

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007

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

Also Present: Ald. Weisbuch

Others Present: David Naparstek (Commissioner of Health and Human Services), Linda Walsh, (Director of Health Services), Jayne Colino (Director, Senior Services), Daniel Funk (City Solicitor), Kathy Walker (Clinical social worker), Maggie Kennedy (Outreach worker), Audrey Cooper (Council on Aging), Joanne Fisher (Program Coordinator), Alice Bailey (Administrative Coordinator), Kathy Glick-Weil (Library Director)

Non-Budget Items:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#128-07 EDWIN RESNICK, 62 Manet Road, Chestnut Hill, re-appointed as a member of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Foundation for a term to expire December 31, 2009 (60 days 7-6-07). [4-26-07 @4:45pm]

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

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#129-07 LEE MOTTARD, 34 Pelham Street, Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire on April 1, 2010 (60 days 7-6-07). [4-26-07 @4:45pm]

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

NOTE: Mr. Mottard said he moved to Newton from New York after college and worked in Newton Centre. He started attending various committee and task force meetings and becoming more connected to the community. He wanted to be even more involved in a place that he considered home. Ald. Parker wondered if Mr. Mottard thought Parks and Recreation resources should be applied equally to passive and active recreational interests in the City. He said his philosophy is that recreation is a fluid combination of both. Ald. Parker wanted to see some strong advocates for passive recreation as he found in the past that it wasn't represented well on the Commission and the strongest advocate, Mr. Stern had resigned. Mr. Mottard said he wasn't ready to form a point of view as he needs to

find out more about what the community wants and how the Commission members work. He said he's been to several meetings and is impressed with the passion and commitment of the members.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#67-07 ALD. WEISBUCH requesting a RESOLUTION asking His Honor the Mayor to fund the INTERFACE SYSTEM, which coordinates mental health services among school age children. [2/26/07 @ 3:28 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: Ald. Weisbuch said this is a program focused on mental health services for school aged children. There are only 19 funded similar models through the federal government across the country, and Newton has one. The grant for this project was supposed to run out in February, but Margaret Hannah, the director, has been able to extend it to June. The School Dept. used to have control of this project and they agreed to fund some part of its growth period. Through further discussions, Ald. Weisbuch said that although the concept is fantastic, it might not necessarily be the model the City wants to adopt immediately. He asked that the discussion of mental health services for children be kept active and the Committee decide how best to deal with this item for now. Commissioner Naparstek thought this needed further investigation and study. The Committee moved to hold this item.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#140-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from BAA Marathon Receipts for the purpose of funding park improvements and repairs throughout the city. [05-01-07 @ 6:20 PM]

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

NOTE: Commissioner Towle said this is money they request each year to maintain about 40 sites throughout the City. Most of it goes to maintaining equipment and keeping the surfaces repaired and safe. They do have two certified playground inspectors who go out and inspect the play areas and recommend any equipment that needs to be removed or more surfacing that needs to be done. This is done on a biannual basis. The money will be spent based on priority of need.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#141-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$41,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of renovating the basketball court at the Lower Falls Community Center. [05-01-07@ 6:20 PM]

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

NOTE: Commissioner Towle said that the Lower Falls Community Center has been a very active group and very interested in keeping this court available to the community. It is listed very high on the list for need of renovation. Once the money is received,

Engineering does the construction document and from there it goes out to be done next spring.

#94-07 ALD. LINSKY, BURG, SANGIOLO, HESS-MAHAN, DANBERG, AND SALVUCCI requesting (a) a public informational hearing relative to safety and health concerns raised in respect to the proposed level 4 bio lab to be located at Boston University in conjunction with the city's prior request and present court mandate for further environmental impact review of the project and (b) consideration of the Board of Aldermen taking a public position on the project. [3-27-07 @5:55 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 4-0 (Sangiolo, Merrill, Lipof not voting)**

NOTE: Lt. Hugh Downing said that if there were any concerns about what the response systems are in the City of Newton, they could address that in the future. If the Board of Aldermen would like to sit in on a briefing on what the state would ordinarily do if a hazard were to exist and involve multiple communities, he said they could bring them up to date on that as well. Ald. Linsky said that since the meeting went to such a late hour, the people who had attended to speak to this issue had to leave. He asked that it be held to the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair