

## REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

APRIL 29, 2003

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Tuesday, April 29, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Stephen C. Lamos  
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee absent: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

### **R-03-174**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich  
Alderman Lori Cardin

**RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER FROM ACCOUNTS 505-81008 “FUNDING FOR THE ARTS” AND 590-23505-6148 “PRIOR YEAR ESCROW – FUNDING FOR THE ARTS” INTO VARIOUS ARTS ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTS**

- Also assigned to the Finance Committee

Alderman Plamondon

Have we gotten approval from Finance? No? Then I'll move to recommend final passage pending approval of Finance.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE PENDING APPROVAL FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I thought the problem before was it shouldn't have been referred to Finance. It should have been referred to this committee.

Chair Cardin

It should have been referred to this committee, initially. It did go to finance and they held it in finance. Once we decide what we're going to do with the resolution, it will go back to finance.

Alderman Deane

I have a question on how the amounts were divvied out.

Chair Cardin

We're going to get into that in a second. I would like to ask the Review & Comment Commission Chair, Marty Fabian, and Rita Chamberlin to join us. This actually goes through the Review & Comment process. There are applications that are taken and reviewed by the ad hoc committee and Review & Comment. They review the applications with the applicants and decide like they do through the regular Review & Comment process.

Alderman Deane

I know of your past work with 505. I know the task and how you figure things – how people come and make presentations. I was just interested in how you came about the figures that you did on what was requested and what you gave the different groups.

Marty Fabian

Proposals were given to us had requested funding. After reviewing their worksheets we made a determination on the amount that would be given to each of these art programs.

Rita Chamberlin

It's an objective review in the sense that we apply the same standards to these proposals that we do to any other agency proposals. We ask them for specific information around impacts and outcomes. We ask for budget information. It is a very similar review process. In this case it was held aside from the regular 505, Review & Comment session that we do because it doesn't fall basically into the same area. It's like Meals-On-Wheels. It's a little bit different. It's not quite in that same capacity. So the art grants were held separately and reviewed separately. As the Chair has noted, it was done as an ad hoc committee. The five members of the sub-committee chairs reviewed these. I know that Marty spoke directly and I spoke directly with the agencies if we had questions, just as we do with any other agency proposals. We asked the questions. We think we have some tough questions. We believe the city needs to see value for its dollar. We applied those same standards.

Chair Cardin

Alderman Deane, we do have representatives here this evening from all three agencies if you have questions directly for any of those agencies.

Alderman Deane

No. I was just wondering what sort of process they used. Basically it's the same process used for 505 and that seems to work very well. I thank you for the time you put in and your efforts. Do you want a motion for final passage?

Alderman Liamos

The motion on the floor from Alderman Plamondon is for final passage pending favorable outcome from the finance committee. Do you want to remove "favorable outcome" from finance because we act as two independent entities?

Chair Cardin

Would you like to amend your motion, Alderman Plamondon?

Alderman Plamondon

Whenever legislation is sent to multiple committees, whatever committee sees it first, the norm is always for the current committee to give an opinion pending outcome of whatever other committees are involved directed by the President of the Board of Aldermen. I don't think it would be appropriate not to include finance committee where it was assigned by the President of the Board.

Alderman Deane

I see things come down from the Planning Board recommending a favorable recommendation.

Chair Cardin

I'm okay with the motion as it stands. It has to go through finance anyways. The motion before us is to recommend final passage pending a favorable outcome from the finance committee.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-03-184**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Lori Cardin  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman-at-Large Fred Britton  
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$149,302 FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OF THE US DOT AND UP TO \$131,801 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 374-7242 FOR JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE TRANSIT**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LIAMOS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs

Nashua's Job Access Program was launched in January of 2002. Six months it was operated for the first fiscal year and continued into this current year, Fiscal 2003. This resolution would authorize the acceptance of grants from the Federal Transit Administration and the State Department of Health & Human Services to continue operations in Fiscal Year 2004. As before in the prior years, it is the same set of activities that we would be undertaking with these funds which involves the operation of one additional city bus on our fixed route service, one additional van operating exclusive in Nashua, and one van that operates a commuter service to Milford, New Hampshire by Route 101A. Once again, there are no city funds involved in this. The

Department of Health & Human Services provides the local funding from temporary assistance to needy families which is a special allowance under this program wherein the funds can be used to match job access funds. We expect in this coming year to provide over 18,000 trips with these three different modes of vehicles. Additionally this would fund the position of mobility manager which assists individuals who are making the transition from welfare or tenant assistance to getting their transportation needs met both in child care and getting themselves to work in employment. Nashua would be one of only four recipients of these funds in this coming fiscal year and one of only 40 nation-wide. It's a very special opportunity to receive these funds.

Chair Cardin

Are we currently going to Milford?

Paul Newman

Yes.

Chair Cardin

What's the ridership? Is it well utilized?

Paul Newman

Very little ridership relative to our regular service. Usually one gives a service like that about two years to see if it will build up. Another part of the factor is the weather this winter. It's been particularly difficult for people. Even in our Nashua service, it does effect ridership. Ultimately, I suspect it will be the community of Milford that will decide whether it warrants keeping. They are paying what local share is remaining other than the state funds for that operation. Of course if these funds should ever end, they would have to pick up more of the local share. Nevertheless, I should mention that we do have a commitment for this funding for not only Fiscal Year 2004 but also 2005 from both federal and state agencies.

Alderman Plamondon

It seems like at the Nashua border there's a lot of ridership. I work out that way. I see a lot of people standing out on the bus stops. That was a good question as far as beyond Nashua, how much ridership there is. In Nashua there seems to be sizeable numbers.

Paul Newman

Route Two, which serves Route 101A, Amherst Street within Nashua is most of the time our busiest route and often has standees only on city bus. In fact in the Capital Improvement Program, it's included in the Mayor's proposed budget to purchase one more bus – we'd purchase a slightly larger bus to accommodate a route like that.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-03-185**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman Lori Cardin  
Alderman Brian S. McCarthy  
Alderman-at-Large Fred Britton  
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A HUD SPECIAL  
EDI GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,000**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Paul Newman

This is a supplement to our regular community development block grant. It actually is funded by HUD through the community development block grant program. There's a so-called "set aside" under the economic development initiative effectively based on proposal that the community made to congressman who were successful in having it funded through this program. As you see in the description in the resolution, it's generally for downtown façade restoration, public space design and improvements, special events and performance programming. When those become more specific, we would be presenting it and coming back for those okays on specific use of those funds. Generally it's seen as something that can close the gap on key and critical opportunities that arise in the downtown area.

Alderman Plamondon

Do you think that a majority of these funds would be appropriated to the 1860 car house that we've been looking at in Railroad Square? 50-50 chance? Can you give any kind of tie-in to that building with these funds?

Paul Newman

I suspect there would be opportunities like that. I believe with the funds that are proposed to be appropriated under the regular community development block grant that that particular project would have the resources that it needs. But it would be things very much like that.

Alderman Plamondon

So this is then for other downtown buildings?

Paul Newman

I expect so.

Alderman Deane

There was a percentage of the CDBG process that we just went through which included money for these like purposes. There was a percentage for façade restoration that Community Development had brought in. Would or could we re-program those funds in lieu of using this money instead? Would that free up those funds for other purposes?

Paul Newman

There is a total of \$115,000 for the façade restoration and for the design of the riverfront walkway along that same sight. The question is could one use these funds for that purpose?

Alderman Deane

Yes.

Paul Newman

I suspect that could be done, but on the other hand, I think the prospect is that there will be future unique opportunities that come up that can't be anticipated at this time that these funds give us that flexibility whereas the Community Development Block Grant, the regular funding, occurs once a year.

Alderman Deane

Is this a grant you have to apply for every year or are we lucky to get this grant?

Paul Newman

It is a special appropriation based on Nashua's unique request – as many other communities make unique requests for very specific undertakings. It would not be recurring unless the city were to ask and once again be successful in getting such funds. There are two other EDI grants, so-called, that the city has received. The \$1,000,000 for affordable housing and four hundred some thousand, I don't know the exact figure, for Mines Falls Park. Those were included by our Congressional Delegation in the budget as special set-aside projects, so-called.

Alderman Deane

Does the Mines Falls Park grant fall under your department?

Paul Newman

It's being carried out by the Department of Public Works. We've provided some technical assistance.

Alderman Deane

So the monitoring of expenditures of that money is being done by the Division of Public Works and by Carol Anderson?

Paul Newman

I've dealt with Public Works employees on it. That's as much as I know about it. I understand that they are fully administering it and retaining the engineers. I think I saw some work out to bid on it.

Alderman Deane

There's certain criteria that that money is for, correct? Was there a certain scope of work for which they could use the money for or was it for basic improvements? I know they went out and hired someone to look at the bridges at Mines Falls Park, and they looked at the gatehouse.

Paul Newman

There was one additional grant which just came to mind. The first one we received was \$92,500 was also for downtown. It was for the industrial heritage museum. When these are approved, they are approved based on a capsule summary in the actual congressional appropriation. That tends to be rather brief. The department that is administering it, in our case say this one, we then submit a more detailed budget which includes a break-out by activity. That becomes the project budget. We haven't yet had to deal with an amendment with those so I don't know quite how they are amended or how complicated that might be. I don't know what was submitted for the Mines Falls Park project in terms of budget breakdown and detail.

Alderman Deane

The \$1,000,000 of HOME funds, did we get that money last year as well? Was that through the Congressional Delegation?

Paul Newman

The \$1,000,000 was another economic development initiative grant that the city applied for about a year and a half ago. That was again a free-standing unique project in this set-aside category. Every year you have to submit through your congressional delegation a list of very specific things that you want which may or may not get put in the appropriations bill. Nashua has done very well in recent years. On the other hand, you mentioned HOME. That's another grant which is a formula grant that Nashua will be receiving for the first time this coming year on a regular ongoing basis. That's not one that we have to compete against other communities requests.

Alderman Deane

That's interesting because I had heard from a representative from one of our congressman that they weren't happy with the performance that the city had on the grants, the monies that they were bringing in to the city. They apply for the grants, they do the work to get the money into the city, and then the projects aren't being done. People are sitting on the money. When we turn around and ask them for more money, they are like: "You haven't spent the money we've given you." The Mines Falls Park was one of them. We got the money, and I know they just started to get the work out now. There was some concern. We had a Senior Activity Center meeting, and when you get these people to go out on the limb to get the money and the money isn't being expended and the projects aren't being done. The money is made available to the

city and then the projects aren't being carried through in a timely manner. Then we turn around and ask them for more money, and they want to know what we did with the last batch of grants. They have to look at that because it shows in their track record when the grants are issued, when they are expended and what the finish product of the money spent was. There was some concern that we seem to be lagging behind a little bit on some of our projects in this city.

Chair Cardin

I don't want it to be a general knowledge that the community gets that we don't do that with all grants. There maybe ...

Alderman Deane

I didn't say all grants.

Chair Cardin

Okay. I didn't want people to think that we did that with all grants because I know of a lot of the grants.

Alderman Plamondon

Regarding Mines Falls Park, once the monies were received we did a Mines Falls Master Plan in conjunction with Community Development. We've also been working with the Mines Falls Advisory Board. We definitely want to spend the money, but we want to spend it as fugally and as wise as possible. In doing so there's also been community with abutters and so on. I suspect any additional monies out of Park & Rec may also fund. I know there's a lot of projects that tie-in in addition to what the original purpose was for this grant money which is again to get the Gate House operating, to get a flow back in the canal and also I believe part of the funding is for a loop trail along the canal. We had a lot of debate as to where we were going to put this loop trail. As it is now it's going to go in at the end of North Seventh Street instead of down by Pine Street – that might happen at a later date in conjunction with the Broad Street Parkway. We're basically looking at the big picture and then fine-tuning it. I believe we're ready to go on this project now.

Paul Newman

Our congressional offices may not be aware of some of the events. Once the grant is acted on by congress, for example our \$1 million housing grant, there was a general press announcement last August, but we didn't actually get the grant agreement until late winter – February or even March. Sometimes it seems like we're going slow but sometimes its Washington getting the paperwork out. Secondly, I just sat in on one or two meetings with congressional representatives. I sense sometimes they try to temper the committee's enthusiasm for submitting proposals because they must have an awful lot coming at them. I think they sometimes use that strategy, maybe.

Alderman Deane

It was just a comment that was made because I told him that I didn't want to see him again unless he had a check with him. It was just what was said at that meeting. If that's the game they are playing, fine, but we depend on them for a lot of money. Since I've been sitting on this committee I've seen a lot of grants in this city.

Chair Cardin

We do well with getting grants.

Alderman Deane

Yes, we do really well. There's a lot of hard work behind it. For Paul to put the wheels in motion to make it work, I don't know how he does it but he does well.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-03-186**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman Lori Cardin

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$3,791 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAY SAFETY  
AGENCY INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 331-6288**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Sgt. Mike Masella, Nashua Police Dept.

The money that we are looking to get we've previously received over the last few years. It's called the "New Hampshire – Join the Click Campaign." It offers overtime money for officers to participate in enforcement and education concerning the seatbelt laws, child restraints, and things of that nature. The dates are designated through the state. It's a state-wide campaign so other officers and other agencies will be doing it across the state. We try to pick locations, such as Main Street, and down around the malls. We don't pick the dates, but we try to pick the heavily traveled areas to get the most out of it that we can. There's a lot of education that's involved. It's not just strictly enforcement. In the times that I have been involved in the past, it was very successful.

Chair Cardin

It sounds like a good program.

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

DISCUSSION

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Alderman Stephen C. Lamos  
Committee Clerk