

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2002

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

Also present: Ald. Lennon and Merrill

City personnel present: Fran Towle (Parks and Recreation Commissioner), Robert Rooney (Public Works Commissioner), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Carol Stapleton (Parks and Recreation Department), Robert DeRubeis (Parks and Recreation Department) and Michael Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer)

REFERRED TO PUB. FAC. & FINANCE COMMITTEES

#225-02(3) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$70,000 be appropriated from Parking Meter Receipts for the purpose of funding the FY03 street light account.

NOTE: LETTER RECEIVED FROM MAYOR ON 10/1/02 REQUESTING THAT THIS AMOUNT BE AMENDED BY \$87,000 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF \$157,000 TO FUND THE STREET LIGHT ACCOUNT.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: Sandy Pooler presented the item to the Committee. The Mayor submitted a letter requesting that the original amount be increased by \$87,000 for a new total of \$157,000. The transfer from parking meter receipts is to replace funds transferred from the street light account to the NEXUS transportation fund earlier this year. Ald. Yates moved approval of the item, which was voted unanimously.

#150-02 **ALD. LENNON, GERST & MERRILL** requesting the traffic island located on Jefferson Street, Newton Corner be named Jefferson Square.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: Ald. Lennon and Merrill joined the Committee for discussion of this item. Residents in the area are interested in naming the traffic island located at the intersection of Jefferson and Williams Streets. They would like a sign placed on the island designating it as Jefferson Square. The area surrounding the island is a historic area and the island has been a prominent point of the neighborhood since at least 1897. The Commissioner of Public Works is in support of the project.

Mr. Mike Milburn, 19 Jefferson Street, attended the meeting and submitted a petition and information pertaining to the proposed naming (attached). There is a real sense of community in the area. He explained that several residents maintain the island and will continue to do so. Mr. Milburn feels that the sign will create a

sense of cohesion in neighborhood. Ald. Yates asked Mr. Milburn who Jefferson Street is named after. Mr. Milburn believes it is named for Thomas Jefferson. He will try to find some reference to the naming of the street but this may not be possible. He feels that it is important that the name be Jefferson Square as there are several historic homes on Jefferson Street.

The Committee thought that the naming was a wonderful idea. Several Committee members felt that it was not just naming an island but a neighborhood. There was discussion regarding funding for the sign. It was suggested that Mr. Milburn speak with CDBG and Cultural Affairs regarding funding. It was also suggested that the neighborhood meet and come up with a design for the sign. Ald. Gerst thinks it is a terrific idea and it will be a great identifier for the neighborhood. Ald. Gerst moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

Chairman's
Note:

There was an update on Millennium Park. Mr. Rourke stated that the plan is at the 95% point. The park should be completed at the end of the summer. All departments involved in the project have been working well together. A construction progress report and a summary of the estimate of construction costs were distributed to the Committee (attached).

Fran Towle gave an overview of the timeline for construction. She presented pictures depicting different views of the park from several different angles, which will be on display in the rotunda of City Hall. Mr. Chang of Chang + Sylligardos Architects reviewed the changes to the original plans. A concrete wall has been removed and several plantings have been removed from the plan. Mr. Chang gave a brief summary of the funding for the project. The park is being fully funded through donations except for \$70,000 in kind labor from Public Works for the reconstruction of the parking lot.

Commissioner Rooney provided the Committee with information regarding the reconstruction of the parking lot. Handicap access to City Hall has been provided and construction of the foundation and sidewalk will begin soon. The concrete foundation needed to be removed because the drainage pattern has changed since it was installed. The new parking lot will be asphalt. Ald. Salvucci asked if there were plans to reconstruct the parking lot before Millennium Park was proposed. Commissioner Rooney explained that it had been on the horizon. Ald. Salvucci voiced his concern regarding the \$70,000 in kind labor by Public Works. He feels that the City streets need a lot of work and pulling labor to the parking lot is wrong.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman