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Public Services Department
Michael J. Bobinsky

To: Dory Ann Waxman, City Councilor at Large and Chair of Health and Recreation Committee
John Anton, City Councilor at Large
Cheryl Leeman, City Council District 4

From: Michael J. Bobinsky, Director of Public Services

Date: May 12, 2011

Subject: **Recommendation on Brentwood Cemetery Parcel Master Plan**

Introduction

The Health and Recreation Committee considered a request at their March 2011 meeting to adopt the Brentwood Cemetery Master Plan and recommend approval of an amendment to incorporate the changes into the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Brentwood Cemetery Master Plan has been approved by the Historic Preservation Board and the Planning Board, and awaits approval by the City Council. Presentations on the recommendations were made by Department of Public Services staff, and representatives of the Friends of Evergreen. In addition, representatives of the Deering Center Neighborhood Association (DCNA) provided comment on the recommendations and expressed concerns about the Master Plan. The meeting ended with staff from the Department of Public Services offering to facilitate discussions with both the Friends of the Cemetery and DCNA representatives, with the goal of resolving differences over future use the Brentwood Cemetery parcel.

Background

Two (2) meetings were held with the Friends and DCNA representatives at the Department of Public Services office on May 2 and on May 9. The meetings served to better understand DCNA concerns and to consider how those concerns might be addressed. A copy of the meeting agenda's and meeting notes are attached for information. Councilor Waxman was able to attend the May 2, 2011 meeting. During the meetings staff highlighted the fact that the while the Planning Board approved the Master Plan each phase would be required to go through the Planning Departments' Site Plan Review Process which will allow for final design and construction details to be approved prior to implementation.

Recommendations

Following the two meetings and in consideration for advancing the request to adopt the Brentwood Master Plan to the Health and Recreation Committee and the City Council staff offers the following recommendations:

1. Adopt the Brentwood Cemetery Master Plan as approved by the Historic Preservation Board and the Planning Board including the Planning Board's conditions, and clarify that Phase II of the Master Plan recognizes and incorporates the community garden as a temporary use, subject to the City's needs for this property for active cemetery functions. Phase I of the Plan incorporates

the community garden function and assumes space continues for this program. Both Department staff and the Friends of Evergreen are supportive of this change.

2. Allow for renewal of the 5 year lease arrangement with the Deering Center Neighborhood Association for continued use of 2 acres of the property for the community garden program subject to the needs of the City for cemetery and burial space as described in the Brentwood Cemetery Master Plan, and or neighborhood issues.
3. Recognizing the growing interest and need for community garden programs in Portland neighborhoods, initiate a comprehensive assessment of candidate properties that could support locations for this program. The assessment of properties would take into account candidate public properties, zoning and land use conditions, location to neighborhoods, pedestrian and vehicle access issues, traffic concerns and conditions and expectations for the City or community volunteers to properly maintain and manage the program. The Department of Public Services would be the lead Department on this assessment and would involve staff from other Departments including Planning and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services, along with interested community volunteers and stakeholder representatives. The assessment effort would consult with other groups such as the Land Bank Commission, Tax Acquired Properties Committee and the Planning Board. Given interest in this program it is recommended that this effort get under way beginning in the summer of 2011 with a goal of completing an initial phase of this assessment within a year.

The Department of Public Services appreciates the opportunity to assist the Health and Recreation Committee and the City Council with this recommendation and to work with both the DCNA community garden program and the Friends of Evergreen Cemetery on this important community development project. We applaud the efforts of the volunteers from DCNA who are working toward addressing a very growing community need and the efforts of the Friends of Evergreen for providing funding assistance and volunteer time for the development of an effective master plan for the Brentwood parcel that will meet cemetery needs into the future. This is truly an example of two positive community efforts working toward a successful collaborative and successful outcome.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please let me know.

