

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT  
SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Gerst, Antonellis, Salvucci, Yates and Mansfield

Absent: Ald. McGrath and M. Lipof

Also Present: Ald. Tattenbaum, Gentile, Baker, Johnson and Parker

City Officials Present: Michael Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Fran Towle (Parks and Recreation Commissioner), Carol Stapleton (Parks and Recreation Department), Nick Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner)

**REFERRED TO PUB FAC, PROG & SERV AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

# 76-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$20,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of completing work at Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake.

**PROG & SERV APPROVED 5-0 ON 2/21/01**

**FINANCE APPROVED 8-0 ON 2/26/01**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Fran Towle presented the item to the Committee. The project is the joint effort of the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works and Community Development. A break down of the joint funding of the project is attached. The request is for \$20,000 to complete the Levingston Cove project. The additional funds are required to cover the cost of revisions to the design of the cove at the request of the neighborhood. The funds will provide for benches, garbage receptacles, and some of the cost of the walkways. The abutters to Levingston Cove are pleased with the altered design and it is handicapped accessible. Ald. Mansfield moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUB FACILITIES, PROG&SERV, AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#268-00(B)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$89,220,407 for the purpose of funding the construction and renovation of Newton North and South High Schools, which source of funding will be the issuance of long term debt.

**ACTION:**      **HELD 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, and Owen Beenhouwer of DRA presented the item. The specifications and the floor plans will be submitted to the State by the deadline of March 1, 2001 but the architect needs more time to refine the program as it is fitted to the existing spaces. The State will accept some

modifications to the plans. The construction and renovations are on track in regards to the timeframe. The drawings, models and plans will be on display in the lobby of City Hall after the Design Review Committee has approved them.

Mr. Beenhouwer gave the Committee a progressive report on the renovation of the high schools and presented preliminary plans. There will be a major interior renovation to Newton North High School, which will improve upon existing space. The entire building will be gutted except for the existing walls. There will also be an addition of 1,200-sq. ft. to the cafeteria and a new 1,800-sq. ft. lobby as well as new elevators. The windows are to be replaced with operable windows and telephones will be added to individual classrooms. The renovations are projected to begin in three years. Two hundred and fifty students will be shifted to Newton South High School during these renovations. Therefore, the two new buildings at Newton South need to be completed before the renovations at Newton North can begin.

There was some discussion on providing additional natural light and additional ventilation at Newton North. There is no plan to add additional windows to the exterior of Newton North but there will be operable windows in all exterior classrooms. It is impossible to provide natural light or ventilation to the interior classrooms at Newton North but there will be a new HVAC system, which will vastly improve the air quality. The architect is also investigating "green construction practices" and energy conservation measures that would be plausible at both high schools.

There will be two additional academic halls, a new cafeteria, new elevators, and new administration rooms at Newton South High School. There will also be a new large gym, which will have enough space to support a school-wide function. There will not be any major renovations to the auditorium but a new fly space will be added. There are two more additions planned but it is unsure where the additions will be located. The architect is trying not to encroach on the courtyard space and will come back to the committee with the final plan. There will be no encroachment on the existing roadways and there will be some additional parking. The two new halls will be built first in order to house students during renovations at Newton South and then students from Newton North while it is being renovated.

Ald. Mansfield questioned the parking plan at Newton South High School. There will be additional parking spaces added at the school. Dr. George Abbott White a teacher at Newton South suggested added additional parking on an unused portion of the site. He feels that there is a great need for more parking as there is not enough parking now without a larger student body. The architects are looking into different places to add parking. Ald. Mansfield would like a traffic impact study done for the area surrounding Newton South. He feels that the City should know about any change in traffic before hand in order to work towards finding viable solutions before it becomes a problem to the neighborhood.

Andrea Kelly questioned the planned placement of the cafeteria by the library and classrooms. She wondered how the noise from the cafeteria would be controlled as not to interrupt students. The plan for the cafeteria is to make it an inviting and open space. The architect is looking at ways to control the acoustics in the cafeteria and may need to modify the plans. Anatol Zuckerman also questioned the lighting in the new cafeteria. There will be vertical glass at the top of two sides of the walls to give daylight throughout the space.

Ald. Gentile would like the architects and the City to investigate putting a pool in Newton South High School. There would be great advantages to the students and community to having a pool at Newton South. He feels that the cost will not be as high as it has been predicted. Ald. Gerst also suggested looking into placing a hockey rink at either site. The community would use the rink and both schools have hockey teams. There was some discussion on finding private funding for the swimming pool and hockey rink.

It is hoped that the project will receive approval from the Board of Aldermen on April 17, 2001 and all required information will be submitted to the State by May 1, 2001. The State deadline is June 1, 2001 but in order for work to begin this summer it needs to be approved by May 1, 2001. Ald. Schnipper is willing to hold additional meetings of the Public Facilities Committee in order to try and meet the May 1, 2001 deadline.

All other items were held without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair