



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on

Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks

Kendra Lara, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 10, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0653 An order to authorize the Parks and Recreation Commission to take eminent domain for Park and Community Preservation purposes, and to grant a conservation restriction on two parcels on Sprague Pond in Hyde Park.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on May 25, 2022. A public hearing was held on Thursday, June 9, 2022. Reverend Mariama White-Hammond is the Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, Aldo Ghirin, Senior Planner, of the Boston Parks & Recreation Department and Joseph Bagley, City Archaeologist, Director of Archaeology gave the committee an update and overview of the process. Due to legal constraints, the Administration could not go into great details concerning the status. Representative Rob Consalvo testified in support adding that a number of Hyde Park Neighborhood Community groups are in support of the City's plan for Sprague Pond. The Chair noted that her concern was compensation with the owner after speaking with the Administration she believes the owner will be fairly compensated fairly for the property and for damages.

Summary of Legislation

Docket 0653 is an order where the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, for the community preservation purposes of providing a park, passive recreation, natural, historical, cultural, and archaeological resource conservation, and public access to the Great Pond known as Sprague Pond, be, and hereby is, authorized to take by eminent domain in accordance with G.L. Chapter 79, Chapter 185 of the Acts of 1875, and (IL. Chapter 44 B, Section 5 (c) the fee simple interest, inclusive of trees and structures sumding upon and affixed thereto, of two Parcels of land at Unnumbered (aka "0") and 4 Lakeside Avenue in the Hyde Park District, consisting of 51,545 square feet more or less (1.18± acres) of open land identified in the records of the Assessing Department as Parcels 1812998000 and 1812999000 respectively, and shown as "Parcel — A" on a survey titled 'Plan of Land Taken for Park and Passive Recreation Purposes by the Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Boston, 0-4 Lakeside Avenue. Hyde Park District, Boston, MA' dated May 18, 2022, and prepared by Joyce Consulting Group, PC, Braintree, Massachusetts, and to enter into all contracts, agreements, or documents and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to effect said taking. In accordance with G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5 (c), the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston for the community preservation purposes cited above, using Community

Preservation Fund monies appropriated to the Open Space Acquisition Fund of the Parks and Recreation Department by votes of the City Council on March 31, 2021 and April 12, 2022, is hereby authorized to expend said Community Preservation Fund monies for the purpose of paying any by the Parks and Recreation Commission for which the City of Boston may be liable by reason of this taking for community preservation purposes. BE IT FURTHER{ ORDERED: That the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, be, and hereby is, authorized to grant a perpetual conservation restriction in said parcels of land to the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation in accordance with G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 12(a) and G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33. and to enter into all agreements and documents and to execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to affect said perpetual conservation restriction.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks , I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kendra Lara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kendra" and last name "Lara" clearly distinguishable.

Kendra Lara, Chair
Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks