

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012

Present: Ald. Sangiolo (Chairman), Linsky, Baker, Blazar, Hess-Mahan, Merrill and Fischman  
Absent: Ald. Rice

Also Present: Ald. Yates

Others Present: Robert Rooney (Chief Operating Officer), Jonathon Yeo and Claire Sokoloff (School Committee), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#285-12 PETER JOHNSON, 121 Fairway Drive, West Newton, re-appointed as a member of the PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION for a term to expire September 11, 2015 (60 days 12/01/12) [09/14/12 @3:04PM]

**ACTION:** **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** The Mayor will be submitting a new appointment letter as the 60 day time limit expired before the Committee was able to vote on this appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#330-12 ROBERT KLIVANS, 69 Pine Ridge Road, Waban, re-appointed as a member of THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEWTON FREE LIBRARY for a term to expire June 30, 2017 (60 days 01/04/13) [10/16/12 @12:21PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** The Committee voted to approve this re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#331-12 THOMAS TURNER, 60 Wyoming Road, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of THE NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY for a term to expire October 18, 2017. (60 days 01/04/13) [10/25/12 @ 10:51AM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** The Committee voted to approve this re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#332-12 DANIEL GREEN, 46 Glen Avenue, Newton Centre, re-appointed as a member of THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION for a term to expire October 25, 2015. (60 days 01/04/13) [10/25/12 @ 10:51AM]

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** This appointment falls under the purview of the Zoning & Planning Committee, and not Programs & Services. It will be taken up in Zoning & Planning.

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#400-12 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding plumbing and bathroom renovations at the Gath Pool facility. [11/13/12 @ 5:13 PM]

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** The Parks & Recreation Department is not involved in this project therefore it does not require a vote from the Programs & Services Committee. It has been referred to the Public Facilities Committee for discussion since the Public Works Department will be handling the project.

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB. FACIL. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#312-10 **ALD. LENNON, LAPPIN, SCHNIPPER, SANGIOLO** requesting a discussion with the School Committee on its plans to address space needs in the Newton public schools. [10/27/10 @ 11:07 AM]

**FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY on 10/12/11**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY on 11/18/11**

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0 (Ald. Linsky not voting)**

**NOTE:** Jonathan Yeo, School Committee Member, addressed the Committee. He said he was speaking on behalf of the School Committee as the Facilities Liaison and also on behalf of the School Administration. He noted that Sandy Guryan provided an Enrollment Analysis Report a few weeks ago and the results are quite startling. There were also two important memos: One from November 1 on elementary and middle school space status with a lot of details on the various schools in which there are enrollment challenges in the next 2-4 years; another from November 26 with recommendations that the School Committee will be discussing on November 10. (These can both be found on the School Committee webpage).

**Elementary Schools**

Mr. Yeo said the bottom line is that 6 elementary schools have been identified with space needs over the next 4 years: Angier, Bowen, Burr, Horace-Mann, Lincoln Elliott and Mason Rice. In addition, some space is needed for special education in the district along with some flexibility in the Newton Centre area which includes Mason Rice, Bowen and Zervas.

At Horace-Mann one more modular might be added, or they could add a class within the space. Ald. Hess-Mahan said he knows the school is bursting at the seams. He assumes most others are in the same situation. Mr. Yeo said that Mason Rice has some space and they designed 2 modulars there. They will also need to install sprinklers, which are good, but it is an added expense. Bowen is the biggest challenge in terms of growth. The existing modular there may be moved to Burr and the architects are looking at installing 2 double-stacked modulars at Bowen. Lincoln-Elliott will move one of the pre-school classrooms over to a room at the Ed Center, which will allow for another school classroom. They are creating a fair number of new classes at several schools to get the City through the next 2-4 years.

Ald. Hess-Mahan said that at one point there was a discussion with former School Superintendent Jeff Young about moving Horace-Mann to the Carr School. He thought it was a great idea but the PTO at the time did not want that to happen at all. Mr. Yeo said that Carr will be made pretty nice and after they get through some of the immediate swing space needs, that just may happen.

Ald. Hess-Mahan asked about Aquinas. Mr. Yeo said that space is being looked at and it would be wonderful to have. The preschool programs could go there and it could be used for some swing space. At this point, he does not know what will happen.

Ald. Blazar asked about the Ward School. Mr. Yeo said they made some buffer zones with Mason Rice. This gives them the opportunity to divert some children to Ward which has a little room, if necessary. They would do this with new families moving into the City, or families starting in kindergarten. They are trying to balance things out in the middle schools so that they don't get out of balance between Newton North and Newton South High Schools. There are about 120 students more at North and it could go up to 300 in the next 5 years. Ultimately, they like to keep children on the same path through schools with their friends, but they are doing the best they can to keep a balance in the City. The buffer zones do help with this.

Ald. Baker asked if building was a better idea than adding stacked modulars. Mr. Yeo said it takes longer and costs more money. He noted that the modulars they are using now are very nice spaces. They last a long time, are well built, and are very attractive for teachers to work in. If they are in the right place, they are extremely efficient in terms of getting quality educational space. And they look much better than they used to. Mr. Yeo said that Sandy Guryan is looking at adding 4-6 brick and mortar classes, potentially, at Williams and Peirce. That is still being looked at.

Ald. Sangiolo said that a developer has made some suggestions about the Williams School. Mr. Yeo said he has met with the Williams PTO and they are tracking and trying to incorporate final numbers from the development at Riverside. Ms. Guryan is keeping a close eye on things. The answer there may be the buffer zones with Angier and that provides a relief valve. He said there was time because the influx of children is still years away from that development. There is also an ability to move students to Zervas if necessary.

Claire Sokoloff explained that there is bonded money for the 6 modulars and the sprinkling of Mason Rice. That is part of the \$1.5M of the \$4.5 in year one from the override. \$3.2 - \$3.5M is for teachers for the extra students that are coming in to get class sizes under control.

### Middle Schools

Ald. Sangiolo recalled that there was a study done by HMFH which reported that there could very well be a need for an additional middle school. Mr. Yeo said there was a recommendation at the early stages based on an enrollment analysis report that an additional middle school may be necessary. That was alarming. The next year's enrollment analysis report showed the middle school enrollment growing but not to the point where an additional school was needed after all. Four new classes were put in at Oak Hill which helped on the south side of the City, and 6 new

classrooms at Day. These 10 news classes, plus another class being put in at Day using one of the computer labs, has helped quite a bit. There are some rooms at Brown and with some interior work could help as well. Bigelow does not have much room at all. The way to deal with Bigelow is to use a split feeder pattern with some children going to Day. There may need to be a buffer zone created to send kids either way depending on team sizes at each school. He understands this may not be popular, but it is necessary. With those changes, at this point, the middle schools seem to be adequate for several years to come. It is certainly something to keep an eye on and the possibility of a fifth middle school at some point is viable.

Ald. Sangiolo asked that this item be kept open for further discussion. Ald. Hess-Mahan moved to hold this item and the Committee voted unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

#302-12 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR**, with the support of Ald. Rice, Crossley, Yates, Fischman, and Kalis, requesting authorization to execute a 99-year lease between the City of Newton and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for .97 miles of unused MBTA rail bed that runs parallel to Needham Street to create a multi-purpose recreational pathway. [09/24/12 @ 5:00 PM]

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 ON 11/7/12**

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Sangiolo not voting)**

**NOTE:** Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer, addressed the Committee. He explained that this item was before the Public Facilities Committee in October and there were many questions regarding liability. It was suggested that the insurance policy that is offered through the state, Brownfields Program, be analyzed. The policy was a \$3M, 5-year policy. They found that they could get larger sums of insurance for less money. After discussions with the Mayor and the Finance Committee, it was recommended to purchase a \$10M, 5-year policy with a 55% savings over what they already had. It cost an additional \$19K on the City side with a state match of the same amount, with a total cost of \$40K for the 5-year period. That was approved by the Finance Committee.

Ald. Blazar asked if the City had to indemnify the MBTA. Mr. Rooney said that the insurance policy was put in place, therefore, indemnification is not necessary. Ald. Yates was pleased to get the project started. Ald. Fischman said that there had been discussion that the insurance policy was not necessary, but he feels that it is the right thing to do. It is difficult to know what might turn up and it makes sense to have the insurance. Mr. Rooney said there is a non-profit organization that does the work of pulling the rails and makes the trails at no cost. One of their requirements is that people they hire to do the work are all veterans. Ald. Merrill was pleased to hear this.

Ald. Baker moved approval of this item and the Committee voted in favor.

#164-12 ALD. YATES requesting a discussion with the Executive Secretary of the Election Commission and other appropriate officials on how to use City Hall grounds and various other locations around the city to inform Newton voters about the unusual Thursday date of the September primary. [05/24/12 @ 1:41PM]

**ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** Since the election referred to in this item occurred in September, this item was voted No Action Necessary.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB.FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#89-08 ALD. PARKER requesting the following:

- A) review of the maintenance practices for buildings, parks and other properties owned by the City (including School Department facilities and grounds)
- B) development of a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes regular schedules for preventive maintenance for each specific site or facility
- C) a RESOLUTION requesting that implementation of said maintenance plan be funded using operating budget funds.

[02/13/08 @ 12:07 PM]

**FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 3/8/10**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 11/3/10**

**ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Ald. Sangiolo and Fischman not voting)**

**NOTE:** Former Alderman, Ken Parker, was notified that this item was on the agenda with a recommendation to vote No Action Necessary. Since Mr. Parker did not attend the meeting to advocate keeping this agenda item active, the Committee voted No Action Necessary.

Respectfully Submitted

Amy Sangiolo, Chairman