Concord School Board
City and Community Relations Committee
Meeting with Concord City Officials
November 30, 2018

Committee members present: Clint Cogswell, Chair, Liza Poinier, Maureen Redmond-Scura
Committee member absent: Chuck Crush
Other School Board members present: Tom Croteau, Nathan Fennessy
City officials present: Jim Bouley, Mayor, Tom Aspell, City Manager, Jennifer Kretovic, City Councilor, Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager, Stefanie Phillips, City Public Information Officer, David Gill, Director, Parks & Recreation
Administration: Terri Forsten, Superintendent, Matt Cashman, Facilities Director

Clint Cogswell called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and reviewed the agenda, including discussion of the School District brochure, demographics study, school facilities update, Memorial Field, zoning study, public and private construction projects and permits, Continuing Education/communications/Community Center and City road projects.

School District brochure
Superintendent Forsten shared a rough draft copy of the District brochure being created to share information about the District and to market the quality of Concord public schools to parents, realtors and the business community. Tom Aspell introduced Stefanie Phillips, City Public Information Officer, as someone who could also review the draft, offer feedback and support the plan to share the finished brochure on the City’s website.

Demographics study
Superintendent Forsten noted that the District has contracted with Davis Demographics from Texas to create a demographic report that will project school enrollment for the coming years. This report is expected to support decision-making processes as the School Board considers the development of a new middle school facility. Mr. Aspell suggested that it may be important for the Board to review the City’s zoning study as well.

School facilities update
Matt Cashman offered an update on several projects the District completed over the summer, or projects that are currently underway. He expressed appreciation to the City team that worked so well with the District team throughout the Warren Street road project by Concord High School; the District appreciated being a part of those ongoing conversations. Jim Bouley asked whether the new parking and modified traffic curbing at CHS was effective. Superintendent Forsten confirmed that the District saw the change to short-term parking on Warren Street in front of CHS as positive; the curbing provides safer
walking areas. Mr. Cashman spoke about roofing projects that were completed this summer at CHS and at Broken Ground School. He provided information on the current safety and security project at CHS that includes installing cameras, new outside doors and controlled access to the facility.

Memorial Field

As the City continues to explore the development of a large, multi-use, turf athletic field, costs associated with the maintenance of Memorial Field are becoming challenging. The bleachers need to be replaced and should offer ADA accessibility; the projected cost is estimated $1.3 million. Mayor Bouley suggested that as the District athletic teams are the main user of the fields, the District might consider supporting the cost of the replacement of the bleachers and other necessary upgrades by applying for financial support under state building aid (if and when it becomes available again).

Zoning study

The City team discussed its ongoing zoning Study. Carlos Baia stated that zoning regulations guiding construction in Concord have not been reviewed for many years. An updated zoning study will be instrumental to the City’s goal of supporting, easing and encouraging construction.

Public and private construction projects and permits

City staff have just completed their tally of the number of permits administered this past year – 503 total permits represents the highest number of permits in over ten years. This includes several housing developments; the Heights continues to gain restaurants and businesses.

Continuing Education/Communications/Community Center and City road projects

Mr. Cashman spoke to the successful collaboration between the City and District as the road construction project was completed on Warren Street by CHS last June. David Gill spoke to the positive connection from high school athletes to City youth recreation leagues, as they run clinics to support skill development. Mr. Gill highlighted that there are 14 successful adult education courses at the new community center (fka Dame School). The newly-renovated facility is being well used and has potential for future program development.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Terri Forsten, Recorder