

**CITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 8, 2019
CITY OF PLATTSBURGH COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES
4:30PM**

Roll Call: Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read

Others Present: Councilors Armstrong, Council Ensel and Councilor McFarlin

Absent: Councilor Kelly

1. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILORS:

1. Presentations from the Livable Community Advisory Committee:

Paula Cormier, Environmental subcommittee, spoke about city parks submitted information.

George Wurster and Joan Janson, Infrastructure Committee subcommittee submitted information spoke about Saranac River, Reclamation site, Imperial Dam, Bike Path, trees, Boat tours on Lake, Recycling, Composting and general improvements

2. AGENDA ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM DEPARTMENTS TO BE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. Request from the City Chamberlain to adjust the 2019 budgets for the General, Water & Sewer Funds for additional PW Snow & Ice sand and salt purchases, and for adjusting the inter-fund revenues for administrative cost chargebacks to the Water and Sewer Funds, according to the budget adjustment memo dated August 1st, 2019, attached as supporting documentation for the meeting minutes along with the General Fund transfer justification worksheet based on the 2018 actual costs.

2. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff for Council to authorize entering in to a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation Agreement with Lyon Mountain Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town of Dannemora per the scope and reimbursement described in the memo (made part of the minutes of this meeting) subject to the final contract approval of the Mayor and City of Plattsburgh Corporation Counsel.

3. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH REVITALIZATION PROJECTS GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Mayor Read

(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. OLD BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Armstrong mentioned appearance of dead vegetation along bike path looks like herbicide was used.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Mayor Read
(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:17 pm

Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland

Appendix 1 Checklist for Municipalities Considering Parkland Alienation

1. What are the existing uses of the property being considered for alienation?
 - a. What is the character of the land? What types of natural or manmade resources are present on or adjacent to the parcel? For example: lakes, streams, forests, wetlands, scenic vistas, historic structures such as buildings or bridges, and archeological resources.
 - b. What kind of recreational opportunities exist on the parcel? For example: ball fields, picnic benches, pavilions, swimming pools, boat launches and docks, etc.
2. What are the current uses of the parkland? How much is the public relying on the parkland for recreational activities?
3. Are there adequate recreational opportunities within the municipality currently? If the parkland in question is alienated?
4. Is replacement land being proposed if the parkland in question is diverted to another use?
 - a. If so, what is the location of the substitute parcel?
 - b. Will it accommodate the current users of the parkland being alienated?
5. Is this parkland alienation being considered as part of a larger plan on a local, regional, or statewide level?
6. What are the factors that led to the municipality considering the alienation of parkland?

7. What is the proposed use of the parkland being considered for alienation?

a. Will this proposed use increase demand for recreational activities in the area?

For example, will the proposed use result in an increase in the population of the area adding more individuals who would then seek recreational opportunities?

8. Are there other locations that could accommodate that proposed use?

9. Have the residents of the community had an opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the decision to alienate the parkland?

10. What is the appraised value of the parkland being considered for alienation? The replacement parcel?

a. If the parkland has received Federal funding, do the appraisals meet the Federal Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions?

Name of Municipality:

Name of Park:

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Appendix 2 Parkland Alienation Form: Municipality Information

Revised 2017

The following form should be completed by the Municipality that is seeking to alienate parkland. Copies should be provided to the Members of the Senate and Assembly who will be sponsoring the legislation authorizing the alienation and to the Regional Grants Representative of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION FORM

Lands Being Alienated or Discontinued

1. Has the proposed alienation been analyzed under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and applicable local laws?

a. If so, and if the review documents provide the answers to the following questions, you may substitute the review documents for this questionnaire.

2. How did the Municipality acquire the parkland being alienated?

3. When was the parkland acquired?

4. What is, in acres, the size of the park in which the land being alienated is located?

5. What is its name (if not given above)? Has the park ever been called something else?

6. What is the size, in acres, of the specific parcel being alienated?

7. Were State or Federal funds used in the acquisition or development of any portion of the park in which the land being alienated is located? If the answer is "Yes" please provide some details about the amount of the grant, its source, date of award and for what purpose it was used.

8. How is the land to be alienated currently used?

9. Are there any structures 50 years old or older on the property? Are any of the structures listed in the State or National Register of Historic Places? Does the property contain archeological resources?

10. Does the property contain wetlands, streams, significant habitats, or other similar features?

11. What is the reason the land is being alienated?

12. Describe any alternatives which would make the alienation unnecessary and why they were rejected.

13. How will any remaining parkland be affected by the alienation?

14. What impacts, including aesthetic, historic, environmental, social, cultural and recreational impacts, will the alienation of this parkland have on the surrounding neighborhood?

15. What public facility will provide residents of the community with park or recreational facilities to take the place of those being alienated?

16. Will other land be dedicated for park purposes to replace the land being alienated? If so, please answer the questions on the next page.

8/8/19 Submitted by
Paula Cormier

Create City LakeFront Park

Expanding lake assets
For
Adults and Children

Parks are Important

People value the time they spend in city parks, whether walking a dog, running, riding a bike or having a picnic. Along with these activities, parks can also provide measurable health benefits, from providing direct contact with nature and a cleaner environment, to opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access.

City parks and open space improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work.

There's good evidence that sitting or eating outdoors, even just touching a tree, has a measurable impact on your psychological health.

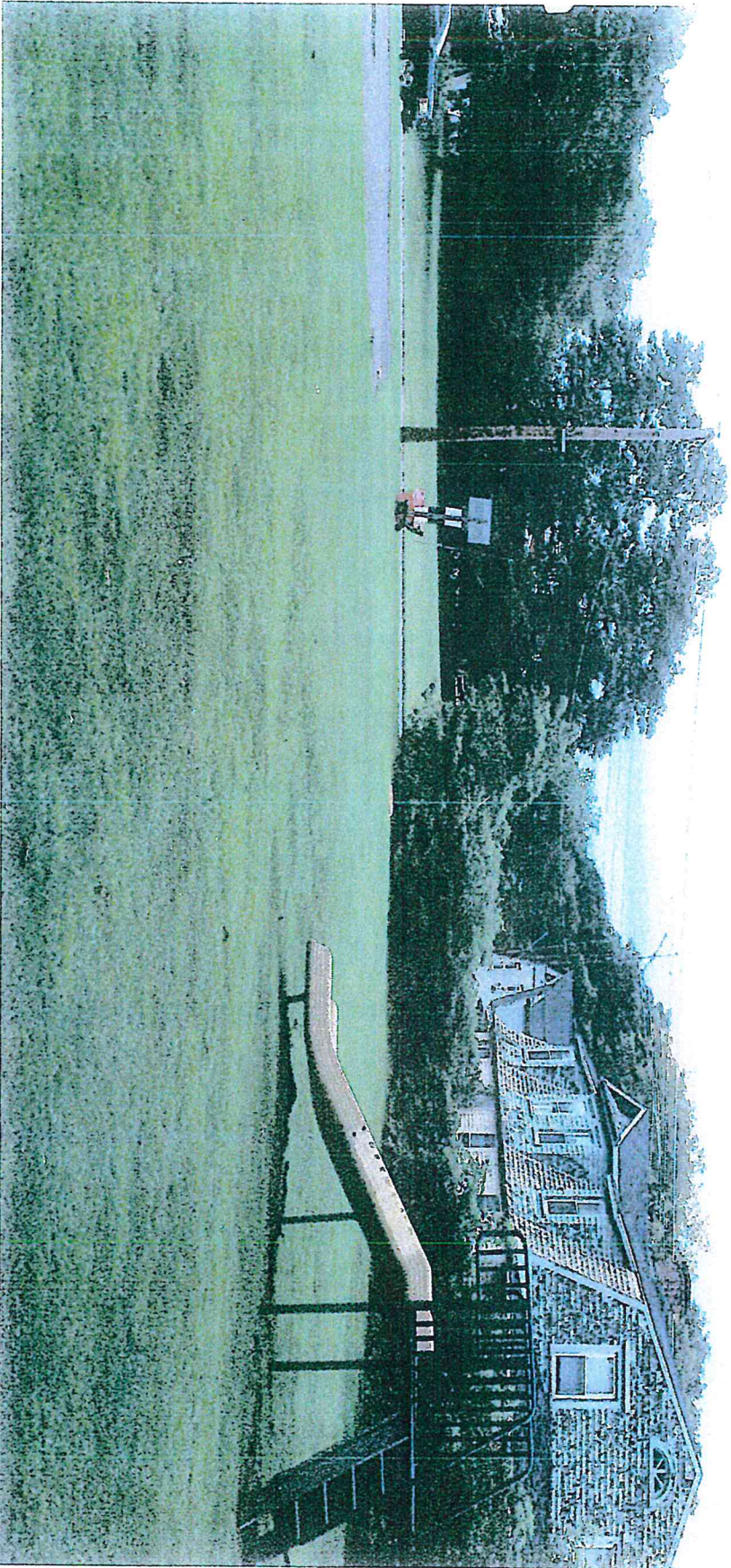
Parks are Important

In this increasingly fast paced world, parks and recreation facilities and programs provide the opportunity for something we desire most... the chance to take a breath and to relax - to refresh our mind, body and spirit.

Hamilton Street Playground



Hamilton Street Playground



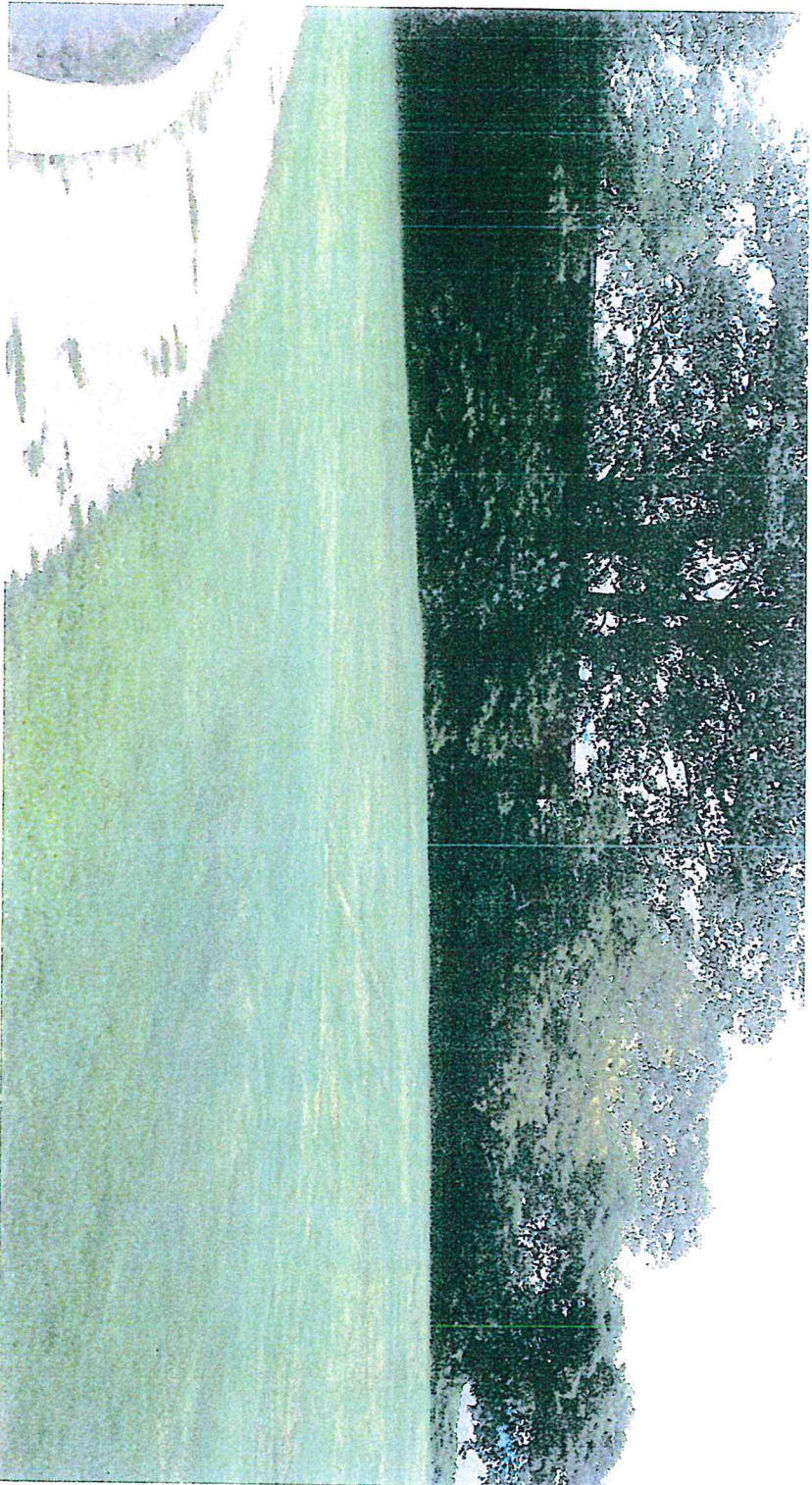
Hamilton Street Playground



Move Hamilton Street Playground and Create a new
LakeFront Park on Jay Street unused city property



LakeFront Park Property



LakeFront Property



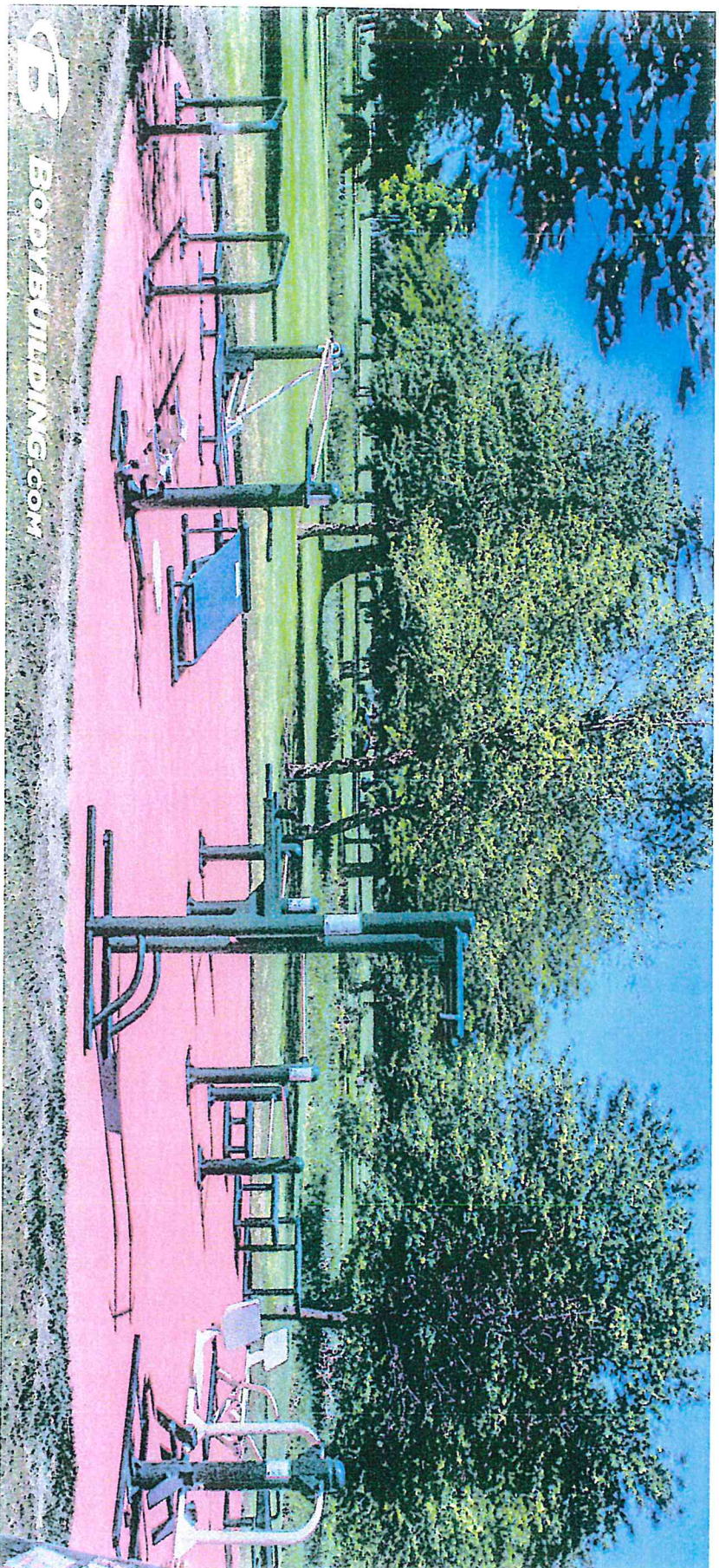
LakeFront Park

- City property - underutilized
- Beautiful view of the Lake
- Adjoining Terry Gordon walking and biking trail is heavily used
- Transition Hamilton Street Playground into multi use park
- Room for expanded recreational opportunities for adults and children
- Create space to picnic, stop, sit and enjoy the view
- Within the Downtown Revitalization Initiative area

Example of Park redesign possibilities



Park Outdoor Exercise Equipment



Park redesign possibilities



LakeFront Park

Creates multi user site and expands recreational opportunities

Playground for children

Exercise equipment for adults

Picnic area and benches

Opportunity and space for additional ideas

Compliments and enhances Terry Gordon Trail activities

Cost to develop LakeFront Park

Remove trees to open lake view

Add fence to block access to train tracks

Remove existing playground equipment and reinstall at LakeFront Park

Redesign space to include picnic tables, benches and separated areas for playground and adult exercise equipment

Purchase outdoor exercise equipment

Add additional play and exercise options (sandbox, balance beams, etc.

Build Park restroom facility

Revenue Options

Sale of Hamilton street playground lot -- assessed at \$44,000

Ongoing tax revenue from 3-4 unit apartment building -- \$3- 4,000/yr

Community volunteers - help dismantle Hamilton playground equipment and install equipment in LakeFront Park

Establish Go fund Me account for playground and outdoor exercise equipment

Explore Grant funding

8/8/19

Submitted by George Wurster
and Joan Janson

Plattsburgh Livability Committee
Environmental Sub-Committee Recommendations

Infrastructure Committee - Common Council

4:30 pm Thursday, August 8th, 2019

- A. The Saranac River
 - 1. The River Itself
 - Lake Champlain & The Saranac River are Plattsburgh's greatest assets
 - Both of these must be clean to be usable
 - Volunteer groups, tie into Earth Day
 - Feasibility study to see what types of watercraft are appropriate and considerations of seasonality
 - Economic study to examine impacts
 - Greater walkability requires more bridges
 - Consideration for fisherfolk
 - 2. Reclamation Site
 - Finish the clean up and release it to the City
 - push GE as there is no activity now and hasn't been for quite a while
 - Ideas: amphitheater, music venue, park space
 - 3. Imperial Dam
 - Fish ladder or dam out
 - Salmon are returning to Lk Champlain
- B. Bike Path
 - Need poop stations with free bags
 - Need garbage bins
 - Should extend from Wilcox dock to Battle of P Commemoration Park
- C. Trees
 - City needs to develop a program to plant trees
 - Organize groups to volunteer (Scouts, garden clubs, Lowe's, etc) and take advantage of Arbor Day
 - Obtain resident input about where and what to plant, consider a "you buy it, we plant it" program with trees from Soil Conservation Districts

D. Boat Tours on Lake Champlain

- At least two types of offerings
 - 1) shuttle to Valcour / history cruise
 - graveyard on Valcour Island accessible for hikers & history buffs
 - 2) dinner cruise

E. Recycling & Composting

- Examine programs from other communities
- Composting stations in each ward
- Christmas tree pick-up and lawn waste composting
- Considering burning wood waste to generate electricity

F. General Improvements

- Public restrooms readily available (numerous) and well maintained
- Every attempt made to keep river frontage available for public use
- Consideration given to visuals, views of mtns and water for any new project