



# City of Malden

Malden City Hall  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

## Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

*Councillor-at-Large McDonald, Chair*  
*Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair*  
*Councillor O'Malley*  
*Councillor-at-Large Colon-Hayes*  
*Councillor Simonelli*  
*Councillor Linehan*

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Tuesday, May 9, 2023

6:00 PM

215 Pleasant Street  
Room 105  
Malden, MA 02148

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[https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/rec/share/JTjvSjejbz97Qnl2MH8hVb1CPcWrgppTe4Hu\\_T\\_7MSdBQQBluf7Spdp6X76TWzi.wKcNRllfmShTiua9?startTime=1683668573000](https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/rec/share/JTjvSjejbz97Qnl2MH8hVb1CPcWrgppTe4Hu_T_7MSdBQQBluf7Spdp6X76TWzi.wKcNRllfmShTiua9?startTime=1683668573000)

### Roll Call

*Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.*

*Also in attendance were Deb Burke, Alex Pratt, and Steve O'Neil representing OSPCD, Charlie Confrey and Laura Perez representing MHS Athletics and Recreation Department, Ron Hogan, Treasurer Daniel Grover, Special Assistant to the Mayor Maria Luise, Assistant City Solicitor Zaheer Samee, Councillors Murphy, Crowe, Winslow, Spadafora, Sica and several members of the public.*

**Present:** 6 - Councillor at Large Carey McDonald, Councillor Paul Condon, Ryan O'Malley, Karen Colon Hayes, Chris Simonelli and Amanda Linehan

### Minutes to be Approved

[188-23](#)

Minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2023

**A motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

### Tabled Papers

*The meeting began with a handout comparing the option of turf versus grass as well as a PowerPoint presentation on park utilization, field limitations, and expectations of the city fields. Copies of both are attached to the histories of Papers 139 and 140-23. Once the presentation by Charlie Confrey and Laura Perez concluded, Chair McDonald opened the room up for questions.*

*Councillor O'Malley asked for clarification on the chart showing scheduled use hours for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. Chart shows use in the park as well as on the field. Councillor asked also how locations are issued when field time is requested. First come, first served preference is given provided the location is available. If it isn't available, the Recreation Department works with the organization to find another location that will be equally appropriate to their needs.*

Councillor Condon commented on how good the field at Macdonald Stadium currently looks with details of the maintenance program. At over eleven years old, the field looks brand new and only costs approximately \$10,000 annually to maintain the city's three turf fields.

Councillor Colon-Hayes commented that she comes from a big sports family and knows we need more sporting opportunities within the city but believes that can be done on grass instead of turf.

Councillor Simonelli has been doing further research on turf fields since the last meeting. All things considered; turf is the way to go to meet the needs of the city. Spoke also of the need for Maplewood Park to be upgraded with a multi-use overlay to support baseball and soccer in the same park. Is grateful for the further information offered by panelists but feels this project has been discussed enough and is in favor of moving Roosevelt forward.

Councillor Winslow asked for time estimates on field hockey, softball and if they are being restrained at this time? For fear of an exact guess being incorrect, Mr. Confrey did express concern for junior varsity field hockey, comparing it to the absence of freshman girls soccer program, which is dying out. Conservative estimate, 300 hours annually of missed time between the two sports. Is afraid of seeing a lack of participation in sports due to lack of time and space. Sports isn't just about winning a game, it is more about having an extension of the school day and having more time for teachers, coaches, administrators to work with students even outside of the classroom. Increased physical activity and decreased mental health issues through active play.

Chair McDonald asked the design team how many more hours of usable time they would add to Roosevelt Park if it were a turf field? It is expected the average play time would increase and fall more in line with what is seen at other city fields. He then asked how Hunting Field can get so many play hours with grass instead of turf. Here we have a scenario where the field is being used but that doesn't mean it's in good shape. The play hours are divided up by soccer, softball, gym, and recess.

### [139-23](#)

Order: That \$1.3 million of available general fund free cash is appropriated to fund additional costs associated with the improvements to Roosevelt Park

**Sponsors:** Carey McDonald

**Attachments:** [Final Paper: 139-23](#)

[Mayor's Finance Follow Up Letter May 9 2023](#)

[Mayor's Memo on Roosevelt Park 3 28 23](#)

[Turf vs Grass May 9 2023](#)

[Park Utilization Overview](#)

[OSPCD Roosevelt finance presentation April 25 2023](#)

**A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Order be taken from the table to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Order be tabled to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[140-23](#)

Order: That One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) is appropriated to pay costs related to a change in scope of the Roosevelt Park Revitalization Project to excavate additional soils down to a level of three feet, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. c. 44, s7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefore

**Sponsors:** Carey McDonald

**Attachments:** [Final Paper: 140-23](#)

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**A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Order be taken from the table to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Order be tabled to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[167-23](#)

Minutes of April 11, 2023 to be approved.

[168-23](#)

Minutes of April 18, 2023 to be approved.

## Adjournment

**A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03.**