



# City of Malden

Malden City Hall  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

## Meeting Minutes - Final Public Property Committee

*Councillor McDonald, Chair  
Councillor O'Malley, Vice Chair  
Councillor Spadafora*

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Tuesday, February 6, 2024

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room #105  
215 Pleasant Street

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### Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Councillor Carey McDonald, Councillor Ryan O'Malley and Craig Spadafora

Also Present: Council President Winslow, Councillors Taylor and Linehan  
Alicia McNeil-City Solicitor

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

### Minutes to be Approved

#### Business

##### [53-24](#)

Order: That the City Council review the usage of the vacant property on Goodwin Avenue known by City Assessor's Parcel 091 776 612 and make a recommendation as to its future usage and feasibility as a community garden.

**Sponsors:** Ari Taylor

*Councillor McDonald stated for the record that this is the first meeting of the year for Public Property. We do anticipate a unified committee but are not structurally there yet so this is formally a meeting of the Public Property Committee. The item is Paper #53-24 Order that the City Council review the usage of the vacant property on Goodwin Avenue known by City Assessor's Parcel 091 776 612 and make a recommendation as to its future usage and feasibility as a community garden.*

*Councillor Taylor is present as the sponsor of the paper. She gave a brief explanation of the property and explains that the resident at 20 Goodwin is interested and excited to utilize the land for usage of a public garden or public herb garden. She does not intend to purchase the land. The intent is to hold a public meeting with the abutters to engage the public interest to see what they would like to do. She has reached out to Julie Mangan about a license as a community garden like an annex with smaller lofts. She asked this be approved tonight with the following conditions in place to hold the community meeting, a contract would be put in place of who would be responsible for this public garden and put a process together for the oversight of the space. The community engagement would happen once the abutters which will include parts of Floral, Forest, Goodwin and Gordon Streets.*

*Councillor Winslow suggests asking CPC if they have funds to survey the land and/or reach out to the Assessor's Office or Steve Fama to get additional information about the land.*

*Councillor McDonald said the central question in this is that we have never been in a situation here there is a license to grant we do not have to create a license but as the City Council has authority we could approve this happening but it is precedent setting. The question is what is the precedent we want to set in regards to this in what we are allowing to happen, the amount of time, why under what terms as there are a lot of these parcels of city land which would be great to have someone invest in but we need to know procedurally how we do that to be clear about how we move forward with this.*

*Councillor Winslow suggests it may be straight forward to say it is the sense of the City Council that we support the community garden program to explore the feasibility of this property with the neighborhood as a use of a community garden with the Ward Councillor.*

*Councillor Taylor said that would be great to move forward to come up conditions and a process which makes it easier in the future if there are other non-buildable lots available.*

*Councillor Spadafora said he is for this but he is agreeable we need to set a precedent and have some ground rules but he also said it is important to have a form process. We have to have a standard for this. Councillor Winslow said there is a community garden program contract that former Solicitor Fallon has drawn up to be signed by every community gardener. There is already a process in place which is a year to year thing. Councillor McDonald said the terms of the usage related to the community garden is very helpful but still someone has to decide the plot of the land and who gets to use it.*

*Councillor Taylor feels that these are the things that would be worked out at the community meeting where these are all the questions we have got answered.*

*Councillor Spadafora said his question is does this committee have the authority to determine the use of this property? The committee asked Alicia McNeil, City Solicitor if she had an opinion on their ability to decide on the usage of City Property. She did not have an opinion at the meeting, but will get one for the Chair of the Committee.*

*Councillor McDonald asked for a copy of the community garden agreement which is in place.*

*Councillor Winslow feels it is under the supervision of the Recreation Department to establish a community garden.*

*Councillor Spadafora said he would support that because you can't have fifteen different agreements.*

*Councillor Taylor said that does make it unified. The committee decided to table this paper pending results of community outreach and discussing with Joe Levine, Director of Rec. Dept.*

**A motion was made by Councillor Spadafora, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that the Order be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## **Other Business**

## **Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Councillor Spadafora, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:03 PM. The motion carried unanimously.**