

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

Members present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Merrill, Baker, Johnson, Sangiolo, and Gentile

Absent: Ald. M. Lipof and Mansfield

Other Aldermen: Ald. Lipsitt

City officials: Planning Director Michael Kruse and Committee Clerk Linda Finucane

Framework Plan Committee Members: Phil Herr (Chair), Edward Dailey, Burton Elliot, Josephine McNeil, Deborah Crossley

#423-00      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting for aldermanic review the draft *Framework Plan prepared* by The Newton Framework Planning Committee.

ACTION:      NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE:        This item had no specific action attached to it, and the title and text of the Framework Plan has changed significantly since it was submitted. Therefore, it seemed most appropriate to vote No Action Necessary. The Committee did so 6-0.

#423-00(3)    ALD. YATES offering a RESOLUTION that the *Framework Plan* and documents based on it include a recognition of the adverse impact of the closing of village schools and branch libraries and a commitment to preserve the remaining ones and the community centers that replaced the closed ones.

ACTION:      NO ACTION NECESSARY

NOTE:        Since the document had been amended to include two specific references to the impact of the closing of village schools and branch libraries and the importance of preserving the remaining village center facilities, Alderman Yates felt that No Action was Necessary on the item. The Committee agreed 6-0.

#423-00(2)    ALD. YATES offering a RESOLUTION commending the members of the Framework Plan Committee on the overall *Framework Plan* and urging the Committee to begin work as soon as possible on a detailed Land Use/Transportation Plan.

ACTION: APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0

NOTE: Mr. Herr explained that the Framework Plan Committee had made significant revisions in the Framework document based on the comments of the Committee members. The changes included revised or additional text section, a scoping document explaining how the document fits in to the requirements of the Newton Charter, current state law, and proposed revisions to the state law, and a change in title clarifying that it is a "Framework for Planning." Alderman Baker and other Committee members praised the Committee in general and Mr. Herr in particular for their work both in preparing the original documents and in making the changes. Alderman Baker moved approval of the item. Several amendments were made reflecting the change in title of the document and paralleling the previous resolutions of support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the Historic Preservation Plan. The Planning Department is to prepare this new plan with maximum feasible participation by interested citizens. Alderman Lipsitt agreed with the praise of the Framework but raised the question of a paragraph that cited disappointment at the Land Use process and claimed that such feelings were more extreme in Newton than in other communities. She felt and others agreed that the first sentence was an accurate reflection of some feelings in Newton but that the second sentence was not appropriate. Alderman Yates said that it did not accurately reflect the situation in other communities. After some discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the Framework Committee that the second sentence be dropped and the first left in place with a possible positive second sentence to be added. Mr. Herr felt comfortable making such a change since he had several of the active members of his Committee present. It was agreed that the first sentence reflected the feelings not only of Committee members but also of the dozens of citizens who had participated in two public hearings.

Approval was then voted 6-0 of the item as amended to reflect the changed name of the Framework, that the Planning Department was to prepare a Land Use/Transportation Plan and that such plan should reflect the Framework.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Yates, Chairman

Attachments:

Framework Documents

Revised text of 423-00 (2)