

APPENDIX E

Public Involvement

City of Springfield MA Public Meetings

The following captures all of the of discussions that have taken place at City and public meetings regarding the ECOS Center project subject to this EA. In an effort to streamline, only the ECOS Center topics have been pulled. The meetings contained multiple topics such as; Strategic Plan, High School course changes, counseling policies, personal reports, new business, and other topics and specific projects.

1. From the **Thursday April 2, 2009: “Minutes of Regular Session School Committee Meeting”** held by Springfield Public Schools.

These notes were collected by Patricia Walsh-Secretary of the School Committee

Under the section “Reports of Standing Committees” Section B-Building & Maintenance Committee:

- ECOS showed a model of the photovoltaic that they will be building. Mr. Collins indicated this project will save the city money. The cost of building the photovoltaic will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000 with a payback period of 8 years. There is a state grant for \$19,000.

2. From **the Monday March 22, 2010: “City Council Regular Meeting”** held by City Council members.

These notes were available on the City’s website

Under “Orders”:

- (18) Resolve. Acknowledging the renovation of Clifford A. Phaneuf Environmental Center (Ferrarra)-Read and after debate and passed by a majority voice vote with Councilor Twiggs absence and Councilor Wright abstaining.

3. From the **Thursday February 3, 2011: “Minutes of Regular Session School Committee Meeting”** held by Springfield Public Schools.

These notes were collected by Patricia Walsh-Secretary of the School Committee

Under: “Items Requiring a Vote of the School Committee”:

- Dr. Ingram explained that the item of voting for the second phase of the Clifford Phaneuf Building at ECOS would be tabled until further financial information could be obtained. Atty. Murphy indicated he had no problem voting on this item tonight because he did not wish to delay the project and urged the committee to take a vote. As explained, although the City

and the committee are very supportive of the project, we need to clarify the funding capacity.

4. From the **January 18, 2013: "Park Commission Meeting"**

The following is an article written by Peter Goonan of "The Republican" as posted on masslive.com

- The Park Commission this week gave its enthusiastic support for the final design plans for a \$2.5 million renovation-expansion of the Clifford A. Phaneuf Environmental Center at Forest Park, praising its design for year-round use by students and the public, and its state-of-the-art energy efficiency.

The commission voted 3-0 endorse the plans as presented by architect Stephen Jablonski of Jablonski Devriese Architects of Springfield. The wood-framed building that abuts Porter Lake is the former skate house at the lake, and has been home for the Environmental Center for Our Schools (ECOS) program since 1970, visited by thousands of science students, teachers and parents annually.

"Nothing could be more important than to be focused on the environment and nature," said Brian A. Santaniello, Park Commission chairman, regarding the project. "It's a fabulous job and a proud testament to Clifford Phaneuf."

Jablonski said he and others have been working on the plans for approximately four years, and the project is "shovel ready."

"It's literally ready to go out to bid," Jablonski said.

Commission members said they will urge that the project move forward as soon as possible.

The project is on the city's list of top priority capital projects for the coming year, but the full funding sources are not yet determined, officials said.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said he is committed to the project, and is reviewing options for funding. MassMutual Financial Group pledged \$150,000 to assist with the construction costs.

There are two proposed additions to the building, and the main focus is on providing an "updated educational plant," and provide for multiple uses of the building during after-school hours, weekends and summer, Jablonski said. The design features include a large kitchen, and there is the ability to rent the site for functions, he said.

"It could be a revenue generator, " said Patrick J. Sullivan, the city's director of parks, buildings, and recreation management.

There are various "green" technologies incorporated into the building design including a hydro-geothermal heating, ventilation, air conditioning system, state-of-the-art insulation, and passive solar-energy efficient windows, according to plans.

Under plans, there will also be improved access to the lake including a wheelchair-accessible dock and ramp, a plaza, pavers and planters, Jablonski said.

In 1988, the Park Commission voted to name the building after Phaneuf who had worked there for 17 years as coordinator of the Environmental Center for Our Schools program. Phaneuf had died in January of that year.

Santaniello said the city is indebted to Phaneuf, who he described as a "true pioneer in education."

In addition, Santaniello praised Burt D. Freedman, who has been a science teacher at the center, and taught there at its inception. Freedman has worked closely with the architect and city officials on the project plans for years and is urging the city to secure funding before the completed plans become stale.

Once funding is approved, construction might take six to eight months, Jablonski said.

Sullivan said the mayor continues to support the project "100 percent," but is still facing the financial pressures from damage caused by two disasters - the June 2011 tornado and October 2011 snowstorm, and continued negotiations for disaster aid to cover much of the expenses.

Park Commission members Jay Griffin and Gregory Drew joined in praising the ECOS program and the renovation project.

"The ECOS program is a tremendous program," Griffin said. "I have talked to kids who say 'we don't want to go out in the snow and weather and rain' and then say they had a great time. It's a great introduction to appreciate the outdoors and the four seasons."

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, with the expansion and enhancement the Environmental Center for Our Schools (ECOS) Center located within Forest Park on Porter Lake. The project will include two additions to the building. The ground floor footprint will increase by about 2,100 SF, with the western addition extending two stories over an area of about 1,000 SF and a ground-level porch of about 650 SF. The eastern kitchen addition will be a single level only and comprise an area of about 500 SF. Hence, the total enclosed area (both levels) will be about 7,400 SF.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate human, historic, and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed construction, mitigation or other actions associated with the renovations of the ECOS Center. As part of its goal to ensure that good management decisions are made, FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA and to provide FEMA with information it may not have considered in its review. If FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the EA, will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment after the public comment period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA's Acting Regional Environmental Officer, Lydia Kachadoorian. However, if a change in the scope of work occurs FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Beginning on Friday October 3, 2014, the Draft EA and the Draft FONSI will be posted on the City's website at <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/cos/> and FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>, and in person at the City of Springfield Office of Procurement located at Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street Room 412, Springfield, MA 01103, Monday through Friday 8:15AM-4:30 PM. The comment period will last for 15 days, ending on October 18, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

Comments on the Draft EA can be submitted by mailing Lydia Kachadoorian, Acting Regional Environmental Officer at, FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, by emailing Lydia.Kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov, or by sending her a fax at 617-956-7574.