

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 1-29, 2001

Manager's Consent Agenda

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Ms. Kathleen L. Born
✓				Mr. James Braude
✓				Ms. Henrietta Davis
✓				Ms. Marjorie C. Decker
✓				Vice Mayor David P. Maher
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio

- The EPA initiated an investigation of the W.R. Grace site and Russell Field under its Superfund Removal Program during the summer of 2000 at the request of the Alewife Study Group. The City is still awaiting the results of this testing which may indicate additional locations of contamination on the field and will determine whether the EPA will continue to be involved. We expect these results to be released by EPA soon.

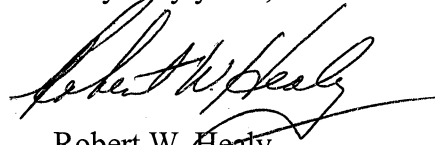
The next steps in the process are:

- Asbestos testing in conformance with the Asbestos Protection Ordinance to take place this winter.
- Following the analysis of the results, the City will develop a final Release Abatement Measure (RAM) Plan, which most likely will involve some excavation of contaminated soil from the top 3 feet of Russell Field and replacement with clean soil. The City's current approach is to remediate Russell Field prior to the commencement of any renovation work. However, depending on the results from the next round of asbestos soil testing, it is possible the City may decide to combine the remediation and renovation work if it provides advantages in terms of cost and logistics.

Following the confirmation that the contamination has been remediated in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP), the City will file a Response Action Outcome Statement with DEP to conclude the MCP process.

The City has retained Brown & Rowe as landscape architects for improvements to Russell Field which include field renovations as well as the construction of a changing facility. The firm is under contract and ready to complete the community process and finalize the design once the remediation plan has been developed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

January 29, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-141, regarding an update on the status of planned improvements to Russell Field, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein reports the following:

In response to the above referenced order regarding the status of the planned improvements to Russell Field, I report the following:

Environmental remediation of Russell Field in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) regulations and the City's Asbestos Protection Ordinance is currently expected to be completed by July 2001. Proposed improvements to Russell Field have been on hold as the City works to comply with these regulations.

While no immediate hazards exist, testing performed by the City from 1997 to 1999 found soil contamination below the surface of Russell Field at levels requiring remediation. The contaminants include certain heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and asbestos.

Since the discovery of contamination, additional issues have arisen which have delayed the remediation process, including:

- Passage of the Asbestos Protection Ordinance establishing more stringent testing requirements which requires the City to collect additional soil samples for asbestos analysis. A supplemental testing program in conformance with the Asbestos Protection Ordinance has been developed and, following approval of the sampling plan, sample collection is anticipated to take place late winter.



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Consent Agenda #1

Awaiting Report Item Number
00-141, regarding the status of
planned improvements to
Russell Field.

In City Council January 29, 2001

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