

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2004

Present: Ald. Johnson(Chair) Ald. Baker, Coletti, Parker, Sangiolo, Fischman, Hess-Mahan

Absent: Ald. Merrill

Also Present: Beverley Stachowicz (Human Services) Cathy Salchert (Law)

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#30-04 BARBARA SULLIVAN, 89 Arlington Street, Newton Corner re-appointed as a member of the NEWTON CHILDCARE COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2006. (60-day Board action date 03-05-04)

Ms. Sullivan is a very active and critical member. She has been the chair for many years and takes a proactive leadership role in making changes and advancements within the commission's direction.

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

#60-04 PRESIDENT BAKER recommending PHILIP SHARP, Ph.D., 119 Grasmere Street, Newton be re-appointed as an Aldermanic appointee to the BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, term of office to expire 01/13/07 (60-day Board action date 3/20/04).

Dr. Sharp received the Nobel prize in 1993. He is a professor, former head of the MIT department of Biology. Currently he is the Director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research. He is a long time Newton resident.

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

#61-04 PRESIDENT BAKER recommending GEORGE COREY, 65 Harding Street, West Newton be re-appointed as an Aldermanic appointee to the BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, term of office to expire 01/13/07 (60-day Board action date 3/20/04).

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: Mr. Corey was not present. The Committee voted to hold the item.

#55-04 ALD. BAKER, SANGIOLO & JOHNSON recommending the reappointment of Edward G. English as City Clerk/Clerk of the Board of Aldermen for a two-year term.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

#137-03(3) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting revisions to the “Smoke-Free Newton” ordinance to prohibit smoking in private clubs”.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Chairman Johnson explained that an expanded no smoking ordinance was passed to cover the 8 or 10 establishments that had been grandfathered from the previous ordinance. The establishments near the Waltham/Watertown line were concerned that their businesses would suffer. The state has passed a statewide ordinance that will go into effect in July. However, that will not cover private clubs and these establishments are concerned that they would also lose customers to private clubs.

The Committee suspended the rules to accept a document that was not before the Committee 48 hours prior to the meeting. Ald. Baker noted we have an ordinance that does not currently cover private clubs. This discussion is to extend coverage for workplace protection to private clubs.

Ald. Baker suggested a friendly amendment that would include that when rooms are for hire to the public, they should be covered. This is not currently reflected in the draft. Ald. Hess-Mahan suggested that children under 18 be included.

Francis Campion, the Commander of Post 440 explained that all function halls at Post 440 are non-smoking. Bingo is a large source of Post 440's charitable income and since any employees who are there are volunteer, it would not be a problem.

There was a motion to hold until some final language could reflect the committee's discussion. It was approved 7-0.

#191-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion with the Information Technology and Clerk of the Board Departments re increasing efforts to source reduce the amount of paper to be duplicated and to disseminate more information via the Internet.

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: **Background:** Ald. Sangiolo discussed with Greg Ansaldi, the point person for the Board that she was trying to look at ways that more information could go on the Internet or on a web site versus all the paper that is currently generated. Ald. Sangiolo suggested a dedicated web address where only board members could

have access. We could have the Friday packet on the web and not have anything delivered if that was an alderman's choice.

Discussion

Secure Site for Aldermen - Mr. Ansaldi also suggested a web address that would be password protected. Ald. Sangiolo said the Clerk's office sees one of the biggest problems seems to be that they don't have a scanner, which would make things easier. Receiving information from the Clerk's office for placement on the web has been very timely. In support of an inter/intranet site, Ald. Hess-Mahan stated that the current system is cumbersome. If there was a need to look back at something. In that case, the Clerk's office would have to be opened and find the file. If it information is available on an inter/intranet site, then it would be easier for all.

General Public Internet Access - Ald. Hess-Mahan said there could be more public participation if more information were on the web. As far as the Intranet idea, Ald. Hess-Mahan was very positive. He also thought the idea of a scanner would be valuable.

Hard-copy - Ald. Baker said he has been talking with the Executive Department regarding getting a decent copier. Ald. Baker still felt a hard copy was necessary. Ald Parker felt that there would be packets sent out but the people who opted for the electronic option would have a thin-packet.

Email - In Ald. Parker's view, this was a great idea. The simple answer, in his opinion, on confidential documents was to email.

Concerns - President Baker certainly was for source reduction but does raise the practical problem of how the Clerk's office would be able to deal with differing requirements for different aldermen. In his opinion, the most important thing is saving time

Ald. Parker felt there should be an option regarding either having hard copy or available on the Internet. There was a motion to hold 7-0.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#33-04

MARY PANAGGIO, 108A JFK Circle, Nonantum, appointed as a member of the NEWTON HOUSING AUTHORITY for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2006. (60-day Board action date 03-05-04)

ACTION: NAN

NOTE: Ms. Panaggio was out of town and would not be able to be present before her board action. Therefore, the Committee voted NAN and the Mayor will resubmit the letter.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#264-02(2) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting adoption of an ordinance to establish the composition, terms of office, and procedures in order to implement the Aid to Elderly Taxation Fund (to which voluntary donations may be made for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly citizens in Newton per acceptance of G.L. c. 60 §3D.)

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0 AS AMENDED

NOTE: Ald. Parker asked if a minor amendment that would add the number of people assisted be incorporated. With that addition, the Committee moved 7-0 to approve.

#57-04 EXECUTIVE & HUMAN SERVICES DEPT. wish to report to the Board on the successful implementation of the contracting of Youth Outreach Counseling Services over the last six months.

ACTION: NAN 6-0

NOTE: Beverley Stachowics, Director of Human Services, Linda Jones, Manager of the Newton Outreach Program and Jim McCauley, Program Director of Riverside were all present for this discussion. Michael Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, had requested that this be on the agenda prior to budget deliberations given the concerns that this Committee as well as members of the Board had when this item came forward.

Beverley Stachowics observed that this program has provided high quality mental health services and has received no complaints from the School Department. A large number of clients are being seen. She noted Riverside is in the mental health business and provides a high level of care including 24-hour care. Revenues have been brought in if the client does have insurance.

Jim McCauley said they work closely with the guidance staff in schools. So far 60 kids have been seen.

Ald. Fischman questioned if there has been cost savings and Ms. Stachowics replied that due to outsourcing, there has been well over \$100,000 saved. In summary, outsourcing of the Youth Counseling Program to the Riverside group has been advantageous as well as cost-effective. The program has not lost its identity in the Community and a successful partnership has been established between the Human Services Department and Riverside as well as a positive relationship with the public school system.

There was a motion for NAN and the Committee voted 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair