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Community Preservation Committee
MINUTES of PUBLIC MEETING
18 October 2011

The meeting was held on Wednesday 18 October 2011 at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) members present: Nancy Grissom, Leslie Burg, Thomas Turner, Michael Clarke, Joel Feinberg, Dan Green (arr. 7:30 pm), Zack Blake, Jim Robertson (dep. 8:40 pm).

Program manager Alice Ingerson served as recorder.

Committee Chair Leslie Burg opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Fy12 Budget Update: State Matching Funds & Restricted Funds

Alice Ingerson walked the committee through the financial summary included in their packets. On 6 October 2011, the state Dept. of Revenue had confirmed that Newton would receive \$625,763 in state matching funds, a 26.6% match for the local revenue raised by Newton's 1% surcharge in fy11.

The fy12 program budget approved by the Board of Aldermen in April 2011 included only \$517,766 in state matching funds. Making the additional \$107,997 available for appropriation in fy12 would have required approval of a revised fy12 budget at special meetings of the CPC, two Aldermanic committees and the full Board of Aldermen between 6 October 2011 and mid-November 2011. In light of the CPC's standing policy goal to maintain a reserve of about \$2 million (i.e., not spending all available funds in any given year) and its decision not to hold a regular fy12 funding round, CPC Chair Leslie Burg and Vice Chair Joel Feinberg had accepted Ingerson's recommendation not to propose this minor fy12 budget revision.

The additional \$107,977 in state funds will therefore become available for appropriation on 1 July 2012, the first day of fy13, as part of the unspent fy12 "fund balance." Ingerson noted that this fund balance would also include unspent funds returned from projects completed or canceled in fy12.

Finally, Ingerson explained that some fy11 appropriations had been taken entirely from the general reserve, rather than as in the past from restricted reserves. As a result, more available funds than usual are currently restricted to use for historic resources and housing. Since the only proposals the Committee has voted on or agreed to consider off-cycle in fy12 are in these two categories, this should not constrain funding decisions in a significant way. However, Ingerson will work with the City Clerk and Comptroller to ensure that future appropriations use restricted reserves first.

10th Anniversary Outreach

Ingerson walked the Committee through the draft PowerPoint & interactive exhibit she had prepared for the 5 planned neighborhood meetings: 15 November 2011 for Nonantum, Newton Corner & Newtonville / Wards 1 & 2), January 2012 for West Newton, Auburndale and Newton Lower Falls / Wards 3 & 4; March 2012 for Waban, Newton Highlands and Newton Upper Falls / Ward 5; May 2012 for Newton Centre, Thompsonville and Chestnut Hill / Wards 7 & 8; and September 2012 for the South Side, including Oak Hill & Oak Hill Park / Ward 8.

Committee members discussed and recommended several revisions in these draft materials, including: adding a slide to recap the legislative history of the Community Preservation Act and its adoption in Newton; revising the slide explaining Newton's 1% surcharge; new wording for the slide summarizing the roles of the CPC and the Board of Aldermen in the funding process; and combining the "preservation" & "rehabilitation" categories into one, on a slide explaining allowable uses of CPA funds.

The Committee also discussed how the basic information in the PowerPoint could be condensed to fit on a small insert to be included in the winter water bills, which go to most households in the City.

Individual Committee members then signed up to do specific tasks for the first, November 15th community event, including providing refreshments, presenting the first part of the PowerPoint, leading the audience discussion after the presentation, and contacting Aldermen, School Committee members, and other community leaders personally, to encourage their attendance.

Minutes

Nancy Grissom moved approval of the minutes for the 21 September 2011 meeting. Jim Robertson seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

With unanimous approval, Chair Leslie Burg adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

MEETING HANDOUTS / PRESENTATION

- Update on fy12 available funds – attached to these minutes
- PowerPoint & interactive exhibit – will be posted online from www.newtonma.gov/cpa