From:	Kari Percival
To:	Carol Ann Desiderio
Cc:	FriendsofRooseveltPark
Subject:	Re: Important Agenda Items Please Email the City Council-Roosevelt Park
Date:	Sunday, March 26, 2023 6:00:54 PM

Dear Malden City Clerk Carol Desiderio,

Please read my comments into the record for the City Council Meeting:

Dear Mayor Christenson and Malden City Council Members,

We, neighbors and residents of Roosevelt Park, are worthy of a living grass park, and so are our children who attend the Salemwood School. Just like the neighbors of Devir Park and Trafton park, we are important stakeholders and our voices count. We don't want our living grass park removed in order to laminate it with plastic turf. The living vegetation cools the neighborhood during heat waves. Adding a heat island during a climate crisis in one of the hottest environmental justice neighborhoods in the city is wrong: School children will be forced to play there during their recess at the hottest time of day, even if their parents have legitimate health and safety concerns about plastic turf. Student athletes have told me how at a high school soccer tryouts on plastic turf, they and their team mates got heat-related illnesses: one was vomitting and one fainted from the heat. Many sports parents have told me they prefer real grass, but are afraid to speak up because they want their kids on the team. Plastic turf is bad for our athletes' health: they are more at risk for lower body injuries, concussions, dehydration, and heat-related illness. Kids with asthma, obesity and chemical sensitivities are more at risk on hot plastic turf. No parent wants these risks for their kids. Everyone would benefit from living grass, and the people of Ward 5-1 are worthy of living green space.

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