETHING -- MAYBE IT WOULD BE
MORE AT THE CHIEF LEVEL -- I
DON'T THINK I HAVE THAT
AUTHORITY, WHETHER OR NOT WE
WILL BOND.

WHAT I SHOULD SAY IS WE SHOULD
LOOK AT IT IN THOSE TERMS.
\$23 MILLION SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH
ACTUALLY WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR IN
BOSTON COMMON.

BOSTON COMMON IS IT AN EXTRA
ORDERLY EXPENSIVE PROPERTY TO
BUILD ON.

THERE IS SO MUCH TREE WORK IN
THE PARK.

AND THE OPPORTUNITY WITH THE
FUNDS IS TO TAKE THE INDIVIDUAL
PROJECTS AND PARTNER WITH
LIKE-MINDED PHILANTHROPIC AND
CORPORATE GIVING AND OTHER
FRIENDS GROUPS TO MAKE SURE WE
EXTEND THOSE INVESTMENT.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT A PROPERTY LIKE
THE FROG POND, MAYBE WE USE THE
FUNDS TO HELP WITH THE RE-DESIGN
OF THE FROG POND, BUT LOOK TO
OTHER EXTERNAL PARTNERS, ALONG
WITH THE PARTNERS OF THE FRIENDS
OF THE PUBLIC ART AND SEE HOW WE
CAN FUND IT USE IT AS CATALYST
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND THAT'S
HOW WE WILL ACTUALLY GET THROUGH
TO A COMPLETE FRANKLIN PARK
MASTER PLANNED OR BOSTON COMMON
MASTER PLAN.

I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO
USE THIS ONCE IN A GENERATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE PROJECT.

>> AND I WANTED CLARITY ON HOW
THE FUNDS ARE EXPENDED, EAGER

THROUGH CAPITAL OR MAKING THEM OPERATIONAL OR PAYING DOWN BONDS OR WHATEVER.

THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER 60-SOME ODD MILLION FOLLOWING THAT INCOMING YEARS WHEN THE CONDOS ASSAULT.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO GET SOME MONEY FOR THAT FOR MY NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THOSE PROJECTS. SINCE I VOTED FOR IT AND SOME OTHERS DIDN'T.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND LIZA AGAIN.

CAN YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE ON THE TIME, I KNOW WE TALKED A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND ARE THINGS MORE FIRM AT THIS POINT, I GUESS?

>> WE'RE GOING OUT TO BID THIS SUMMER AND HOPEFULLY BE IN CONSTRUCTION THIS FALL.

>> OH, GREAT.

AND THAT'S WITH THE FIELDHOUSE AND THE PARK?

>> YES.

WE'RE GOING TO BE BIDDING -- WELL PFD WILL BID THE FIELDHOUSE, BUT WE'RE WRITING INTO THE SPECS OF THE CONTRACTS THAT THE CONTRACTORS HAVE TO COORDINATE WITH EACH OTHER SO WE CAN HAVE THE PROJECTS HAPPILY SIMULTANEOUSLY.

>> THAT WAS AN IMPACTFUL PROJECT.

THEY JUST HAD THE RIBBON CUTTING.

YOU DID SOME GREAT WORK ON HOW IT WAS GOING TO IMPACT THE PARK, BUT HOW IT COULD ALSO BENEFIT THE PARK.

AND I THINK WE STRUCK A GREAT BALANCE THERE.

AND IT'S OPEN AND IT'S DEVELOPED AND IT'S NO LONGER THE VACANT SITE THAT EVERYBODY HATED LOOKING AT.

I WILL NOW RECOGNIZE COUNCIL FRANK BAKER.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, CHRIS, CHIEF AND YOUR TEAM.

THANKS FOR COMING OUT TODAY. THANKS FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN

THE PARKS.

MOST OF MY PARKS LOOK GREAT.
CHRIS, CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT
ABOUT THE LINEMAN FOUNTAIN,
CONFERENCE SQUARE.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER ON
THAT AND I AM TRYING TO FIGURE A
WAY WHERE THERE IS AN ACTIVE
FRIENDS GROUP.

HISTORICAL FOUNTAIN.

IN AN AREA WHERE THE FRONT DOOR
OF BODIEN STREET BASICALLY.
AND I THINK IF WE DID IT OVER IT
WOULD GO A LONG WAY.

BUT WE'RE NOT IN CAPITAL.

IS THERE A WAY WE CAN KIND OF
MOVE THIS ALONG A LITTLE FASTER
THAN THE REGULAR CAPITAL ROUTE
WHERE WE ALREADY HAVE A DESIGN?

>> SURE.

SO WE HAVE A VERY STRONG
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AT THIS POINT.
AS FAR AS THE PARKS DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION ON THE PROJECT, IT'S AN
EXTRA ORDER OPPORTUNITY.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU HAD TO
DRAW UP EXACTLY WHAT COMMUNITY
PRESERVATION ACT WAS INTENDED TO
DO, IT WOULD BE THIS.

I MEAN NOT ONLY IS IT -- YOU CAN
ARGUE IT IS A NEW GREEN SPACE
BECAUSE IT'S IN SUCH POOR
CONDITION, IT IS A HIGHLY
UNDER-UTILIZED GREEN SPACE AT
THIS TIME.

CERTAINLY IN A NEIGHBORHOOD WE
WANT TO MAKE STRATEGIC
INVESTMENTS IN, WANT TO
BEAUTIFY.

AND WE SUPPORT THE FUNDING FOR
IT.

AND I WOULD SAY THE CONCEPTION
YAM DESIGN STILL HAS -- WE HAVE
TO RUN IT THROUGH OUR ABILITY TO
MAINTAIN IT AT THIS POINT.

BUT I THINK IF IT WAS BROKEN UP
INTO FIFTHS, I THINK WE ARE AT
THE LAST FIFTH OF THE DESIGN
REVIEWS.

IS THAT FAIR?

>> IT IS ABOUT MATERIALS, THAT
SORT OF THING.

>> MAKING MATERIAL CHOICES.
AND WE MAKE THE CPA FUNDS AND

THE BROWNS APPLICATIONS.
AND I THINK COUNCILOR YOU LOOK
TO YOUR POINT OF HOW DO WE LOOK
AT THIS IN THE CAPITAL CYCLE.
IF IT IS THAT READY TO GO AND IT
WOULD BE THAT IMPACTFUL AND
THERE WERE EXTERNAL FUNDS, AS
FAR AS BROWN AND CPA, I THINK WE
HAVE TO LOOK AT FY20.
IS THERE A WAY WE CAN AUGMENT
IT, MAYBE NOT SPECIFICALLY WITH
THE CAPITAL LINE ITEM, BUT
BECAUSE IT IS AN EXISTING SPACE
WE OWN.
WE LOOK AT IT THROUGH GENERAL
PARK IMPROVEMENT.
IS THERE A BITE OF THE APPEAR
MANY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT CAN
JOIN IN.
STRATEGIC OR PATHWAY OR BENCH
WORK.
IT IS A LONG WAY OF SAYING WE
WOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT THE
OPPORTUNITY.
>> ALSO THIS'S INFRASTRUCTURE
WORK THERE WITH THE WATER.
WOULD THAT FALL ON PARKS?
BECAUSE YOU ARE ON THE STREET
NOW, IS THAT PUBLIC WORKS?
DO WE HAVE TO INVOLVE PUBLIC
WORKS IN THERE?
IS IT FUNDING FOR THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT?
>> I WOULD BE EMBARRASSED TO
GIVE YOU THE WRONG ANSWERS, SO I
AM HAPPY TO FOLLOW-UP WITH YOU.
I THINK IT IS MULTIPLE AGENCIES
INVOLVED.
IT IS NOT ONLY PUBLIC WORKS
BECAUSE OF THE EXTERNAL
SIDEWALK, BUT OBVIOUSLY WATER
AND SEWER AND THEY HIGHLY
REGULATE NEW ORNAMENTS OF
FOUNTAINS COMING IN, CAUSING
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, MAINTENANCE
PROBLEMS FOR THEM.
AND THEN, OF COURSE, AT THE END
OF THE DAY USUALLY THE
UNDERLYING PROPERTY OWNER THAT
MAY HAVE TO FUND SOME OF THE
ISSUES.
IN THAT WAY IT WOULD FALL TO THE
PARKS DEPARTMENT.
LIZA, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT

TO ADD TO THAT.

>> I THINK THAT IS RIGHT.
THE APPROVAL REQUIRED FROM THE
AGENCIES, BUT USUALLY THE COST
BY OUR BUDGET.

>> THEY PUT THE PLAN TOGETHER
BUT YOU GUYS HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.

>> WE WOULD TECHNICALLY PUT THE
PLAN TOGETHER, BUT THEY REVIEW
IT AND APPROVE IT.

>> OK.

THAT'S SOMETHING I THINK THAT IS
IMPORTANT, CHRIS.

AND CPA IS LOOKING FOR
SHOVEL-READY SO I AM TRYING TO
GET A LARGER COMMITMENT FROM THE
CITY TO SAY THAT CPA WILL BE
SHOVEL-READY WHENEVER THAT DATE
IS.

>> LISTEN, I CERTAINLY WOULD
NEVER PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR THE
CPA COMMITTEE.

WHAT I WOULD SAY, THEY ARE
DEFINITELY LOOKING FOR
SHOVEL-READY IN THE FIRST ROUND
OF PROJECTS.

I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT WILL BE
THE SAME PROTOCOL MOVING
FORWARD.

>> OK.

IT COULD BE NOT NECESSARILY
SHOVEL-READY, BUT COULD BE
YEAR-OUT SHOVE-READY AND GETTING
COMMITMENTS.

>> AND HONESTLY, EVEN IF IT'S
NOT, THEY ARE TRULY IN THE LAST
LEG OF THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
REVIEW.

WHEN YOU START TALKING ABOUT
WHAT MATERIALS THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT CAN REMOVE SNOW OFF
OF, YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE TO THE
FINISH LINE.

>> OK GOOD.

WE WILL HAVE THE GROUP KEEP
DOING WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

>> I JUST WANT TO MAKE IS VERY
CLEAR THAT ED COOK IS NO
RELATION TO ME.

HE IS THE CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS
GROUP RIGHT THERE, AND I WANT TO
THINK THAT NO ONE THINKS I AM
SUPPORTING ED BECAUSE OF HIS
LAST NAME.

>> WELL I AM SUPPORTING ED.
>> THAT'S RIGHT.
>> CAN YOU TALK A
LITTLE -- DISTRICT THREE YEAR,
DOWN AROUND CAN YOU UPDATE ON
THE GARBY PARK UPDATE.
>> ABSOLUTELY.
I WILL TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT
THAT.
WE ARE AT A WONDERFUL POINT
WHERE THE COMMUNITY AGREED ON A
FINAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN.
A FEW TWEAKS WE HAVE TO MAKE
OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF --
>> LIGHTS THERE OR NO LIGHTS?
>> AS FAR AS LIGHTS IN THE
DESIGN?
I CAN GET BACK TO YOU WITH THE
FINAL DECISION ON THAT.
BUT WE DID DECIDE ON TURF,
ARTIFICIAL TURF.
AND I WOULD THROW MY TWO CENTS
IN WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN AFFORD
IT WITH THE COST ESTIMATES.
IF YOU HAVE ARTIFICIAL TURF
THERE AND THE ABILITY TO PLAY,
WHETHER OR NOT THE LIGHTS GO TO
10:00 AT NIGHT, THAT IS AN
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CONVERSATION.
BUT TO NOT HAVE THE INVESTMENT
OF LIGHTS SO YOU CAN ACTUALLY
BENEFIT FROM OFF-SEASON
ACTIVATION OF THE SPACE, EVEN IF
THE LIGHTS GO OFF EARLY, SO
PEOPLE DON'T WANT IT SHINING IN
THEIR -- I THINK THIS WOULD BE A
LOST OPPORTUNITY TO NOT EXPLORE
LIGHTS AT A TURF FACILITY.
>> YEAH, I AGREE.
>> AND AS FAR AS GETTING IT OUT
TO BID, WE HAD A REALLY
PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION WITH A
REPRESENTATIVE HUNT TALKING
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES, OF
USING SOME OF THE DCR SPACE FOR
A PARK, AND WE WILL CONTINUE
THOSE CONVERSATIONS.
WHAT WE DON'T WANT TO DO, DON'T
WANT TO DISPLAY GETTING TO WORK.
SO WE'RE LOOKING AT A FAULTED
AND MAYBE GETTING SITE WORK DONE
BEFORE WINTER, ALTHOUGH IT IS
MORE LIKELY SPRING CONSTRUCTION.
>> NEXT YEAR.

>> THAT'S RIGHT, SIR.
>> AND DOWN --
>> AND I WILL TURN IT OVER TO LIZA.
WE ARE FINALLY THROUGH THE LAST PHASES OF THE DESIGN PROCESS.
>> THAT'S RIGHT.
WE HAVE 60% CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS THAT WE ARE REVIEWING RIGHT NOW AND THAT GOES OUT TO BID THIS SUMMER, HOPEFULLY FOR FALL CONSTRUCTION START, ALSO.
>> STARTING THIS FALL.
>> YEP.
>> EXCELLENT.
AND THOSE STAIRS THERE, CHRIS, DID WE HAVE --
I KNOW IT'S PUBLIC WORKS BUT THAT WHOLE AREA.
WERE WE EVER ABLE TO DO ANYTHING WITH PUBLIC WORKS ON THE SLOPE AND THE STAIRS?
>> IT WOULD BE A LOST OPPORTUNITY WHEN NOT IN CONSTRUCTION TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE AUGMENT STAIRS WITH THE EXISTING LIGHTING STRUCTURE. WE WILL BE HELPING THEM OUT A LITTLE BIT, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, UP AT THE TOP, RIGHT? PRUNING BACK.
GOING TO BE LIGHTING UP THE STAIRS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO. AS FAR AS THE MAINTENANCE, ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF THAT, I HAVE GOT TO SAY THAT I WAS JUST SO IMPRESSED WITH MIKE BROLE AND COMMISSIONER OSGOOD AND CHIEF OSGOOD'S TEAM.
BUT ESPECIALLY MIKE REALLY MADE IT A FOCUS THIS LAST WINTER. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THE STEPS WERE ACTUALLY CLEAR.
IT IS A MASSIVE MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKING AND I THINK PUBLIC WORKS DID A REALLY GOOD JOB THIS YEAR.
BUT THERE ARE SOME DESIGN CHANGES THAT NEED NO BE MADE ALONG THOSE STAIRS IN ORDER TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PUBLIC WORKS TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. I THINK THAT'S STILL AN ONGOING

CONVERSATION.

I WILL SAY WE ARE GOING TO TRY
TO DO AS MUCH TREE WORK AS WE
CAN --

>> BACK THERE ON THE SLOPE?

>> IN THE BACK ON THE SLOPE.

IT IS A TIGHT BUDGET.

UNFORTUNATELY ALL OF

OUR -- NATASHA WHITE IS AMAZING,
OUR BUDGET ANALYST, AND HAUL OF
THUNDERSHOWER -- ALL OF OUR BIDS
ARE COMING IN HIGH SO THE BUDGET
IS GETTING TIGHTER.

BUT NOT TO CLEAR UP SOME OF THE
DEAD TREES, THE VIEW IS
SPECTACULAR AND PEOPLE WOULD
FEEL SAFER.

>> THANK YOU CHRIS.

CAN WE TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT

CLIFFORD POND.

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING WITH NEEDLE
ACTIVITY?

IS IT AS BAD AS IT WAS WHEN WE
WENT OVER AND DID THE MAJOR
CLEAN-UP?

>> SO THE NEEDLES ARE CHRONIC,
AN EVERY DAY PROBLEM AT CLIFFORD
PARK.

I DON'T WANT TO SPEAK FOR THE
COMMISSION THAT HAS THE DATA TO
SUPPORT, BUT I WOULD SAY IF IT
IS NOT NUMBER ONE, IT IS THE
NUMBER TWO PARK WHERE WE FIND
THE MOST NEEDLES.

THE MAINTENANCE CREW CLEANS UP
NEEDLES EVERY DAY, AS THE PUBLIC
COMMISSION SHARP'S TEAM AND
BOSTON E.M.S. AND YOUTH ATHLETIC
COACHES AND OTHER PARKS
DEPARTMENT STAFF.

THAT BEING SAID WE HAVE A REALLY
GREAT OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF
LEADERSHIP AT THE CITY COUNCIL
LEVEL AND ADVOCACY FROM THE
COMMUNITY.

THERE IS A DEVELOPER THAT'S
GOING TO REMOVE THOSE OLD
TRADITIONAL WPA-STYLE STANDS
THAT ACTUALLY CREATE TWO VERY
NEGATIVE SPACES IN THE PARK
WHERE THERE'S LOTS --

>> HE CAN AT LEAST HIS
STATEMENT.

>> I SPEAK IN PARAGRAPHS, NOT SENTENCES.
THE LONG ANSWER IS THE STANDS ARE COMING DOWN, SHOULD GET MORE EYES INTO THE PARK ALLOWING SECURITY LIGHTING TO DO A BETTER JOB.

>> I HAD A REALLY GOOD MEETING ON CLIFFORD PARK AND SHOULD LOOK AT CAMERA PLANS IF YOU ARE OPEN TO IT.

>> THANK YOU.
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN AND I BELIEVE THEY MAY ARE LEAVING. BEFORE I START I THANK WHO WE HEARD FROM, TWO GREAT PARK ADVOCATES, JAMAICA PLAIN NEIGHBORS.

THE THREE OF US, ALONG WITH COMMISSIONER COOK AND MY WIFE SPENT MONDAY NIGHT AT THE ARBORATUM, THE DOCUMENTARY SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP FROM CHINA AND CHINESE PARK SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES AND IT WAS REALLY MOVING.

THANK YOU BOTH.

I WANT TO DIVE INTO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS STARTING WITH SOMETHING SARAH BROUGHT UP. RECYCLING IN OUR PARKS. WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

>> YEAH.

I AM GOING TO HAVE DENNIS ANSWER MOST OF THIS QUESTION.

BUT WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT IT'S NO LONGER AN OPTION FOR US TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT WE OFFER RECYCLING, RIGHT.

FOR THE PAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE THIS POSITION, WE'VE PICKED UP RECYCLING BINS WHERE IT'S SORT OF EASY FOR US TO DO IT, RIGHT.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK WE HAVE A PARTNERSHIP AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BECAUSE WE ACTUALLY HAVE CURB-SIDE TRASH PICK-UP FROM PUBLIC WORKS THERE. IT WAS EASY FOR US TO PUT RECYCLING OUT THERE.

MILLENNIUM PARK, THE SAME THING.
A PUBLIC WORKS DISTRICT YARD
THERE, IT IS VERY EASY TO DROP
OFF RECYCLING THERE.

WHAT WE'VE STARTED IS THE
SOMETIMES PAINFUL PROCESS OF
IMPLEMENTING RECYCLING IN SOME
OF THE PARKS THAT DON'T BENEFIT
FROM PUBLIC WORKS YARD.
AND IT'S FRANKLY REALLY, REALLY
HARD WORK.

WE HAVE A FLEET OF SEVEN
PACKERS, I THINK DENNIS, AND IN
PACKERS THEY BREAK A LOT BECAUSE
OF EVERYTHING, ALL THE MOVING
PARTS ON THEM.

AND WHAT HAPPENS, THE RECYCLING
CAN'T BE COMMINGLED WITH THE
PACKERS.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE THIS YEAR, WE
STARTED ADDING THE CLEAR PLASTIC
BAGS AND WE'RE TRYING TO
IMPLEMENT RECYCLING BINS INTO
THE PARKS THAT DON'T HAVE THOSE
DISTRICT YARDS NEXT TO THEM.

WHAT I WILL SAY THE DIFFICULTY
IS, IS THAT OUR MAINTENANCE
CREWS WHO ALSO HAVE A LOT OF NEW
HIRES, AND THEY ALSO HAVE
SEASONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATED WITH
THEM, WE DON'T ALWAYS

CONSISTENTLY RECEIVE THE SAME
AMOUNT OF TRAINING AS TO WHAT IS
RECYCLING, WHAT IS TRASH.

WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE
CREATING THE BEST OPPORTUNITY
FOR SUCCESS WITHOUT COMMINGLING.
SOME OF THE PLACES THAT WE'VE
INTRODUCED RECYCLING, WHERE WE
DON'T HAVE THE CLEAR DELINEATION
OF PUBLIC WORKS, PARDON THE PUN,
IT HAS HAD MIXED RESULTS.

BUT CHIEF BLACKMON MADE IT AN
ABSOLUTE PRIORITY IN HIS CABINET
THAT HE EXPECTS IT, AND HE
EXPECTS US TO IMPLEMENT IT.

AS FAR AS THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT
WE'RE DOING FOR THE SPECIFICS I
TURN IT OVER TO DENNIS ROACH.

>> CHRIS TOUCHED ON MAYBE THE
POINT, BUT WE [SPEAKING AWAY
FROM MIC] -- LOOKING AT ACROSS
STRATEGICALLY, WE ARE IN A
PROCESS RIGHT NOW WHERE WE NEED

TO UPGRADE OUR PACKERS TO HAVE
DUAL-SCREEN PACKERS.
IN MANY OF OUR SEVEN PACKERS NOW
ARE OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE.
OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT
YEARS THE PLANS TO LOOK AT THE
PACKERS, LOOK AT THE BUDGET
OFFICE, WAYS TO BUY NEW PACKERS.
WE HAVE ONE ON ORDER FROM LAST
YEAR'S PURCHASE PROGRAM.
>> WHAT DOES A PACKER COST?
>> ABOUT \$200,000, \$230,000,
TALKING DUAL STREAM.
ONE READY TO GO, THEY TAKE ABOUT
A YEAR TO BUILD.
>> HOW MANY DO WE NEED FOR A
FULL FLEET?
>> WE HAVE SEVEN IN THE FLEET.
THAT'S THE INVESTMENT YOU ARE
LOOKING ALONG THOSE LINES.
THE OTHER THING WE'RE DOING
WITHIN -- AND THIS IS OUR NEW
MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR GREG
MOSSMAN LOOKING STRATEGICALLY
WHERE WE PLACE BARRELS, THE
RECYCLING BARRELS.
DO WE NEED 80 BARRELS, OR 40
BARRELS OF RECYCLING.
IS IT ENCOURAGING MORE
RECYCLING.
THINGS WE ARE LOOKING AT TO
SHIFT FOCUS OF HOW PEOPLE THINK
TO SLOW THINGS AWAY AND CHANGE
THE WAY THEY USE THE PARK AND
THINGS LIKE THAT.
WE ARE STARTING TO DO THAT IN
SMALLER POCKET PARKS.
>> WE'VE BEEN WORKING, AND
COMING TO A COUPLE OF OUR CLEAN
BOSTON MEETINGS, TRYING TO GET
FOLKS, PARTICULARLY THE MAIN
STREET DIRECT, RELATING TO
LITER, BUT I THINK THE ANSWER
MAY ARE NO, BUT LET'S THINK THIS
THROUGH.
WOULD THE RESTRICTIONS ON
ADVERTISING IN PARK CAN YOU HIRE
OUT ADVERTISING ON RECYCLING
BINS.
>> CURRENTLY THEY COULD BUT A
BROAD INTERPRETATION TO ALLOW
PILOTS.
>> AND I THINK WE SHOULD
CONSIDER.

WE CAN CONTROL THE TYPE OF
ADVERTISING THAT GOES ON IT.
SECONDLY, PHENOMENAL JOB DOING
THE CLEAN-UP AFTER THE THREE
NOR'EASTERS THIS YEAR.
THE FIRST WEEK OF MARY
-- MARCH, I TYPICALLY DO SMOE
-- SNOW MARSHES AND DID A
14-MILE WALK STOPPING TO SOCIAL
MEDIA OR THINGS I HEARD ABOUT.
DO YOU HAVE THE FIGURES ON STORM
CLEAN-UP?
>> IT IS DIFFICULT TO TEASE OUT
ALL THE OVERTIME THAT GOES INTO
IT, ALTHOUGH WE CODE IT AS SNOW,
SO WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE
THAT.
NICOLE, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAD
A BALLPARK ON THE SNOW
OPERATIONS FROM THE STORMS.
>> I BELIEVE THE CONTRASTING
ABOUT \$80,000.
>> THAT'S FOR CONTRACTING.
>> YEAH, I DON'T HAVE THE
OVERTIME BUT I CAN GET THAT.
>> PROBABLY MORE THAN THAT.
>> SO \$80,000 TOOK CARE OF THREE
LOCATIONS.
>> SO THAT WAS THE CONTRACT AND
SERVICES.
AND THEN ON TOP OF THAT YOU HAVE
OVERTIME.
WHAT WAS REALLY DRAMATIC WAS THE
OVERALL TREE COSTS.
SO WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FACT
THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF
DOLLARS OF OUR TREE BUDGET CAN
BE SPENT.
IT REALLY LENDS ITSELF TO THE
WORK THAT CHIEF HE'S DOING ON
THE FACT THAT MAINTENANCE
OPERATIONS ARE AFFECTED BY
CLIMATE CHANGE.
>> AND TO THAT END, HOW -- IT'S
A LENGTHY PROCESS.
IF SOMEONE REPORTS TO US, OR TO
YOU OR TO 311 THAT THERE IS A
DYING TREE ON THEIR CURB, IT'S
GOING TO BE MORE THAN A YEAR.
>> WELL IT TAKES MORE THAN A
YEAR TO REMOVE IT.
>> YEAH.
>> SO THE PROCESS THAT GOES INTO
IS THAT IT'S ACTUALLY INSPECTED

FAIRLY SOON.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS FOR THE
CONSTITUENT TO NOT GET -- THE
MOST FRUSTRATING THING THAT CAN
HAPPEN TO ANY CONSTITUENT ON 311
IS WHEN IT SAYS CASE CLOSED AND
THEY ARE STILL LOOKING AT THEIR
DYING TREE.
THAT'S THE WORST THING THAT CAN
HAPPEN.
>> THAT'S NOT YOU GUYS, BUT WE
NEED TO COME UP WITH BETTER
MESSAGING, BECAUSE THAT'S --
>> WHEN IT IS PARK'S QUEUES, IT
IS US AND WE ARE GETTING A
LITTLE BETTER EVERY DAY.
WE ALSO HAVE THE FRUSTRATING
CAPACITY TO CLOSE CASES WHEN WE
RE-ALLOCATE THEM TO LONG--TERM
CAPITAL.
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE, PARKS
NEEDS TO WORK ON.
THE FOLKS THAT DO IT ARE
FANTASTIC AND ARE ONLY AS GOOD
AS THE -- IT'S JUST LIKE THE
COMPUTER, ONLY AS GOOD AS THE
INPUT WE GIVE THEM.
AS FAR AS THE TREES, THE TREES
GET INSPECTED IN A MUCH FASTER
WAY.
WHAT HAPPENS IS WHETHER OR NOT
THE TREE IS IT AN IMMEDIATE
HAZARD OR NOT.
AND THAT'S WHAT GETS DETERMINED.
SO A TREE COULD BE DYING, BUT A
DEAD TREE CAN STAND ON THE ROAD
FOR THREE, FOUR YEARS.
WE WOULD NEVER ALLOW THAT.
WE WOULD REMOVE IT IN OUR SLA
THAT WE HAVE ASSOCIATED WITH IT.
IF IT IS DEEMED A HAZARD, IT
COMES DOWN WILL IMMEDIATELY.
AND IN FACT, IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT IN WE HAVE HANDARD
TREES HANGING ON WIRES, WE WORK
WITH RESOURCES TO REMOVE THE
TREES.
I THINK WHAT HAPPENS, THE
FRUSTRATING COMPONENT BECOMES
THAT MOST PEOPLE ALSO WANT A
TREE REPLANTED.
AND SO WHEN YOU START LOOKING AT
OK, WELL MAYBE IT'S SIX MONTHS
BEFORE A TREE GETS REMOVED, AND

THEN YOU CAN ONLY PLANT THE TREE
TWO TIMES OUT OF THE YEAR,
BECAUSE TREES CAN EITHER ONLY BE
PLANTED IN THE SPRING OR FALL,
THAT'S WHEN IT BECOMES
FRUSTRATING.

MOST CASES A 1 1/2, 2 OR 3 YEAR
PROCESS.

>> HOW MANY ARBORISTS IN YOUR
SHOP?

>> CURRENTLY WE HAVE THREE
ARBORESTS, CERTIFIED ARBORISTS.
OUR TREE CREW IN TOTAL I BELIEVE
IS CURRENTLY FIVE.

YEAH, IT'S CURRENTLY FIVE.
I WILL SAY THAT OUR TREE WARDEN,
VERY, VERY HARD-WORKING TREE
WARDEN ALSO NOW THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF MAINTENANCE
RIGHT NOW.

SO OUR SUPERINTENDENT OF YOUR
BAN FORESTRY IS STEVEN KENDALL
AT THIS POINT.

I WOULD SAY AS FAR AS THE
INSPECTIONS GO, I AM NOT SURE
THE ADDITION OF ARBORISTS WOULD
SPEED THAT UP.

IT WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE THEM
MORE RESPONSIBLE DURING A STORM
THOUGH.

>> I WOULD ARGUE PERHAPS, AND I
SAID THIS BEFORE THIS IS MY LAST
STATEMENT BEFORE MY LAST BRIEF
QUESTION, IS THAT WE REALLY
OUGHT TO WORK WITH THE ARNOLD
ARBORATUM, AND THE UNIVERSITY,
AS A PILOT PAYMENT CONSIDER
WORKING WITH SOME OF THEIR
GRADUATE STUDENTS.

TO SEE IF WE CAN HELP -- I AM
NOT LOOKING TO REPLACE ANYONE, I
THINK YOUR DEPARTMENT STHUPD
SHOULD GROW.

BUT MAYBE IDENTIFY AND GET
QUICKER TURN-AROUND ACTION FOR
PEOPLE.

>> COUNCILOR, ONE OF THE
OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE, TOO,
LOOKING AT THE URBAN TREE
CANOPY, MENT TREES FULLY MATURE,
TO SHALL PRO ACTIVE AND PROTECT
THE EXISTING TREE SINCERELY FAR
MORE BENEFICIAL THAN PLANTING,
YOU KNOW, SMALL-DIAMETER TREES.

>> ABSOLUTELY AGREE AND LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING THAT AT THE HEARING. THE LAST RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS. LIES

>> CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WATERFRONT PARK.

>> MA LEM -- MILLENNIUM.

>> THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE.

>> THAT WAS A POLITICAL DEBATE QUESTION IN A CAMPAIGN.

>> YOU AND ARE ALL WRONG.

>> THERE IS NO WRONG ANSWER. A COUPLE OF FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM QUESTIONS ASKED ALREADY. COUNCILOR BAKER TALKING ABOUT THE NEEDLE PICK-UP AT SOME OF OUR PARKS.

WHO'S PAYING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THOSE NEEDLES THAT THE PARK DEPARTMENT PICKS UP?

>> A GREAT QUESTION COUNCILOR. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS, AS FAR AS WHO'S PAYING FOR THEM, AS FAR AS OPERATIONALLY, IT IS THE PARKS DEPARTMENT.

IT'S THE MAINTENANCE DIVISION WHO PICKS THEM UP.

>> YOU HAVE A BIOHADARD

BIOHADARD -- BIOHAZARD PROCESS.

>> AND WE DO.

AND WORKING HARD ON IT, AS WELL AS THE UNIONS, THEY HAVE BEEN PRO ACTIVE WITH US WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPING A SAFE SYSTEM FOR EMPLOYEES TO ENGAGE WITH NEEDLES.

THEY REALIZE THE VALUE OF KEEPING THESE SPACES CLEAN.

WE DEVELOPED THE NEEDLE PROTOCOL WITH THEM THROUGH TRAINING WITH THE BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION.

WE HAD AN ALL-STAFF TRAINING, INCLUDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STAFF.

SO FOLKS WHO MAY NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT ALL, LIKE LIZA MEYER, THE DESIGNING CONSTRUCTION UNIT WAS THERE PRESENT AT THE NEEDLE CREW JUST IN CASE WE ENCOUNTER IT.

WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT IT
THAT, WE CAN'T DO AN ALL-STAFF
TRAINING EVERY YEAR SO WHAT
DIANE DEVELOPED, SHE WORKED WITH
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION TO
VIDEO-TAPE THAT TRAINING AND
EVERY PERSON WHO IS ONBOARDED AT
BOSTON PARKS RECEIVES THAT
TRAINING AND VIDEO.
AND THEN IT'S RE-ENFORCED BY
EITHER THE DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT OR THEIR FOR MAN
OR GENERAL FOREMAN.
IT HAS BEEN A REALLY GREAT
COLLABORATION WITH ASMII, AND IT
WORKED OUT WELL.
>> AND THE COSTS OF THE
DISPOSAL?
>> I HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU.
WE DON'T BEAR THE COST OF THE
DISPOSAL.
THE ONES THE DISTRICT CREW PICK
UP WE BRING TO A BIOHAZARD UNIT
AT FRANKLIN PARK YARD AND PUBLIC
HEALTH COMMISSION PICKS THOSE
UP.
>> THE NUMBERS WILL BE
COUNTED --
>> IT IS REFLECTED IN THEIR
NUMBERS.
>> TAETS -- THAT'S GREAT.
THE VIDEO-TAPE TRAINING AS
IMPORTANT AS IT IS TO KNOW
PERSONAL TO APPROPRIATELY HANDLE
SHARP'S THAT WOULD BE GOOD
PUBLIC INFORMATION AS WELL FOR
YOUR LITTLE LEAGUES.
BECAUSE WE'LL OFTEN BE DIRECTED
TO CALL 311 AND WAIT, BUT THE
GAME NEEDS TO HAPPEN.
A LOT OF PARENTS WILL JUST GO
PICK UP.
TO HAVE THAT AWARENESS I THINK
WOULD BE HELPFUL.
>> OK.
>> AND THEN ALSO FOLLOW-UP ON
COUNCIL WU'S QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
URBAN WILDS.
CAN WE GET MORE CONSISTENT MONEY
INTO THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET
BECAUSE OF THE URBAN WILD AREAS?
>> IT IS AN INTERESTING QUESTION
AND ONE WE HAVE TO LOOK AT,
ALONG WITH THE BUDGET OFFICE, AS

WELL AS OUR PARTNERS AT THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION.
I WILL TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT
THE OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE THERE
AND IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL, CHIEF,
IF YOU HELP ANSWER THE MISSING
PARTS THAT I DON'T HAVE.
BUT WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT IN
GENERAL WE TRY TO LEND SUPPORT
TO MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS OF THE
URBAN WILDS OUT OF THE EXISTING
MAINTENANCE BUDGET.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT MAINTENANCE,
IT'S BROKEN DOWN BY PERSONNEL,
NOT REALLY BROKEN DOWN BY WHAT
PARKS THEY ACTUALLY TAKE CARE
OF.
THE GROUP THAT TAKES CARE OF
FRANKLIN PARK IS USUALLY THE ONE
THAT TAKES CARE OF FRANKLIN
FIELD AND VICE VERSA.
WHEN WE DO, WE LEND MAINTENANCE
CREW OUT TO THE URBAN WILD
SPACES.
I THINK THE ADVOCATES ARE 100%
ON IS THEY DON'T RECEIVE THE
SAME LEVEL OF CARE FOR US
BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT LISTED
OFFICIALLY AS "PARKS."
AND AGAIN IT GOES TO THE IDEA TO
PRIORITIZING SPACES THAT YOUTH
ACTIVITIES ARE PRIMARILY TAKING
PLACE ON, AND SOMETIMES IT IS
PRIORITIZING SPACES WE GET THE
MOST 311 COMPLAINTS OR MOST
CALLS ON.
JUST AS WE'RE LOOKING AT EQUITY
THROUGH OUR CAPITAL BUDGET, I
THINK IT BEHOOVES THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT IN THE PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TO LOOK AT EQUITY AT SOME OF
THOSE SPACES.
SO RATHER THAN SAYING OK WELL
MAYBE THERE IS MAINTENANCE
OPERATIONS FOR URBAN WILDS,
MAYBE SAY CAN WE AUGMENT
EXISTING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES
AND MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE
SPACES.
CHIEF, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT THE STEWARDSHIP.
SPACE.
>> I THINK THIS WAS PERFECT,

COMMISSIONER COOK.

FROM AN ON -- OWNERSHIP THEY ARE OWNED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AS THE COMMISSIONER WAS MENTIONING.

THE ENVIRONMENTS DEPARTMENT HAD A LINE ITEM TO POTENTIALLY PURCHASE ADDITIONAL URBAN WILDS, BUT THE MAINTENANCE AND ONGOING CARE OF THE FACILITIES IS REALLY OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF OUR OPEN SPACE THAT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT HAS REALLY BEEN SUPPLEMENTING THE CARE AS THEY IDENTIFY ISSUES FROM THE STEWARDSHIP FROM A POLICY PERSPECTIVE.

CERTAINLY AN AREA WHERE WE CAN PROBABLY DO BETTER, BUT IT IS AN AREA THAT COMMISSIONER COOK AND HIS TEAM HAVE SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES BASED ON OUR RESIDENTS AND ADVOCATES' STEWARDSHIP AS WELL.

>> AND I WONDER, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO END UP IN A SITUATION WHERE WE ARE PITTING THE SPACES WITH URBAN WILD, WE ALL HAVE OUR FAVORITE TYPE OF FIELD.

I WONDER, ESPECIALLY IF THE URBAN WILDS LEND THEMSELVES TO COME OF THE GRANTS, THAT IF WE CAN BE MORE THOUGHTFUL OF GETTING GRANTS, AND THEY MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE SAME DEGREE. AND THEY COULD BE USED OPPOSED TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

>> I THINK WE OPEN THE ADVOCATES AND THE IS IT COUNCIL AND OURSELVES TO BE MORE THOUGHTFUL ABOUT THIS.

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DOESN'T STOP TEN -- AT THE GATES OF THE SOCCERFIELD.

WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE STEWARDS OF ENVIRONMENT. AND LOOKING AT THE ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF SOME SPACES, THE LOCATIONS OF THE POOLS AND EVERYTHING THAT THE CITY BENEFITS FROM, IT IS IN THE URBAN WILDS.

AND IF IT IS ON US TO HELP THE CONSERVATION TO CLEAN IT UP WE

SHOULD LOOK AT REVENUE STREAMS
TO FIX IT.

>> THE LAST QUESTION FOR THIS
ROUND, WE OFTEN GET CALLS FROM
CONSTITUENTS REGARDING A
PARTICULAR PARK.

BUT THEN WE COME TO FIND OUT IT
IS BCR LAND.

AND I IMAGINE IT ALSO HAPPENS
WITH THE 311 CALLS ABOUT
PARTICULAR ISSUES.

CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE -- HOW CAN
WE BETTER DELINEATE -- AND I
THINK CHIEF IS READY TO ANSWER
THAT QUESTION BETWEEN THOSE TWO.
I THOUGHT I SAW AN ANXIOUS HAND.

>> NO, NOT AT ALL.

>> IS IT ON 311?

SOMEONE CALLS IN ON A PARTICULAR
PARK.

>> IT IS BROUGHTER THAN THAT AND
AN UNDERLYING ISSUE IN THE
SYSTEM.

THE STAFF UP TLP DOING A
PHENOMENAL COULD BE OF TAKING
REQUESTS AND GETTING TO THE
RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES.

AS WE UPGRADE THE SYSTEM WE ARE
TRYING TO SOLVE THAT
TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUE SO THERE IS
A LITTLE BIT BETTER CONNECTION
WITH OUR PARTNERS OVER AT THE
STATE.

AND ALSO, FRANKLY BACK TO THE
CONSTITUENT AS WELL.

IT IS ONE THING TO TELL THE
CONSTITUENT OH, HEY THIS IS DCR,
YOU NEED TO CALL THIS NUMBER.
IT IS ANOTHER TO BE ABLE TO PASS
IT ALONG TO DCR, THE RIGHT
PERSON OVER THERE, AND THEN ALSO
BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO THE
CONSTITUENT AND LET THEM KNOW
THAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN HANDED
OFF.

AND IF THERE IS A TRACKING
NUMBER, WHATEVER THERE MAY BE,
TO WHATEVER THE PARTNER AGENCY
IS, THAT'S WHERE WE ULTIMATELY
WANT TO BE.

AND PART OF THE UPGREATS TO THE
SYSTEM DOING RIGHT NOW,
HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET
IN THAT DIRECTION, HAVE MORE

EVENT SPECIFICITY AROUND THE GEOGRAPHY TO KNOW WHEN THOSE TRANSFERS NEED TO HAPPEN.

>> IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE CAN HAVE, AT LEAST IN OUR OFFICES AND I AM SURE THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES WOULD APPRECIATE IT, TOO, A LIST, JUST A LIST OF WHAT'S OUR PART AND WHAT IS THE STATE.

>> SURE.

AND OUR SENIOR PLANNER ACTUALLY JUST DEVELOPED FOR US AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILOR KIM JANEY AS WELL.

IT DOES GET VERY CONFUSING. SOMETIMES THE SIGNS AROUND THAT BIG AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT. AT THE END OF THE DAY THE KIDS PLAYING SOCCER SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY WHETHER THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR'S PARK, THE PARK JUST NEEDS TO BE CLEAN.

WE ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH THAT LIST.

WE GENERATED IT OURSELVES.

>> I WILL SAVE THE REST OF MY QUESTIONS.

>> COUNCILOR FLYNN.

>> THANK YOU COUNCIL CIOMMO.

THANK YOU COMMISSIONER.

AS IT RELATES TO SAUNDERS STADIUM, WELL USED, SOCCER. IT ALSO HAS LACROSSE, TRACK AND FIELDS, AND ALSO USED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL KIDS AS WELL. WHAT IS THE LONG TERM PLAN FOR THAT STADIUM?

>> I AM LET LIZA TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE MOSLEY PARK VISION PLAN AND ETCH -- EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING THERE.

WOULD WOULD SAY THE PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS WE HAD A REALLY, REALLY STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE HAD AN ISSUE WITH CHRONIC HOMELESS IN SAWNEDER'S STADIUM WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. THE POLICE ARE GOING OVER THERE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING A LACROSSE GAME THEY HAD TO BREAK UP A HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT AND WE

ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT WORKING ON THAT.
LONG-TERM THE STADIUM IS
INTERESTING BECAUSE THE ACTIVITY
ARE VITAL AND IMPORTANT TO THE
SOUTH BOSTON IDENTITY.
PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER THE
CITY TO USE THIS SPACE.
BUT WHEN YOU REALLY LOOK AT SOME
OF THE SOUTH BOSTON GROUPS BASED
THERE, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY
VERSION OF THE PARK THAT DOESN'T
INCLUDE SOME SORT OF ATHLETIC
STADIUM.
AND IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE
STILL CALLED SAUNDERS.
WHAT I WILL SAY THAT IS THE
PRESIZE LOCATION OF THAT.
IS THAT THE RIGHT SIZE OF THAT?
IS THAT THE RIGHT TYPE OF FIELD?
BECAUSE THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS
ABOUT SAUNDERS THAT DOESN'T
WORK.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE MILES OF
STORAGE CONTAINERS THAT WE HAVE
OUT THERE, IT REALLY TAKES UP A
LOT OF SPACE.
AND IT ALSO CREATES THOSE
SHADOWY SPACES FOR BAD THINGS TO
HAPPEN IN THERE.
WHEN WE GO INTO FULL RENOVATION,
I THINK THE THINKING BEHIND
SAUNDERS HAS TO BE FIRST AND
FOREMOST.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO TALK
ABOUT THE VISION PLAN.
>> YOU KNOW THE VISION PLAN IS
UNDERWAY.
AND WE HAD ONE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
AND MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS TO
COME.
THROUGH THAT PROCESS, GAINING
INPUT FROM PARK USERS, AS WELL
AS PERMANENT HOLDERS THAT
FREQUENT THE SPACES.
AND THE ULTIMATE VISION WILL BE
ONE THAT BALANCES THESE KINDS OF
RECREATION, PERMIT USING A WITH
DEMAND FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE
AND NEIGHBORHOOD SPACES ALL IN
ONE PARK, WHICH WE FEEL
CONFIDENT WE CAN DO GIVEN THE
SIZE OF THE PARK.
>> THANK YOU, AND WE APPRECIATE

THATTISM AT THE PARK A COUPLE OF
TIMES A WEEK AND I NO HE THAT
COUNCILOR ESSAIBI GEORGE IS DOWN
THERE AS WELL.

IT IS WELL UTILIZED AND I THANK
YOU FOR YOUR HELP ON THAT ISSUE.
>> JUST SO YOU KNOW, THE SECOND
MOST PERMITTED PARK IN THE
SYSTEM AFTER BOSTON COMMON.