

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: April 29, 2021 (after 9:00 a.m.) – May 3, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)

(E-mails received regarding McIntyre will be combined separately for Special Council meeting May 4, 2021)

May 3, 2021 Council Meeting

New content:

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Patricia Burke Edwards (triciabedwards@outlook.com) on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 08:36:04

address: 23 Willard Ave

comments: Dear Councilors,

Please keep the indoor pool and support any repairs that need to be done. It is a critical part of our community. As both a parent and an occupational therapist, I see the benefits this facility has provided for numerous people in our community. I can recall sitting watching my 4th child take swim lessons and observing the diversity of people accessing the pool from elderly people, children with special needs, and athletes doing laps. The pool has been an active facility for over 40 years and it is a beloved facility to many of us in the community. I alone have utilized this pool to put 4 children through swim lessons, lifeguarding instruction, triathlon training, swim team, and lap swimming. It would be a shame not to have this available in the future. I look forward to the days of heading up there again to see familiar faces and get some laps in. Please vote in favor of our pool and getting it repaired.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tricia, Tyler, Austin, Ryan, Jane, and Sara Edwards
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Peggy T. Evans (evanspt@comcast.net) on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 16:23:12

address: 23 Rowell Rd, East Kingston, NH

comments: Dear City Councilors,

I have been an active member of the Portsmouth Indoor Pool for many years now. I have enjoyed the freedom to swim and do aqua fitness as well as establish wonderful, lasting friendships, This has become a focal point for many of us who participate in the activities, most of us daily. The availability of the pool and all of it's activities, swim classes for young and old, Zumba classes, water fitness classes as well as hydro burn classes and the joyful learn to swim classes for infants and children, is critical to the seacoast community.

We have become a whole community supporting each other and encouraging everyone to remain involved and keep moving. The movement in water, for many, is much more beneficial because it does not require as much weight bearing on the joints and has helped many of us continue to be mobile in our senior years.

The Indoor Pool is critical to support the many facets of the seacoast area health and wellness for: residents, non-residents (I live in East Kingston), swim teams and other businesses like physical therapy (helping people recuperate from injuries).

Please take in to consideration the health, well being as well as the amazing connections the Indoor Pool provides to so many seacoast residents.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Goldman (kgoldman@comcast.net) on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 18:53:08

address: 271 Islington Street

comments: Dear City Councilors,

Below are some comments I intend to present at the May 6th Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting on the Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program

This is called the Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP). For me, the operative word here is NEIGHBORHOOD. The borders of the Islington Creek Neighborhood are Bridge Street, Islington Street, Dover Street, the railroad tracks and the bit of McDonough Street that extends beyond Dover Street to the dead end. If this is truly to be a Neighborhood parking program, it should include all the residents of the neighborhood regardless of what street they live on. Whatever program is implemented should be fair and even-handed for all residents of the Islington Creek Neighborhood; it should not create winners and losers.

Therefore, bottom line up front, should a decision be made to move forward with a Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP), I respectfully request that the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee, and the City Council consider proceeding with one of these three options:

1. Implement the proposed in 2019 NPP but include all residents of the Islington Creek Neighborhood (as defined above) with the ability to receive Neighborhood Parking Permits, including those living on Islington Street.
2. Implement the proposed 2021 NPP, but end inclusion of McDonough Street at Langdon Street. Do not include the segment of McDonough Street from Langdon Street to the dead end beyond Dover Street, and do not include the free 72-hour parking lot at the corner of McDonough and Rockingham Streets.
3. Implement the proposed 2021 NPP but provide free Neighborhood Parking Permits for all households in the Islington Creek Neighborhood, including Islington Street, and not just the households located on the streets defined by the 2021 Program. This approach provides parking for everyone in the neighborhood but should make it more difficult for people from outside the neighborhood (e.g., tourists and downtown workers) to park in Islington Creek.

Here is some background on why I propose these options. When the original program was proposed in 2019, I, and several of my neighbors living on Islington Street, requested that we be included in the program. We requested that we not be excluded because we live on a street where we already cannot park in front of our homes for more than two hours. In 2019, the neighborhood was polled on the NPP. Support of 75% of the households was required to proceed with the pilot program. At that time only 51% of the polled households supported implementation, and that was after the number of households included in the poll was reduced from 238 to only 198. The number of households who voted in favor only represented 41% of the original 238. Despite this, a waiver requesting that the pilot program move ahead anyway was subsequently submitted to the city council. Our request for inclusion, the result of the neighborhood poll and the subsequent waiver request, were some of the reasons!

As the program was sent back to the Parking and Traffic Safety committee for consideration. These are all factors that should be considered before going forward with a pilot program.

The 2021 Program states "Price Per Pass During Pilot Should be Free for Neighborhood Residents", but it does not define who are considered Neighborhood Residents. Does this just refer to residents on the streets included in the program or all residents of Islington Creek? The Program should not be a zero-sum game and should not create winners and losers within the neighborhood.

Ben Fletcher's presentation on April 14th stated that "...the Islington Creek Steering Committee Provided Valuable Feedback..." that led to the 2019 NPP. As Ben said, numerous times, the 2021 plan is not the city's proposal but one they received "from the community". I assume, but I don't know, that this means the Islington Creek Steering

Committee. I am curious as to who is on the committee as the city believes they represent the community. I have been trying to find an opportunity to provide input to this committee; so far, unsuccessfully.

After the meeting on April 14th, I was contacted by a woman, who I believe is on the committee. She owns rental property in Islington Creek, but no longer lives here. We walked the neighborhood, chatted amicably about our ideas on parking in the neighborhood, and exchanged several follow-up emails. All of my requests to talk to the committee, or even find out who else is on the committee were rebuffed. So, I don't know who is on this committee, who they truly represent in the community, and who provided input to the proposed program.

I am sure that there are other residents of Islington Creek who would also like to know this information. Perhaps they would also like to have an opportunity to provide input into the program before a pilot is initiated. If input is not solicited from all residents who live here, and the program doesn't have everyone's support, I think the committee should be upfront to the city that they do not represent the residents Islington Creek. This is a factor the city should take into consideration before making any decisions. I know that, before the 2021 program was presented to the city, input was never solicited from the 14 residents of my community, from the residents of some other condos or from some residents of single-family homes.

In addition to the input that the city has received from some people in the neighborhood, I hope that they will also consider whether or not the ongoing parking audits in Islington Creek show that the levels of parking meet the threshold to trigger a neighborhood parking program. I also hope that they will consider the impact that the Employee Permit Program for the Foundry Place Parking Garage has had on parking in the neighborhood.

I'm sorry to say that the 2021 program that was presented the evening of April 14th does not appear to be fair to all residents of Islington Creek. It does potentially create winners and losers, even more so than the original 2019 program. By only including the area from Bridge Street to Brewster Street, and all of McDonough Street, including the parking lot, it will put a lot of parking pressure on the people living in the area from Langdon Street to Dover Street, including those on Islington Street. Under the proposed 2021 program, the people living on Islington Street, Langdon Street, Cornwall Street, Rockingham Street, Cabot Street, Salem Street, and Dover Street are hemmed in by a "parking pincer", squeezed between the parking restrictions on Islington Street, McDonough Street, and the area between Bridge Street and Brewster Street. As Ben Fletcher pointed out on April 14th, the program will cause bleed-over to this part of the neighborhood, and it is not clear that the program will provide these residents with any relief valve by way of free Neighborhood Parking Permits.

Therefore, I respectfully request that an Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program Pilot not be initiated until it is determined that it is truly supported by the neighborhood. Should it be decided to proceed with a Program, as I stated above, I also respectfully request that the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee, and the City Council consider proceeding with one of the three options I presented above.

Thank you.

Ken Goldman
271 Islington Street
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jenna E (jettlich@hotmail.com) on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 13:07:15

address: P.O. Box 2131, Portsmouth, NH 03804

comments: Hello Portsmouth City Councilors,

First of all, thank you for your service to the City of Portsmouth! Secondly,. I wanted to reach out and ask you all to please consider voting to fund the fixing of the Portsmouth Indoor Pool, and to have it open before Labor Day, so that swim lessons, masters, swim teams, and recreation, may resume at PIP as soon as possible.

I spoke with Councilor McEachern by phone last week about this issue. He was very responsive, provided great feedback, genuinely cared about this issue, and indicated it seems positive that the pool is on the city's priority agenda. Great!

As a background, we are a military family that greatly benefitted with exercise and new friendships during our first year here, specifically the six months prior to Covid. We had the pleasure of being greatly involved in Portsmouth Swim Team, which met at PIP. Our youngest also took swim lessons at PIP, and I enjoyed swimming laps there.

For the last 10 months, however, we have had to consider moving to another pool and joining another team. But something keeps making our hearts and minds wait. :) We keep holding onto hope, anticipating PIP opening again and very excited to make that our home pool for 2021-2022, if only it gets funded, fixed, and opens.

On a side note, we are eager to jump into the waters of the gorgeous Peirce Island Outdoor Pool, which Portsmouth has done an amazing job of keeping clean, safe, and running smoothly during Covid last summer, and upcoming this summer. In fact, our oldest two kids are looking forward to lifeguarding there this summer. As summer ends, we hope to move our water and swim interest back over to PIP.

In conclusion, I ask you to please put Portsmouth Indoor Pool toward the top of the priority list. PIP is such a wonderful, central place of health and fitness in Portsmouth, and the greater community.

Thank you very much for your time, service, and consideration. If you have further questions about my statements, please feel free to email me.

Very respectfully,
Jenna Ettlich
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Robin Rousseau (robinrousseau@aol.com) on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 15:33:36

address: 90 Fleet Street

comments: May 3, 2021

To the Portsmouth City Council Members,

I am writing you as a Certified Public Accountant and an alumnus of Ernst & Young. A very serious matter has come to my attention that requires your immediate action.

When I heard that the City of Portsmouth was looking for a new auditor, I called a colleague at E&Y and encouraged them to put a proposal in for the audit. They were very interested in doing so and said they would review the RFP immediately.

In following up on that conversation today, I asked if a proposal had been submitted for the City of Portsmouth audit and I was totally shocked at the answer!

My colleague informed me that they had a question on the RFP so they called the contact information listed and spoke to a City employee who advised them and I quote,

“The City could not afford to hire E&Y and not to bother to put in a proposal.”

Needless to say, this is very troubling to me!

The RFP proposal process should encourage all interested firms to submit a proposal. No City employee should ever discourage a company from bidding on any open RFP posted by the City of Portsmouth. Discouraging vendors from

submitting proposals is a serious violation of ethical RFP practices and must be addressed immediately by the Council.

My next question is, how many other firms were discouraged from putting in proposals for the audit?

I strongly recommend that you look into this immediately. I also recommend that you extend the RFP deadline from May 6th for another 2 weeks to give firms that were discouraged from submitting proposals additional time to submit.

Sincerely,
Robin Rousseau, CPA
90 Fleet St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
includeInRecords: on
