

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Chistopher E. Buonanno
Councilman Andy Andujar
Council Vice-President Daniel Wall
Councilwoman Kristen E. Haroian, Vice-Chair
Councilwoman Bridget R. Graziano, Chair
Council President Jessica M. Marino, Ex-Officio

Absent: Councilman Richard D. Campopiano

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Approval of minutes of the March 13, 2025 2024 Regular meeting**

On motion by Council Vice-President Wall, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 13, 2025 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

None.

VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilwoman Haroian

1. Budlong Pool Update

Director Moretti stated that there is nothing to report and we do not anticipate having the pool open this year. Too much time has gone on to repair and the process is draining the pool. It is not going to be feasible. As to the progress, there has been good progress in the pool house, but obviously you need both to make this work with the pool. As to the problem that we ran into to discovering the aqueduct, there has been no progress other than to report that the remedy for that is going to be draining just outside the pool, we call it a vault, which is about 4x4 whereas that aqueduct went into that vault area and if you extend it enough 15-20 feet it would be into the pool, but it is to basically cap that vault or the aqueduct at the vault site. By doing so, we would need to drain the water that is in that vault and then place the sandbags to hold the sandbags back and basically pour concrete in that vault. We are going out to get quotes on that to do that work and once that is completed, then it would be the process of draining the water that is in the pool as a result of it. Completion of the pool would probably be in the October timeframe, but obviously past this season.

Chair asked what the PE that is working on the contractor's end have provided of documentation and recommendations. **Director Moretti** stated that it is site observation in agreement. He believes there is no formal report. The Engineering firm and our Engineer seems to be conclusive what he shares with the Council and seems to be pretty accurate. **Chair** stated that she personally would like to see some kind of documentation in writing to cover the City's end that the PE working for the contractor should make a recommendation that our PE and then you all should make a decision. **Director Moretti** stated that he can see what correspondence and what reports there are. It certainly will be documented when it goes out to bid. He trusts it is documented, if not, it will be documented.

Chair stated that she has concerns of what impacts there would be if you did in fact fill this with concrete and what effect there will be of the overall project.

Councilman Buonanno stated that the vault that was found was supposed to have been abandoned years ago and the way they abandoned it was not structurally sound, therefore, it is now back to filling up in a spot where it is not supposed to. He asked if that is correct. **Director Moretti** stated that no documentation that has been found about the source of all this. We are calling it a vault, but it is a four foot wide by four foot long grave. It is capped with concrete. It took an effort to uncap it because it was solid. It was pipe that came in through that vault area that emitted water and that pipe on the other side of that four foot structure just continued that pipe aqueduct and made its way to where the pool was. It was not a continuous pipe.

Councilman Buonanno stated that his question for the Engineers would be would capping this vault have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area and the integrity of the new pool? That is probably what we would need when we are scoping out the work. Director Moretti stated that the Council and Administration has the same mindset. That was the first question, to make sure that it would not affect the integrity of the pool. That is a basic premise to the work that is going to be done and that comes from the external Engineers and our Professional Engineer, Mr. Corrao.

Councilman Andujar asked Director Moretti if he thinks the pool will open this year. Director Moretti stated that the pool should be completed in the October timeframe. It will be prepared and ready to go and begin opening process next late Spring for the Summertime.

Council President Marino asked Director Moretti that if he anticipates it being opened or ready by next Spring, do we need to make allocations in the current Budget to accommodate those expenses? Director Moretti stated that if the Council wishes to adjust the Budget, because the funding for the pool is based for the following Fiscal Year end July. He believes that Director Piscopiello is using some of the Parks and Recreation funds under ARPA that is procuring supplies to open it up. If we wanted to open the pool sooner than July 1, we would have to allocate some funds in the Budget the Council is addressing. Council President Marino indicated to Director Moretti that the Council is relying on him to let them know in the next 24 hours if something needs to be adjusted. Director Moretti stated that at this time, we are planning on first week of July of 2026 for the opening.

Chair stated that she and Councilman Buonanno would like to get Engineers' recommendation from their Engineer to our Engineer and confirmation in writing. Director Moretti stated that whatever they have, they will be happy to share.

2. Doric Splash Pad - provide information on the proposed project for the construction of a splash pad at Doric to the Committee

Director Moretti stated that this is a rush project. He has not seen the plans because Mr. Piscopiello has been asked to move this along as quickly as we can. Whatever plans they have, Councilwoman Haroian is welcomed to look at. The City has contracted O'Brien and Sons to do the work. The toys and equipment are on order and at this time there is a delivery timeframe of 8-10 weeks, but we will be pressing on the company to see how accurate that is. What is remaining for the contractor to provide us with is the plan design for electricity and water. Once we have those safe design plans in place, we are going to be going out to receive bids to get going on the construction. Construction could begin sometime in June timeframe. At the very earliest it could be July 1, probably the very latest August 1. We are expecting those plans back from O'Brien tomorrow or early next week and at that point, we will be able to go soliciting bids.

Councilwoman Haroian stated that both of the above items can be removed from the agenda.

Councilwomen Graziano

1. Broad Street - Pawtuxet Village Sidewalk Repair

Chair stated that one of the residents on Ocean Ave., at 162, removed an old tree and pulled out the roots system and now we are looking to ensure that that area is stabilized and consistent with the stamped concrete around it. She had excellent meetings with DPW and the owner of the house. She asked if there is any update. Director Moretti stated that they are expecting bids back for that job either tomorrow or next week to be awarded and by the time this is done, it is probably safe to say the end of May or as soon as we can.

Council President Marino stated that she also has heard from that resident as to the status and it is reassuring to hear the timeline this evening particularly because that resident is concerned and rightfully so about Gaspee Day and all the pedestrians at that time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees