

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chair), Freedman, Baker, Brandel, Hess-Mahan, Merrill, Parker and Sangiolo

Others Present: Fran Towle (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation Dept.), Bob DeRubeis (Deputy Commissioner, Parks & Recreation Dept.), Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

Re-appointment by President R. Lisle Baker

#433-08 ROBERT E. GERST, 51 Claremont Street, Newton, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire June 30, 2010. (60 days: 1-30-09) [11-19-08 @ 9:00 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Baker noted that Mr. Gerst is a former alderman and was grateful for his willingness to serve. Ald. Parker said that Mr. Gerst is an academic by profession and would be a valuable asset to the commission.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#434-08 CONCHITA ULLMAN, 47 Mosman Street, West Newton, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2009. (60 days: 1-30-09) [11-12-08 @ 2:01 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#435-08 MARK WADNESS, 35 Laudholm Road, Newton, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2010. (60 days: 1-30-09) [11-12-08 @ 2:01 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#436-08 KATHLEEN OLESKY, 124 Dickerman Road, Newton Highlands, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2010. (60 days: 1-30-09) [11-12-08 @ 2:01 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Brandel said Ms. Olesky was very committed to the community and recommended approval of her re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#437-08 JOANNE RAYMOND, 15 Fair Oaks Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2010. (60 days: 1-30-09) [11-12-08 @ 2:01 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#438-08 MICHAEL J. SHULEY of the Zervas Afterschool Program, re-appointed as an ex-officio member of the NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2010. (60 days: 1-30-09 @ 2:01 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

REFERRED TO PROGRAM & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#464-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of purchasing two heavy duty trucks for the Parks and Recreation Department [11-25-08 @ 4:58 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Hess-Mahan not voting)**

NOTE: Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Fran Towle, presented this item. She explained that they were requesting the purchase of a cabover and a one ton 4x4 with a plow. These trucks were desperately needed for the work of the Parks & Recreation Department. The cabover would be used for getting materials to the parks for maintenance and for city-wide leaf collection. The one ton truck would be used for the daily operations of park maintenance. The trucks that they had for these purposes have been declared surplus by Ron Mahan in the city garage, which means they can no longer be used. These trucks were from 1995 and 1990.

Ald. Sangiolo asked about leaf collection in the City. Ms. Towle explained that they are trying to do leaf collection at schools and public buildings. The leaf collecting contracts had to be cut from the budget so they are doing the best they can with one truck and a four man crew. She's unsure they will be able to accomplish collection at all the City properties. She has contacted Commissioner Daley of Public Works for some help with

leaf collection but DPW is already working on their own leaf collection program and is unable to help.

Ald. Parker asked if the new trucks would be used to pick up recycling in the parks. Ms. Towle said they would not and they did not have the manpower for that. Ald. Sangiolo suggested that youth groups and leagues be required to take out the recycling from the parks and have it be a condition of their permits to use the fields and parks. Ms. Towle said she has been working with them on a voluntary basis and would like to see how that works for awhile longer.

Ald. Parker moved approval of this item and the committed voted in favor 7-0.

#439-08 ALD. BRANDEL, FREEDMAN, MERRILL, JOHNSON, SANGIOLO, VANCE, PARKER AND LINSKY proposing a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to establish a definitive schedule and committed capital funding plan for the repair and rehabilitation for all appropriate Newton parks to be made handicapped-accessible. [11-21-08 @ 10:17 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0-2 (Baker, Hess-Mahan abstaining)**

NOTE: See note below. Items #439-08 and #440-08 were discussed together.

#440-08 ALD. BRANDEL, YATES, CICCONE, LENNON, MERRILL, DANBERG, MANSFIELD, PARKER, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, LINSKY, JOHNSON, SALVUCCI, SWISTON, VANCE AND GENTILE proposing a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to establish a definitive schedule and committed capital funding plan for the repair and rehabilitation for Newton parks that include: Auburndale Cove, Bobby Braceland, New Cold Spring, Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, and Stearns-Pellegrini. [11-21-08 @ 10:17 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0-2 (Baker, Hess-Mahan abstaining)**

NOTE: Ald. Brandel said that 3 years ago the Parks & Recreation Dept. published an assessment of parks with their priorities of doing repairs and rehabilitation. Also included in the assessment were parks that needed handicapped accessibility work. He mentioned that he attended a community meeting regarding Braceland Park and found that considerable money was spent on developing a plan for the park but there was no funding plan in place for the work to be implemented. He would like to avoid that type of problem going forward.

Commissioner Towle said that when they put together their parks assessment, she hoped there would be some CPA money available. They also were relying on the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and their resources. She said that when there was some money available, they would start work on the parks in their assessment. Susan Burstein, Chief Budget Officer, said that when putting the CIP together, they tried to include all the priorities of the parks as well as other capital concerns. The City has

capital concerns many times what the resources can absorb so there are always very difficult choices to make. They are attempting to take pieces of what the parks need to work as well as they can with the resources that are available.

Ald. Brandel said he would like to see a plan that documents what the Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Mayor plan to do for the parks. He felt it was unfair to leave the residents uncertain about their neighborhood parks. Since master plans have been done, he would like to see when the money would become available to implement the plans. This sort of information may also be incentive for residents to fundraise and look for grants. Ald. Parker would also like to figure out what can be done in the next calendar year and have a maintenance plan for the parks as well.

Ald. Baker explained that the Citizens Advisory Group will be coming forth with some recommendations and he wondered if it was better to wait for that. He said he will abstain on this vote.

Draft Resolutions for both of these items are attached to this report.

The committee voted in favor of approving both of these items.

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

#192-08 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$5,069,783 from the following sources for the purpose of installing new fields and track at Newton South High School:
Capital Stabilization Fund.....\$1,851,783
Bonded Indebtedness.....\$3,218,000
(C) and to establish an appropriate vehicle into which \$500,000 may be transferred from the Capital Stabilization Fund to support the annual maintenance of these fields. [05-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]
(A) BOARD APPROVED \$300,000 FOR DESIGN on 07-14-08
(B) BOARD HELD BALANCE @ \$1,551,783 FROM CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND AND \$3,218,000 FROM BONDED INDEBTEDNESS on 07-14-08
(C) HELD ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED (B) AND (C) 7-0 ON 12-3-08
ACTION: APPROVED (B) 5-0-2 (Hess-Mahan, Sangiolo abstaining; Johnson not voting)
APPROVED (C) 5-0-2 (Brandel, Sangiolo abstaining; Johnson not voting)

NOTE: The Programs & Services Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee to discuss this item. Please see the Public Facilities Committee report of December 3, 2008 for the details of this discussion.

#224-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to submit Home Rule Legislation to establish a permanent fund for the maintenance of artificial turf fields at Newton South High School. [06-10-08 @ 5:12 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Baker, Brandel, Johnson and Parker not voting)**

NOTE: This is a companion piece to the previous item. This will allow for the establishment of a financial vehicle to hold the maintenance fund for the artificial turf fields. The Law Department will be working on the language for this.

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

#294-08 SUPERINTENDENT YOUNG requesting a vote of the Board of Aldermen to complement the vote of the School Committee to instruct him to submit a statement to the Massachusetts School Building Authority confirming the City's top three priority elementary schools: Angier, Cabot and Zervas, with Angier being the first priority, by September 15, 2008. [07-24-08 @ 2:21 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 (Baker, Brandel, Johnson and Parker not voting)**

NOTE: It was reported that the Chair of the School Committee, Dori Zaleznik, explained that the Massachusetts School Building Authority requested that all communities submit revised paper work stating their priorities in regards to school renovations/construction. The revision did not require a revote by the School Committee or the Board of Aldermen; therefore, the above item is no longer necessary. Ald. Freedman moved no action necessary and the Committee voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chairman

DRAFT

#439-08

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

December 15, 2008

WHEREAS the City's Parks & Recreation Dept. has assessed the conditions of the City's parks and has identified and prioritized those most in need of modification so as to be made handicap accessible; and

WHEREAS neither a funding plan or schedule now exists to initiate or support the effort to make these parks handicap accessible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that as part of the next Capital Improvement budget, HIS HONOR THE MAYOR will outline and deliver a project schedule to reflect the prioritization and timing for when these park modifications will be initiated and completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HIS HONOR THE MAYOR will provide a corresponding funding plan that identifies the appropriate funding sources to facilitate the improvement of the affected parks.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and RESOLUTION
yeas nays absent

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

DRAFT

#440-08

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

December 15, 2008

WHEREAS the City's Parks & Recreation Department has assessed the conditions of the City's parks and has identified and prioritized those most in need of rehabilitation which include Auburndale Cove, Bobby Braceland, New Cold Spring, Newton Center and Newton Highlands, as well as Stearns-Pellegrini; and

WHEREAS the City and its communities have made substantial investments of time and money into the development of park plans; and

WHEREAS neither a funding plan or rehabilitation schedule now exists to initiate or support these park plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that as part of the next Capital Improvement budget, HIS HONOR THE MAYOR will outline and deliver a project schedule to reflect the prioritization and timing for when these park projects will be initiated and completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HIS HONOR THE MAYOR will provide a corresponding funding plan that identifies the appropriate funding sources to facilitate the rehabilitation of the respective parks.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and RESOLUTION
yeas nays absent

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk