

**City of Newton**

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459
(617) 552-7033

**In Board Of Aldermen
Programs & Services Committee
Meeting Report**

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

7:45 PM

Room 222, City Hall

Present: Ald. Johnson, Chairman; Sangiolo, Lipsitt, Parker, Merrill and Fischman
Absent: Ald. Coletti and Gentile

#172-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing on May 1, 2002 ALLISON GOULDER, 73 Fairmont Avenue, Newton 02458 as a member of the Newton Child Care Commission, effective 5/1/02; term of office will expire on 1/1/04. (Board action date: 7/19/02)

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Allison Goulder appeared before the Committee and explained she has been a resident of Newton for fifteen years and the parent of two children in Newton schools. She worked in the early childhood program in Newton for a number of years and teaches in a similar position in the town of Belmont. Ms. Goulder wants to have some input into the quality care that goes on in Newton and felt one of the ways she could contribute was to be on the Board of the Newton Child Care Commission. In Ms. Goulder's opinion, one of the challenges to the Child Care Commission is to continue to maintain current funding at the levels needed. She further pointed out that she knows the needs of children and can help the commission.

President Lipsitt asked Ald. Goulder to explain the distinction between helping parents and providers. Ms. Goulder responded that the Commission helps both. Ald. Johnson explained that, in her opinion, the way the Commission supports providers is through education such as in-service training.

Ald. Johnson moved approval of this reappointment. The item was approved 5-0

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Fischman Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#70-02 Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor
ALISON GOULDER, 73 Fairmont Avenue,
Newton 02458 re-appointed on January 31, 2002 as a member of the Newton Child

Care Commission, effective January 1, 2002; said term of office to expire on January 1, 2004. (60-day Board action date April 20, 2002.)

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 2/19/02
Programs & Services Committee Held 5 - 0 (Gentile and Parker Not Voting, Coletti Absent) on 3/20/02
Awaiting Committee Recommendation 23 - 0 on 4/1/02
Programs & Services Committee Held 4 - 3 (Johnson, Coletti and Fischman Nay, Gentile Not Voting) on 4/17/02
Awaiting Committee Recommendation 23 - 0 on 5/6/02

NOTE: This item was voted NAN.

Recommended No Action Necessary 6 - 0 (Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#114-02 PRESIDENT LIPSITT on behalf of the GREEN DECADE COALITION/NEWTON

requesting adoption of a RESOLUTION regarding greenhouse gas emissions and the Kyoto Protocol.

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 4/1/02

NOTE: President Lipsitt explained she had been contacted by the Green Decade Coalition and was asked to have the Board of Aldermen take the necessary steps in order to encourage Congress to press on in support of the Kyoto Protocols. Representatives of the Green Decade Coalition present were Louise Bruyn of 48 Glenwood Avenue, Newton Centre; Barney Freibert-Dale, 68 Carl Street, Newton Highlands; Mark Dyen, 132 Church Street, Newton Corner; Jim Hurwitz, 38 Adella Ave, and Katherine Gekas, 87 Adella Avenue, West Newton. It was stated that the Koto Project is one that will be used to encourage and support residents of Newton to bring their homes up to the highest level of energy efficiency possible. Ald. Lipsitt asked if there was a reason why this resolution was focused on the nation rather than the state. The Kyoto Protocol is something that has not been adopted by our government. Ald. Lipsitt pointed out that our congressman has said over and over that it is very important for him to get official confirmation of positions that he already supports.

Ald. Parker thanked the Green Decade Coalition for bringing this issue forward and said he would vote for this resolution.

Ald. Sangiolo asked for clarification on the portion of the resolution that states the City of Newton will support the effort of its citizens. In response Ald. Sangiolo was told it was not any financial help but moral support that was extremely helpful.

Ald. Lipsitt moved approval of the resolution and requested that upon its passage Mr. English distribute to our representatives in Congress as well as copies to the White House. The item was approved 6-0

Recommended for Approval 6 - 0 (Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#157-02 REFERRED TO FINANCE & PROG&SERV COMMITTEES

ALD. BULLWINKLE requesting

approval of Home Rule Petition that would waive the annual earned income limitations under G.L. chapter 32, the public employees retirement law, as applied to retired police officer Allan L. Ciccone of 105 Fair Oaks Avenue.

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/6/02**Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/6/02**

Held 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)**#181-02 REFER TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting

that the Board of Aldermen approve a new agreement between the City of Newton and the Town of Wellesley that will allow the Town of Wellesley to continue to pump sewerage through Newton's Cochituate Aqueduct to the MWRA collection system in Brighton.

Referred to the Public Facilities Committee on 5/20/02**Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02**

Recommended for Approval 0 - 0 (Johnson, Sangiolo and Parker Abstaining, Coletti and Gentile Absent)**#184-02 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

HIS HONOR THE

MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$63,112.03 be appropriated and authorized for expenditure from E-rate reimbursements to the City of Newton for the purpose of purchasing various computer equipment in the School Department.

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02**Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02**

NOTE: Sandy Guryan presented this item to the Committee. She explained that the schools have been applying for all possible reimbursements including this E-rate program for the universal service discount for telecommunication costs. The School Department applies and the funds come in a form of a check to the City of Newton. Funds are deposited in a city account and periodically the School Department comes forward to the Aldermen to request an appropriation of those monies so that it can be used for technology for the schools. The money will be used for items to be placed in all elementary schools. She further explained if this is approved, the E-rate account the City maintains will still have money in it and the School Department will still apply for other reimbursements.

President Lipsitt asked if this is approved now, will the funds need to be nencumbered by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Pooler responded that this source of funding isn't tied to the fiscal year.

President Lipsitt also raised her concern that in tight fiscal times, when an appropriation request is approved, that the remaining appropriation is folded into the general funds. The Committee voted 4 in favor, Ald. Johnson not voting.

Recommended for Approval 4 - 0 (Sangiolo Abstaining, Johnson Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#216-02 REFER TO PROG & SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$22,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to purchase a hybrid fuel car for the Health Department.

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 6/3/02
Referred to the Finance Committee on 6/3/02

NOTE: David Naparstek explained this request is for \$22,000 to replace a 1987 Reliant. The Health Department would like to be a pilot for a Hybrid car to evaluate performance and maintenance requirements. Arlington and Brookline have Hybrid cars and Mr. Naparstek has been given very positive feedback.

The Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Johnson Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#206-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Mr. Jacob L. Jacobson, 91 Exeter Street,

West Newton 02465 as a member of the Newton Urban Tree Commission effective June 1, 2002. Term to expire on July 30, 2004 (60-day Board action Date 08/02/02).

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 6/3/02

#189-02B1 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR THE

MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$28,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended for the purpose of funding the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

GRAVE SITES/FLAG POLE/FLAG PURCH. (Veterans' Services)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02
Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Mr. Guzzi was present to discuss his request. He said there had been a significant number of calls requesting that more flags be visible in city villages. Part of the request is for 150 3x5 flags at \$9.00 each. There were many calls after 911 requesting installation of flags in the villages throughout the City. Mr. Guzzi said his plan was to have a very conservative amount of flags displayed in the villages. He would like to see about five flags in Newton Corner from the Mass Pike toward Newtonville, a few flags in Newtonville on the bridge, another five flags on Walnut Street and eight flags in West Newton. These flags would be purchased through the Congressional Office for approximately \$9.00 each. Ald. Parker felt there was not a need for more flags. Ald. Merrill said if he headed toward Wellesley, you would see a flag on every pole. Ald. Parker said he is not opposed to

displaying flags but felt it was possible that multiple flags in a village center might be too many. He felt it might be more patriotic to cut down on greenhouse emissions and pollution by putting more fuel efficient vehicles into the city's fleet rather than spending money on excessive numbers of flags.

Ald. Lipsitt feels that flags are very important symbols but when they are made decoration on every other telephone pole on every other street in the city, we make the flag a less important symbol. In a public place where there is a call to salute

the flag, Ald. Lipsitt said, in her opinion, it is a much more powerful experience when there is one flag and everyone is turning to that same flag and pledging allegiance rather than in a place where there are dozens of them. Ald. Lipsitt agrees there should be a more prominent flag, not hanging from a telephone pole but on a

flag pole in each village center and would certainly support that. Mr. Guzzi explained he is not talking about

keeping them up all year. His feeling would be to have them displayed from Memorial Day month until November, Veterans Day month. Ald. Lipsitt said she would support this request if they would be displayed the week before and the week after Memorial Day, the week before and the week after July 4th, the week before and the week after Veterans Day.

Ald. Fischman felt that the villages in Newton might like to show their patriotism and it would be very appropriate for the business community to participate in displaying flags. Another question

raised by Ald. Fischman was would this money cover buying a number of plots (96) and (56) garden plots. The balance of \$25,000 is needed as there is not a single plot available. Ald. Sangiolo asked if it would be feasible to handle this with manpower. Mr.

Guzzi said manpower is available. Ald. Johnson said she had lost an uncle in the Korean War and very much appreciates Veterans but feels that an excessive display lessens its meaning and may offend some of our multi-national residents. She explained she would support this appropriation with the understanding that this would be to celebrate our Veterans.

Ald. Merrill moved to approve the total amount of \$28,000 requested. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Recommended for Approval 6 - 0 (Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B6 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$20,000 be appropriated from Marathon Receipts and expended in order to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Public Facilities Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: This money will cover special surfacing that would soften any falls that may happen and will be used in place of sand. Some of the money will also be used for repairs for play apparatus throughout the City. Ald. Lipsitt was very much in favor and moved approval and the item was approved 5-0.

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

**#189-02B2 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR**

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$15,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended in order the fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

BANNERS/SIGN UPGRADES (Jackson Homestead)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Mr. Jackson joined the Committee for this discussion. He stated that there are a variety of different signs involved in this signage request. All signs would try to direct people to the Jackson Homestead. The first set of signs they would like installed are directional street signs. The second component would be to install banners along Washington Street that would display the Jackson Homestead logo and name on them to show more visibility. The third component is a new sign for the front of the property. The present Jackson Homestead sign is approximately twelve years old and the lettering is wearing off. Mr. Jackson would like to have that sign redesigned to have more visual impact. The final component of the sign program would be wayside signs. The grounds of the Homestead are used after hours and it would be useful to provide historical information. This proposal is for three signs that would highlight various features of the history of the site. (One sign may talk about the Federal period architecture, one about the Jackson family and a third about the site of the Jackson Homestead location.)

Ald. Parker suggested that the sign read Jackson Homestead Museum. Mr. Olson said the name Newton History Museum was being considered. Ald. Fischman asked if these numbers had been identified during the budget process. It was explained that these monies would be allocated from this year's budget. Ald. Johnson asked if the funds were approved, would the signs then reflect the new name and Mr. Olson responded that they would. Ald. Johnson had concerns

about adding more signage. Ald. Sangiolo agreed with Ald. Johnson regarding overuse of signs. Ald. Lipsitt agreed with Ald. Sangiolo and Chairman

Johnson concerning over usage of signs. She suggested a street banner program that would be limited to the two

poles located at the two corners of the Homestead property and the two poles directly across the street which would actually indicate the location. Ald. Fischman was concerned that the four signs identified by Mr. Olson might be a distraction.

Ald. Merrill wanted to be sure no signs would be located on any poles in front of the Newton Veterans Memorial Park.

Ald. Parker moved approval with the understanding that the design and sign location

be discussed with the City Traffic Engineer prior to their installation. The item was approved 4 in favor, Ald. Johnson not voting and Ald. Sangiolo abstaining.

Recommended for Approval 4 - 0 (Sangiolo Abstaining, Johnson Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B3 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$15,000 be appropriated from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

CARPET REPLACEMENT (Library)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Kathy Glick-Weil said this request for carpet replacement that is badly needed. Ald. Lipsitt asked if a higher durability carpet could be purchased for high traffic areas. Ms. Glick Weil said high quality has been purchased and it has not lasted and now questions getting lesser quality. Ald. Parker moved approval.

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Johnson Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B4 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$25,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended in order to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

TREE PLANTING/PRUNING (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Commissioner Towle explained this money is to be used for tree planting city-wide. The Committee was informed that Mark Welch, a certified tree arborist, has been hired. Ald. Parker moved approval 6-0.

Recommended for Approval 6 - 0 (Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B5 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$171,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended in order to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Fran Towle explained this money would cover a van that had been totalled in an accident, also a passenger van , two pickups, a turf cat (large riding mower), post digger, hydraulic sanders. Ald. Parker asked if

one of te Mr. Pooler if these items were in the CIP 2002 item and he responded that they were. Ald. Lipsitt asked if when leaves were collected, were they composted and Commissioner Towle responded that they were. Ald. Parker made a motion to approve vehicle equipment replacement and it was approved

Recommended for Approval 6 - 0 (Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B7 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR THE

MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$25,000 be appropriated from Marathon Receipts and appropriated to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

PLAYGROUND APPARATUS -

LINCOLN-WARREN AND MEMORIAL-SPAULDING (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Public Facilities Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Commissioner Towle said this money would be used for a variety of issues including the Lincoln-Warren School and Memorial Spauling School. th This money will be used for improvement and replacement of playgroud apparatus. The PTO of Memorial Spaulding and Lincoln- Warren Schools will use this as seed money and fund raisers will also take place to augment the money. The item was voted 5-0 in favor.

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#189-02B8 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

TURF CONTROL (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Commissioner Towle said this is significantly needed money for sports such as soccer or baseball. These funds will be used to help 19 sites with irrigation, seeding, and fertilizing. Ald. Lipsitt complemented the Parks and Recreation

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile

Absent)

#189-02B9 REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
HIS HONOR

THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$60,000 be appropriated from Free Cash and expended to fund the following Supplemental Capital Budget project:

COURT REPAIRS - WELLINGTON PARK (Parks & Recreation)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

Referred to the Finance Committee on 5/20/02

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 5/20/02

NOTE: Ms. Towle said this money has been long overdue for the tennis and basketball court at Wellington Park. Ald. Johnson moved approval and the Committee voted in favor.

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

#276-01(C) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the sum of \$110,000 be appropriated from Overlay

Surplus and that the sum of \$95,000 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund in order to fund the following capital projects:

Department

	Project	Cost
Parks & Recreation	Field Renov/Water Control	\$25,000

Referred to the Finance Committee on 12/31/01

Referred to the Programs & Services Committee on 12/31/01

Recommended for Approval 5 - 0 (Merrill Not Voting, Coletti and Gentile Absent)

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chairman