



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Present: Councilors Leary (Chair), Laredo, Kelley, Crossley, Gentile, and Kalis

Also Present: Councilors Norton and Danberg

City Staff Present: Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse and Associate City Engineer John Daghljan

#48-21 **Appointment of Marc Kaufman to the Design Review Committee**
PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT appointing Marc Kaufman, 553 Walnut Street, Newton, to the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE as the Community Representative for the duration of the NewCAL project. (60 day: 04/02/21)

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0 (Councilor Gentile not voting)**

Note: Marc Kaufman explained that he has continued to attend meetings about the NewCAL project and was an avid member of the Senior Center before the pandemic. Mr. Kaufman noted that he was a member of the Design Review Committee for the Newton North High School Project.

Councilors thanked Mr. Kaufman for his willingness to serve.

Councilor Crossley motioned to approve which passed 5-0 with Councilor Gentile not voting.

#47-21 **Request for a main drain extension at 63 Moody Street**
ABBAS AMIRI, 80 Doublet Hill Road, Weston, petitioning for a main drain extension from the end of the line at the existing manhole near #47 Moody Street in a northwesterly direction 166'± to a proposed manhole in front of #63 Moody Street. The proposed manhole will be installed at the end of the proposed extension to allow the overflow connection to the city's main. (Ward 7)

PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0 (Councilor Gentile not voting)**

Note: John Daghljan, Associate City Engineer explained that this is a main drain extension that the petitioner is paying the entire cost for. Mr. Daghljan explained that there is a large amount of ledge on site, so the petitioner needs the main drain extension to be able to connect the runoff to the City's system.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Laredo motioned to approve which passed 5-0 with Councilor Gentile not voting.

#396-20 Request for updates on HVAC and ventilation at Newton Public Schools

The President of the Council, on behalf of the City Council, requesting an update to the Public Facilities Committee from Commissioner Morse on current work on HVAC and air quality in the Newton Public Schools at each meeting of the Public Facilities Committee this fall until work is complete.

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on 12/17/20

Action: Public Facilities Held 6-0

Note: Josh Morse, Commissioner of Public Building explained that they are finishing the project. The ventilation projects at Newton North and South have been completed and F.A. Day will go through its final testing this week. Commissioner Morse explained that he has received the post-audit report from the Crowley Engineering, and he will be reviewing those documents to see if there is anything that needs to be adjusted for full occupancies. Commissioner Morse noted that the ventilation system in the schools will not be a prohibiting factor to students returning to full in-person learning. Commissioner Morse noted that they still have some smaller projects including the Ward and Peirce cafeterias to be prepared for full in-person learning. There is also a need to go through the finances for this project.

Committee members asked the following questions:

Q: Is there a need to keep the windows open in the classroom with the new ventilation system?

A: Commissioner Morse explained that once the room has been tested and is reaching the standards then it is no longer necessary to keep windows open.

Q: Has anyone been in contact with the Safe Buildings Group at the Harvard School of Public Health regarding this ventilation project?

A: Commissioner Morse explained that he has not been in direct contact with this group.

Q: What will the total cost of the project be?

A: Commissioner Morse noted that they do not have a total cost yet and he will be reviewing all the invoices to see what are normal HVAC costs for the Newton Public Schools and what costs are due to the pandemic. The costs that deal with the ventilation project will be submitted through the CARES Act application.

Committee members asked the following comments:

There should be a memo to teachers and other school staff explaining why they do not need to have their windows open and if they are opening their windows how that could affect the HVAC system after their rooms have been tested.

Commissioner Morse noted that he has been in contact with Newton Public Schools about this issue and will continue to update the staff on this project.

City staff should reach out to the Safe Buildings Group regarding the ventilation project to see if there are any ways the City could improve.

Committee members thanked Commissioner Morse and his team for their work on this project.

Councilor Kalis motioned to hold which passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison M. Leary, Chair