

To: Malden City Councilors,

Date: February 9, 2025

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: Resolve 80-25: That it is the sense of the Malden City Council that they express their support for the Sale of Surplus Property for the Purpose of Affordable Home Ownership.
- Oak Grove Community Building

Please consider the following in regards to the selling of the Oak Grove Community Building. Many of you may not know but this building is listed on the **Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS)** as historical. But I believe its true value is not just the age or the architectural design but in the use of the building throughout the years!

Oak Grove Improvement Association, Inc., established in 1897 was the catalyst for the construction of the 1927 Oak Grove Community Building. Since then, the Community Building has been a focal point of many celebrations including the 4th of July, tree lightings and holiday parties. It has been used up to 7-days a week comprised of art groups, civic groups and organizations throughout Malden, such as Malden Youth Soccer, Girl Scouts, Pop Warner, Malden Little League, AA groups, Boy Scouts, a Shakespeare project, the planning of the Harvest Moon Festival, a voting precinct, a kindergarten, a Teen Center, a public meeting place, and so much more...

For almost 100 years, the Oak Grove Community Building has given people a place and the opportunity to gather as a community to solve problems, vent frustrations, laugh, work together, share their knowledge, volunteer, create, be inspired and give back to the city that they live in. Being able to provide a space like this helps us as a community, to bring together like-minded people for the same goal of fostering a rewarding and engaging community.

Presently Oak Grove Improvement Association is working with the City on an approved grant by our citizen-led Community Preservation Committee (CPC), City Council and mayor for design plans to reopen the Community Building. These funds do not impact the City budget as they funded by the citizens through a tax and a percentage matched by the state.

It is our hope to obtain additional grants from other sources as well to reopen this asset back to the community! Together we can!

Thank you!

[Carol Melle](#)

Carol Melle, Resident

35 Wyoming Avenue, Malden, MA

Oak Grove Improvement Association, Inc.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**