

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN
APPROVING THE PARKS DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT \$2,125,773
FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
FOR THE REMEDIATION OF BOWEN FIELD**

REPORT:1497-05

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is an Order authorizing Mayor Harp to enter into an Agreement between the City and the State of Connecticut (Office of Policy & Management) to access funds to remediate hazardous materials found at the site. Bowen Field comprises several athletic facilities located in Beaver Ponds Park, north of James Hillhouse High School and the Field House. It has been used for football practice and games and includes a running track. Constructed in the 1950s, Bowen Field and associated appurtenances are still heavily used by a wide range of athletic programs for City schools and outside entities.

The project was funded through the School Construction Program (CPC-1469-19 9/18/12) by \$7.9 million in state funds, matched by \$3.6 in City Capital funds (CPC1472-04 12/19//12). As presite work commenced a significant amount of PCBs were uncovered which require remediation prior to construction, and which required additional funding.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

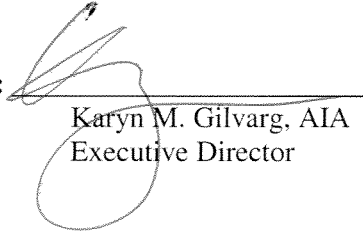
The complex currently contains a 6 lane track, a football field, a practice field, 2 concrete grandstands, showers and public toilets, all in somewhat deteriorated condition. The overall project will replace the current grass athletic field with an artificial turf field, construct a new eight lane track, renovate or replace the grandstands, renovate the gatehouse on Crescent Street, provide for new public restrooms, concession stand, new locker rooms and night lighting. Overall project cost is estimated at \$11.6 million. In addition to the City Wide School Construction Committee, a separate neighborhood committee worked with the Board of Education on the planned renovation.

The grant and the Agreement that will enable its receipt by the City will allow work to go forward on the renovation of this central athletic facility by providing an additional \$2.1 million dollars for the remediation work.

ADVICE

The Commission finds acceptance of the Grant and the Agreement in the best interest of the neighborhood, the New Haven Parks system and the New Haven Public School system and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: September 17, 2014
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director