# October 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Susan Smiley, Vivian Ortiz, Dennis Smith, Melissa Harper

DCR Staff Attendees: Matthew Perry

## Call to Order – Committee Chair Susan Smiley

Chair Smiley welcomed the attendees, took attendance of Councilors, and went over the meeting agenda.

## Approval of Minutes

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the June 2, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilor Ortiz seconded.

The minutes were approved.

Chair Smiley asked about a note in the June minutes referring to relationships between DCR and municipalities. She said that she receives calls from stakeholders asking whether or not a certain policy is municipal or from DCR and asked Mr. Perry if he had any information to share. She also asked for an update on the Friends and Partners conference that was being planned.

Mr. Perry did not have an update on municipal and DCR policies, but did update the committee that the conference that was being planned for this fall has been postponed so there is more time to plan it. He said that he will involve the committee with planning going forward.

Councilor Ortiz asked where DCR policies are kept so people can know about them.

Councilor Smith said that there should be a book with the policies.

Chair Smiley said that the regulations are in the CMR, Code of Massachusetts Regulations.

Mr. Perry also updated the committee that Deputy Commissioner Nick Connors is leaving the agency and will be replaced by Zach Crowley who is coming to DCR from State Senator Jason Lewis’s office.

## Outside Group Presentation Requests

Mr. Perry reported that there are now new requests from outside groups to present at Stewardship Council meetings. He said that he is working to recruit groups to apply on the website to be considered. He updated the group that there are upcoming presentations from DCR and DFG staff.

Chair Smiley reminded the group that the next two committee meetings will be on November 3 and December 8.

Mr. Perry also updated the committee that he has been in touch with Director of Partnerships David Burnes and that he will be invited to upcoming meetings.

## Strategic Oversight Plan

Councilor Harper shared her screen with the Strategic Oversight Plan draft to show the changes she made on the stakeholders portion of the plan in response to public comments.

Chair Smiley asked if the beginning portion acted as an executive summary and if there would be more specifics further in the document.

Councilor Harper replied that the top portion outlines the priorities of the Council over the next two years and gives an overview of what the priorities are.

Councilor Smith said that he sees no issues with what is written.

Chair Smiley said that it looks high level to her and that she would like to see more specifics.

Councilor Ortiz said that it is supposed to be high level in the section that is being viewed and that it gets more specific further down.

Chair Smiley asked if there was anything in the plan that was specific to recreation.

Councilor Harper said that she didn’t see anything, but that she didn’t make any changes beyond responses to public comments.

Councilors Smith and Ortiz had no additional changes.

Chair Smiley said that she would go through with the comments and see if she has any changes to make. After review, it will be sent to Councilor Wilson so it can go before the full council for review.

## New Business

Councilor Ortiz brought up a post by DCR about adding an additional lane of traffic on the arborway and the confusion that it caused in the cycling community in Boston. She asked if Councilors can get updates like this before they go out.

Mr. Perry said that he will look into it and will have the Commissioner address the issue at the council meeting next week.

## Adjournment

Councilor Smiley thank everyone for their attendance.

Chair Smiley adjourned the meeting.

*Please check the DCR Stewardship Council webpage for notice of upcoming meetings.* [*https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council*](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dcr-stewardship-council)