

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2003

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chair) Ald. Sangiolo, Coletti, Fishman, Merrill, Lipsitt

Absent: Ald. Gentile, Parker

Other Alderman Present: Ald. Stewart

Also Present: Kathy Glick-Weil (Library) Joan Harrington (Library Trustee)

Sandy Pooler (Mayor's Office)

**LIBRARY BUDGET**

Kathy Glick-Weil reported that last year was very busy with a circulation increase by 15% . There were over 1,800,000 items circulated, and 300,000 reference questions were answered. Ms. Glick-Weil projects that there will be circulation of about 1,900,000 items. She also noted that we are busier than any other full time library in the area. Fines will be raised to help funding. Goals and objectives include working on the book collection and expanding ESO Program, which will probably have more than 200 students in the English as a second language program. Deliveries to senior citizens are also increasing. There are programs involving Newton historical issues and the library will start to coordinate with Newton History Museum. There were questions asked regarding the use of Druker Auditorium. It was noted that it was for Newton based groups only. One position has been cut from technical services. Ms. Glick-Weil reported that branch libraries are rented for various functions, including day care. There is income received from those activities. Ald. Lipsitt discussed the citizen resolution asking the Board of Aldermen to pass a resolution in opposition to the "USA Patriot Act". One of the issues that proponents of that resolution brought up was the ability of the federal government to gain access to circulation records without any information being given to the person whose records are being sought and also without the librarian having any discretion in the matter regarding surrender of the records. Ms. Glick-Weil reported that privacy is strongly protected in circulation records in Massachusetts. Public library records are not public records. There was discussion about repair of the bridge to the library. Mr. Pooler said an investigation would be done this summer and possibly be included in 2004. President Lipsitt suggested this be up for debate on the floor of the Board when the CIP is discussed. The budget, revolving account and CIP as affirmed was approved. The vote was 4-0 (Lipsitt, Fischman, Johnson, and Sangiolo)

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair

