

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Lappin, Sangiolo, Johnson, Hess-Mahan, Lennon, and Baker

Absent: Ald. Mansfield

City officials: Mike Kruse, Director of Planning and Development; Juris Alksnitis, Associate Director, Linda Finucane, Clerk

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#543-03 LORRAINE SALVUCCI, 23 Eddy Street, West Newton, appointed as member of the PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD to fill the unexpired term of Audrey Cooper, for a term expiring February 1, 2007 (60-day Board action 2/14/04).

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Ms. Salvucci is a real estate broker who is a lifelong resident of the City. Of the work of the Planning Board, she is most interested in affordable housing. The Committee thanked her for her willingness to serve and approved her appointment unanimously.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#544-03 JAMES C. GROSS, 80 Highland Avenue, Newtonville, appointed as an Alternate member of the NEWTONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION for a term of office expiring February 1, 2005 (60-day Board action 2/14/04).

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0-1 (Johnson)

NOTE: Mr. Gross is an attorney who lives in Newtonville south of the turnpike in a street with many historic homes. He is proposed to fill the Alternate Attorney seat on the Commission. Commission Member Mark Chudy recruited him. He approached the appointment with some trepidation, fearing that the Commission would impose unreasonable costly burdens on property owners and was pleased to find that the Commission was very reasonable in its dealings with property owners at the meeting he attended, striking a balance between cost and historic preservation. He looks forward to working for such a balance himself as a Commission member. Alderman Johnson said that she would abstain on the appointment until she had a chance to talk to him in depth about the position. She urged him to become familiar with the Historic District Study Report that outlines the historic qualities recommended for preservation in the district.

The other members felt that his attitude of balance seemed the appropriate one and voted 6-0 to approve his nomination, with Alderman Johnson abstaining.

REFERRED TO ALL COMMITTEES

#15-04 ALD. BAKER requesting discussion and planning of upcoming committee agendas, process, future work, and how to streamline committee work on minor or routine approvals in order to allow time to focus on more major or non-routine matters.

ACTION: HELD 7-0

NOTE: A lengthy discussion was held on how the Committee's work can be done more expeditiously. It focused on the appointment process as it related to the proposed schedule for the first three months of the year prepared by the Chairman. Eventually, it came down to a similar policy as that of the Programs and Services Committee. All appointees to regulatory commissions (which covers virtually all appointments that come to the Committee) will be asked to appear before the Committee. There was some disagreement as to how appointees who do not appear at the requested meeting should be handled. The Chair felt that re-appointees that are well known to one or more Committee members and to whom no one on the Committee objects might be confirmed without making a second request to appear. Alderman Johnson felt strongly that all appointees should be treated alike. The matter should play out as we begin our work. President Baker asked that the item be held. The Committee voted 7-0 to hold it after a lengthy discussion.

#512-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion with the Inspectional Services Commissioner and possible ordinance amendment requiring demolition permit applicants to give notice to abutters prior to actual demolition re demolition dates; and that any and all plans for proposed construction on the same site be submitted and approved by the Inspectional Services Department.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0

NOTE: Alderman Sangiolo moved NAN on her item. The Committee agreed gratefully, 7-0.

January –March Schedule

January 26

16-04 and any other appropriate appointments

The rest of the meeting was to be devoted to the Economic Development Commission, both re-appointments and substantive matters. However, some key EDC members could not attend until Feb. 9th so Conservation Commission ticketing (168-02) and Capital Improvement Program (549-03) will move up to this meeting.

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 12, 2004

Page 3

Feb. 9

EDC appointments, Recycling Market Development Zone (366-95)
Foreign Trade SubZone (367-95), Railroad uses in Mixed Use Districts (326-99),
Hotel linkage (20-03-+(2))

February 23

Rezoning of Rochester Road area
355-03 and successor item to 216-00

March 8 Discussion of Urban Design Items (133-03, 311-02, and 294-03)

March 22 Hearings on Fence and Rear Lot Subdivision item

March 29 Update on Section 30-15 Task Force and food items

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Yates, Chairman