

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chairman) Ald. Hess-Mahan (Vice Chair), Ald. Merrill, Coletti, Baker, Lipof, Parker

Absent: Ald. Sangiolo

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#11-07 MICHAEL J. SHULEY of the Zervas After School Program, Inc. in Newton as a member of the COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM COMMISSION for a term expiring June 30, 2008 (60 days 3-17-07).[1-9-07 @4:43PM]

**NOTE:** Since Mr. Shuley is not a Newton resident, the Chair asked the committee clerk to check to see if he can be appointed to a Newton Commission

**ACTION:** **HELD 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#471-06 SUSAN SIROKY, 114 Bellevue Street, Newton Corner, reappointed as a member of the Newton Community Education Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2008. (Board action 2-9-07) [12-06-06@3:01PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#1-07 MARK WADNESS, 35 Laudholm Road, Newton appointed as a member of NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on June 30, 2008. (60 days 03-03-07) [12-18-06@4:25PM].

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#2-07 KATHLEEN OLESKY, 124 Dickerman Road, Newton Highlands, appointed as a member of NEWTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term expiring June 30, 2008 (60 days 03-03-07) [12-18-06@4:25PM].

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

**NOTE:** Ms. Olesky, Mr. Wadness and Ms. Siroky were all present for their appointment confirmations to the Newton Community Education Commission.

Susan Siroky has lived in Newton for over thirty years and has been involved with Community Education when it was community schools before the two merged. She has been a coordinator at Cabot School, taught classes and has always been interested in the concept of community education. Ms. Siroky feels the Commission should be working on space issues.

Mark Wadness has been a Newton resident for twenty-five years. He has been involved with the schools extensively as PTO President of elementary, middle and high school. He was also School Council President of all three. He feels this is a great way to stay involved.

Kathleen Olesky grew up in Newton Highlands, and attended Newton schools. Her three children have also gone to school in Newton. She is presently teaching a creative writing class (in her third year) at Newton Community Ed. She has suggested some spaces in Newton that have not been looked at before and is also interested in expanding to daytime classes.

The Committee voted to approve three appointments to Newton Community Education 7-0.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#435-06 LISA DEFELICE, 280 Nevada Street appointed by His Honor the Mayor as a member of the NEWTON CHILD CARE COMMISSION for a term to expire on January 1, 2008 (60 days 2-3-07). [11-22-06@1:37 PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

**NOTE:** Lisa DeFelice was present and told the committee she has been a life-long resident of Newton and a business owner in Newton. She realized the need for a child-care commission and is happy to be involved. The Committee voted approval 7-0

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#472-06 SHEILA MONDSHEIN, 31 Green Park, Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the Human Rights Commission for a 3-year term to expire on December 15, 2009. (Board action 2-9-07) [12-11-06@2:49PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

**NOTE:** Ms. Mondschein is an attorney and has worked with civil rights and fair housing issues working with investigations and was supervisory attorney in charge of the legal aspects. She has worked with investigations and settlements of fair housing complaints. In addition, she has also been teaching housing discrimination at various law schools. Ms. Mondschein has taught at Suffolk University, New England School of Law, and Roger Williams Law School and is strongly committed to Human Rights as well as civil issues. She did work on juvenile justice issues and rights of persons in Houses of Correction and for a number of years was a special Assistant Attorney General in Massachusetts where she developed and helped pass the alternative judicial dispositions for persons operating under the influence of liquor. She would like to help the city enhance its commitment to fair housing and contribute her expertise to this effort.

The Committee voted approval 7-0.

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS&& SERVICES, PUBFAC & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#5-07(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$1,000,000 from Free Cash to lease/purchase eight (8) modular classrooms for the School Department. [12-22-06 @1:11PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** See Public Facilities report and this item was taken up jointly.

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

#357-06 ALD. COLETTI, PARKER, ALBRIGHT, LINSKY, JOHNSON, MANSFIELD, SANGIOLO, & HARNEY requesting discussion with School Building Assistance Bureau representatives regarding factors affecting state reimbursement for Newton school projects, including Newton North High School.

**ACTION:** **HELD 7-0**

**NOTE:** Chairman Johnson noted that originally she thought that it would be appropriate to NAN this item. However with further thinking she thought it might be worth-while to keep this item on the agenda. She was open to the opinions of other committee members.

Ald. Parker has a concern regarding the process for timing and requirements for other schools.

Ald. Coletti also would like to keep the item on the agenda. (The Finance Committee will take this item up after the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.)

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

#379-06 ALD. BAKER, SCHNIFFER, HESS-MAHAN & VANCE requesting a report from the Executive Department and City Comptroller on state reimbursement and loan subsidies available for Newton School projects, including Newton North High School, as well as how best to ask for further clarification, as desired, from staff of the Massachusetts School Building Authority as to such issues as timing, amount and conditions of such funding.

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0 (Lipof not voting, Sangiolo absent)**

**NOTE:** See item 357-06

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

#13-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the FY07 appropriation for Veterans' benefits.[1-9-07 @4:54 PM]

**ACTION:    APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**        Back-up information on this item explained this was money that has to be paid to the spouses of veterans. This program is reimbursed 75% by the state to the City.

Ald. Parker said that he would hope that before this item is discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, there would be clarification on whether the amount in the budget would be a realistic number for next year.

The Committee voted to approve 7-0.

#20-06        ALD. YATES, & ALD. SCHNIPPER proposing an amendment to the Rules and Orders of the Board stating that when the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board position is to be filled, a search committee shall be established consisting of representatives of all sectors of the board (officers, chairs rank and file) employees of the department, department heads who frequently interact with the Clerk's office and lawyers and other representatives of the public who frequently interact with the Clerk's office.

**ACTION:    HELD 7-0 (Ald. Sangiolo absent)**

**NOTE:**        This item was voted out unanimously by the Rules Sub-Committee. An amendment had been arrived at by the co-docketors that would propose to the Board that when the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board position is to be filled, any search committee established shall include representatives of all sectors of the Board (officers, chairs, rank and file). That was voted out of the Rules Sub-Committee 3-0.

In Ald. Parker's opinion this item needed more work and should be held. There was also some discussion that the need for this item had disappeared as it may have been a reaction to what happened with the selection process.

Ald. Coletti felt there should be verbiage included that states that in the event a Board determines not to reappoint, there should not be a necessity to go through this whole process. If it is a reappointment, there would not be a need for something like this docket item.

In conclusion Ald. Hess-Mahan stated that the lack of a formal rule was of concern to some of the aldermen.

Since Ald. Yates was ill and Ald. Schnipper was chairing Public Facilities, Ald. Parker moved hold and the Committee voted 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair

