

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS CAN PLAY ON LIVING GRASS – IT IS SAFER AND MORE FLEXIBLE

Dear Finance Committee members,

My name is Lara Thompson. I live at 53 Playstead Road Malden, MA 02148. I ask that you vote "No" regarding Order 139-23 and 140-23.

My neighbors and myself ask that a reconciliation of the project expenditures related to the Roosevelt Park project be conducted and presented for review by the Finance Committee.

Roosevelt Park has had iterations of cost increases that have yet to be properly documented.

Timeline of Cost Increases for this project:

5-1-2018	\$2.4M	CPA Pre Application- Project Cost Projection
9-4-2018	\$2.6M	CPA Application
9-25-2020	\$3.6M	Project Increases (Additional \$1.2M Section 108 Loan CBDG HUD)
4-25-2023	\$6.1M	Project Increases (Additional \$2.5M requested by Mayor Christenson)

Before additional spending can be considered, these cost increases, as well as the more than \$600,000 that has already been spent with no ground broken at Roosevelt Park must be identified. There must be an accountability standard of spending to budgeted cost reconciliation enforced by the Finance Committee.

Why hasn't the City of Malden sought out Brownfield Grant Funds as mentioned by Councillor Winslow in the Board of Health meeting? Councillor Winslow stated that the City could secure these funds to clean up the lead contamination?

As an adjacent park neighbor to Roosevelt Park, I do not want to lose the last environmental benefit for my precinct 5-1. I do not want to have a second multi acre plastic field in my precinct 5-1. I do not want to be sandwiched between 2 large multi turf plastic fields. I do not want to be under the weight of an increasing heat island. I do not want to have my neighborhood at risk of flooding because of the loss of our natural flood basin. I do not want the increasing costs associated with climate change and living between 2 large environmental hazards. I do not want the risks to my family and my neighbors' families due to 24/7 exposure to high levels of PFAS in the soil, in the water and in the air. I believe that to knowingly exposing a neighborhood and school to these environmental hazards by placing a multi acre plastic turf field next to their homes is reckless and irresponsible. It certainly is not environmentally responsible. There is no environmental justice, and anyone associated with this project cannot consider themselves an advocate for environmental justice or equity.

It seems sports can be played on living grass as they are played on many other parks in the city with living grass. Roosevelt Park must remain living grass to allow the park to function as it does today. It is a park for sports, but it is also a passive recreation living grass space for the neighborhood and the students of the Salemwood School. It is our neighborhood park.