

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011

Present: Ald. Swiston (Chair), Lennon, Rice and Shapiro
Absent: Ald. Johnson, Sangiolo, Schnipper and Freedman
Also Present: Ald. Yates

#323-10 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Newton Housing Authority (NHA) on the posting of names and contact information of members of the Board of the NHA on bulletin boards in the community centers of NHA developments and on the website of the NHA. [11/01/10 @ 9:44 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 4-0**

NOTE: Ald. Yates stated he docketed this item in response to receiving constituents complaints regarding their inability to contact Newton Housing Authority (NHA) personnel because their names are not posted anywhere including the NHA website. Their web site is not connected to the City's website because they are not a city agency. Recently, Programs & Services Committee approved Mr. Kronish's appointment as the organized labor representative member of the NHA. Ald. Yates asked Mr. Kronish to remedy this when he begins his service on the NHA, which he agreed to. It has been several months and postings are still not complete. Ald. Yates said during that meeting NHA members said constituents do not contact them.

Chairman Swiston said Executive Director, Mr. Hacker will be leaving NHA on February 11. She stated she spoke with Harvey Epstein, Acting Director of Administration/Special Projects, NHA who informed her NHA will discuss this item at their next Board of Directors meeting in February. They expressed their concerns on publicly posting contact information for these members. She said they are *not* technically "public officials". Ald. Yates and Lennon disagreed. Ald. Yates said some sort of contact information is necessary to reach them. Ald. Shapiro asked if NHA members have personal or city email addresses'. Chairman Swiston answered they do not have organizational email addresses. Ald. Shapiro suggested perhaps creating email addresses with the capability of forwarding them to personal email accounts. He also asked what the structure of NHA is. Ald. Yates answered the Board of Directors serves a fixed term consisting of five members, four members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen; one member is appointed by the Governor. NHA is federally and state funded, it is not a City agency.

Ald. Lennon said at one time, a directory was printed including the address and phone number of the current Board and Commission members. The directory allowed an organized way to track members. He said he would have a discussion with the City Clerk, Mr. Olson regarding this directory and ask him for clarification on what if any, private information should be available to the public. He feels this clarification is necessary to ensure that all Board and Commissions are

treated the same and what is expected of them. He feels this information should be posted in the NHA office. Ald. Shapiro agreed stating the NHA should be consistent with all Boards and Committees providing some sort of contact information with an expiration date of their appointment.

Ald. Shapiro made the motion to hold this item until March allowing NHA to discuss this request of posting pertinent Board contact information. Committee members agreed 4-0.

REFERRED TO POST AUDIT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

#107-10 ALD. YATES, LAPPIN, FREEDMAN, FISCHMAN AND HESS-MAHAN
requesting an update on the Newton South High School athletic field drainage project. [03/15/10 @ 12:09 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Ald. Gentile not voting) on 07/14/10

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0

NOTE: Chairman Swiston reported Public Facilities voted no action necessary on this item because they were satisfied with information provided to them from City Engineer, Lou Taverna addressing the concerns raised by an abutter and the status of the construction and drainage issues.

Ald. Lennon said he would support a vote of no action necessary but suggested asking the co-docketers if they would also support it or if they know of constituents still having issues with the drainage or concerns. Ald. Shapiro suggested holding this item until March when the snow thaws. Ald. Yates reported he has not received any complaints and would support no action necessary. Therefore, Ald. Lennon made the motion for no action necessary, with the Committees' understanding if further issues arise; a more specific docket item could be filed to address them. Committee members agreed 4-0.

At approximately 8:30 pm, Ald. Shapiro made a motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Tan Swiston, Chairman