

Resolution 2022-02

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

January 20, 2022

Parks Commission Actions

Whereas, municipal ordinance provides that community councils shall have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of, and to review and comment upon, all land use, social and economic proposals which will have a significant impact on district residents and timely notice with regard to the processing, hearing, and appeal of matters is supplemental to other code-required notice to community councils, and

Whereas, the NECC bylaws specifically undertake the rights and responsibilities with respect to such matters per Article V of said bylaws, and

Whereas, municipal ordinance specifically provide the NECC with oversight responsibilities regarding RJSP in as much as the park is a regional facility within 1000 feet of the council boundary, and

Whereas, MOA Parks and Recreation never presented the draft RJSP Master Plan for Council review, never corresponded with the council (which is to take place through the President of the Council), never requested Council response to the draft, and never formally considered the positions taken by the Council with respect to the park, and

Whereas, the first notice that the NECC Board had of the publication of the draft plan was on or about November 1, 2021, and

Whereas, MOA Parks and Rec. refused to honor requests from the Council's Board, the Council's Committees, and numerous members of the public requesting that the plan not be presented for approval by the Parks and Rec Commission until it has undergone a full public comment period of at least two months, and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission presented with requests to delay consideration by the Board of the NECC, by the NECC Parks and Trail Committee, and by members of the public in order to accommodate adequate public comment and P&R response to the draft during this period of pandemic, refused to accommodate those persons in any way shape or form, and

Whereas, Parks and Rec have an extended history and continuing practice of ignoring the aforementioned obligations with respect to the NECC as has been repeatedly documented to the Assembly, resulting eventually in Federation of Community Council action, and

Whereas, community councils are barred from acting except at a general council meeting properly noticed, and

Whereas, the first opportunity for the NECC trails committee to meet subsequent to the publication of the draft was January 5, 2022, and it made it clear to P&R and to the PRC that it would be unable to complete its work on the draft in time to address P&R's request to have the draft approved by the Commission, and

Whereas, this is the first council meeting since the committee met and there was no council meeting in December, NECC meetings occurring the third Thursday of each month, and

Whereas, the draft plan is 150 pages and containing hundreds of unaddressed issues, and

Whereas, in the matter of the draft RJSP has ignored the existing adopted resolutions of the NECC with regard to RJSP.

Now therefore the council resolves, that it categorically rejects the actions of the Parks Commission as contrary to current ordinance in that it acted specifically to deny this community council an opportunity to be heard on the plan before adopting the plan, action contrary to both spirit and word of the Municipal Ordinances, and

Be it further resolved that the council cannot endorse proposed any municipal plan absent the municipality complying with ordinance providing for the collaboration of this community council, especially where this council has specific park oversight, and

Be it further resolved that the NECC request that the PRZ return the plan to the Parks Commission with instructions for the Parks to Commission to require that Parks and Rec create a public comment period, that it specifically collect and respond to comment for a period of no less than 90 days, whereupon P&R may resubmit the draft plan to the Parks Commission for consideration.

Date: January 20, 2022

Votes for: 6

Votes Against: 2

Abstain: 2

Motion Passes / Motion Does Not Pass

President: 

T'Shalla Baker

Secretary: 

Rachel Boudreau