

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2003

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Linsky, Salvucci, Stewart, Yates, Mansfield and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Gerst

Also present: Ald. Baker and Lipsitt

City personnel: Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works) and John Daghljan (Associate City Engineer)

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#109-03 ALBERT D. FINE, 55 Wilde Road, Waban re-appointed on February 3, 2003 as a member of the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2005. (60-day Board action date 05-02-03)

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Mr. Fine was present early in evening but due to the late start of the Committee meeting, he left. He is an architect with twenty-five years of experience and is a long-time Newton resident. He has served on the Designer Selection Committee, since January of 2001.

The Committee would like to meet with members of the Designer Selection Committee to discuss issues raised previously by Mr. Jeremiah Eck regarding the quality of the architects Newton employs. The Committee voted to docket an item requesting discussion with the Designer Selection Committee regarding procedures and process. The Committee approved Mr. Fine's reappointment unanimously.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#106-03 SAUL KLASHMAN, 26 Fuller Street, Waban re-appointed on February 3, 2003 as a member of the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2005. (60-day Board action date 05-02-03)

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Mr. Klashman was present early in evening but due to the late start of the Committee meeting, he left. Mr. Klashman is a construction consultant and has served on the Design Review Committee since 1998. Ald. Salvucci serves on the Design Review Committee and knows Mr. Klashman and he moved approval of the reappointment, which was approved unanimously.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#108-03 EDMUND WHITE, 79 Cleveland Street, West Newton re-appointed on February 3, 2003 as a member of the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2005. (60-day Board action date 05-02-03)

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Mr. White was not present this evening but he has served on the Designer Selection Committee for a number of years. He is a contractor and very familiar with many aspects of construction. The Committee approved Mr. White's reappointment unanimously.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#107-03 KENTARO TSUTSUMI, 74 Grove Street, Auburndale re-appointed on February 3, 2003 as a member of the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE and the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for terms of office to expire on December 31, 2005. (60-day Board action date 05-02-03)

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

NOTE: Unfortunately, Mr. Tsutsumi passed away recently. Therefore, the Committee voted no action necessary on his reappointment

Re-Appointment by the Board of Aldermen

#90-03 MELVIN CHALFEN, 22 Hyde Avenue, Newton to be re-appointed as an Aldermanic appointee to the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2003.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Mr. Chalfen was not present this evening, however, Mr. Chalfen has served on the Designer Selection Committee since its inception and is well known to the Committee. Mr. Chalfen has retired but his background is in Forest Engineering and he has 25 years of experience in the construction field. The Committee approved his reappointment unanimously.

#500-02 ALD. BAKER, BASHAM, JOHNSON, LAPPIN, LINSKY, LIPSITT, MANSFIELD, MERRILL, SANGIOLO AND YATES requesting discussion of city policy regarding grants of location by the Commissioner of Public Works for temporary signs and banners on city owned light poles on public ways.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-1 (Salvucci Opposed)**

NOTE: Ald. Baker and President Lipsitt joined the Committee for discussion on this item. This item was previously discussed on March 5, 2003 and it was decided that Ald. Baker and Ald. Stewart work together to come up with acceptable policies. Ald. Baker presented the Committee with a revised draft of the policies relating to banners. The Committee reviewed the draft policies individually and amended several of the policies.

Ald. Lipsitt has concerns about controlling the content of banners. She does not feel that the City should control the graphics. It was decided to remove the words well designed from the policies. The Committee also felt that the policies should include language for a refundable deposit to cover the cost of removal by the Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Rooney stated that the guidelines would be helpful to him. He has only received two requests in the past two years for banners. He feels strongly that he should consult the Law Department regarding denials. The Committee was in support of this. Ald. Stewart moved approval of the guidelines as amended (attached), which was voted unanimously.

#139-03 ALD. YATES requesting a re-study of snow dump sites within the City considering improved efficiency, proximity to sites to be cleared and lessened neighborhood impact.

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney was present for discussion of this item. He has no problem with a re-study of the sites. Michael Fleming and Jack Neville, residents of Upper Falls, were also present for the discussion and are in support of a re-study in the hopes the Braceland Playground will be removed from the list of appropriate dump sites.

The Committee would like to review the original snow study (attached) before acting on this item. Therefore, the item was held for further information on the original study.

#141-03 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Commissioners of Public Works and Parks and Recreation on the restoration of the Robert Braceland Playground to full use in the spring.

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney was present for the discussion. He has met with and walked through the playground with the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. Crews go out once a week as the snow recedes to clean up the debris. The sewer cap that was removed during the dumping operation from for the sewer main is now back in place. A fence was also removed during the dump operation. Commissioner Rooney explained that the fence would be replaced with a gate. Michael Fleming and Jack Neville, residents of Upper Falls, do not want a gate in the park because they feel that it will encourage the use as a dumpsite. The Committee agreed with Mr. Fleming and Mr. Neville. The Committee would like a letter from the Parks and Recreation Department stating that a gate will not be installed and how the fence will be repaired or replaced.

The \$17,000 for the restoration of the park needs to be resubmitted to the Board, as it was not approved with the previous snow money because it was not included in the Mayor's letter. The Committee was concerned about the timing of the approval, as it would take a number of weeks to move through the Board process. The Finance Committee will meet before the Full Board on April 22, 2003 to discuss the transfer of funds for this restoration. Ald. Yates moved hold on the item until the funding is approved. The Committee voted unanimously on the motion to hold.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#160-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$30,000 be transferred from the DPW salary account to an expense account for the purpose of allowing the Engineering Division to employ the services of an independent traffic engineering firm to proceed on review of several proposed projects, including special permit applications. This is necessary due to the vacancy of the City Traffic Engineer position.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney was present for the discussion of this item. The transfer of funds is to employ a traffic consultant to review several proposed projects, including special permits. It is necessary to employ an outside contractor due to the vacancy in the Traffic Engineer position. The Public Works Department is in the process of reviewing applications for the position.

Ald. Mansfield suggested that the petitioner pay the cost of the outside consultant for the City. It is not possible to do this for the current projects but it will be investigated. Ald. Lappin moved approval, which was voted unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#161-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$127,667.51 be
(110-03) appropriated from Sewer Surplus for the purpose of constructing common
(111-03) sewers in DEDHAM STREET and GROVE STREET.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: John Daghljan was present for the discussion of this item. The funding is for the construction of sewers in Grove Street and Dedham Street. The Committee previously approved the petitions for the sewers. A breakdown of the costs of the sewers is attached. \$107,000 was previously appropriated, so only \$127,667.51 is needed. The construction of the sewers will begin this summer. Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item, which was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman