

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
April 25, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, April 25, 2005 at 7:18 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair
 Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
 Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
 Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale

Theodore T. Setas, Deputy Mgr. of Engineering

Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Mgr., Urban Programs Department

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Theodore T. Setas, P.E., DPW Deputy Manager of Engineering
Re: Community Development Block Grant: Hellenic Circle

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND GRANT
RECOMMENDATIONS**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

The recommendation be that we re-allocate the \$18,372.90 from the FY '04 Community Development Block Grant that was used for handicapped sidewalk ramps at the Walnut Street Oval. My understanding is that this \$18,372.90 will be used to do more of that at Kinsley, Pine, Central, Factory, and Elm Street.

Theodore Setas

What we are looking to do is we have constructed 17 ramps in the area of Hellenic Circle at the cost of approximately \$7,000. The remainder of those funds we are seeking to expand the scope of the work on the resolution to include a large area so that we can construct approximately 34 ramps within the area that you just mentioned. This display demonstrates those areas; the red dots are areas where the ADA ramps are needed, the blue dots are areas where improvements have already been made or they are compliant.

We estimate the cost to be approximately another \$14,000. With the remaining \$4,300 we would like to then construct concrete sidewalks where there is temporary pavement or paved sidewalks within the same area. We are continuing to do the work that the resolution was intended for. The savings was incurred from the Streets Department doing the work instead of contracting it out.

Alderman Deane

Ted I have a question. You are stating you will do 34 ramps to make the sidewalks ADA compliant, and you figured it was around \$14,000 to do the 34 ramps and you will have a balance of \$4,300 left over?

Theodore Setas

That is a rough estimate yes.

Alderman Deane

Each ramp costs how much \$437.50?

Theodore Setas

If you take the 17 – it is about roughly \$17 a linear foot and approximately \$25 for each ramp. It is the cost of materials and we provide the labor.

Alderman Deane

That is curbing and concrete or asphalt?

Theodore Setas

That would be concrete and gravel. We are hoping to reset the curb or leave it in place and just reset it. That may be a low estimate, but based on what has been done in the area recently ...

Alderman Deane

What was done in Hellenic Circle you had success with the curbing?

Theodore Setas

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Good. The areas that you have chosen all seem to be in Ward 4. I don't know if you had some high pressure from the Ward 4 Alderman, but can you explain how you selected these areas? The Factory Street and the Central Street locations seem to connect into what you have already done over there, but did you figure some sort of matrix to get around?

Theodore Setas

Not so much in this case because we were looking at the funding source and this funding source would be for low-income neighborhoods and seeing that we have already looked at this area as being an area of concern we wanted to continue to make improvements in this area. We could possibly look at other areas in the city. That was not really considered at this point.

Alderman Deane

The funds are restricted within certain boundaries so ...

Theodore Setas

I think Paul could you ...

Alderman Deane

I know that much.

Theodore Setas

That doesn't necessarily mean that we couldn't look at other areas in the city that maybe would meet the same qualifications.

Paul Newman

Again Public Works as Mr. Setas says I think was looking to I guess finish out an area where they have started, and at the same time because the funds were designated for a geographic area it was also made sense to do that because you don't have to necessarily go back and create a new project in a new neighborhood. I would suggest the committee could consider

amending the resolution that is in front of you on next year's CDBG as it did in a couple of other instances to deal with other sort of housekeeping measures if you are inclined to expand the geographic scope of this to include that area that is described in the memo bounded by those streets.

Alderman Deane

Due to the ADA compliant ramps that they are installing, we are still only allowed to use the monies within the geographical boundaries that are set. Is that correct? We couldn't put ADA ramps up in Ward 1 or Ward 7 or 8 or 9 could we?

Paul Newman

-
Actually any removal of architectural barriers to those with disability is an eligible activity under CDBG. It is certain classes of people/of the population such as elderly, people with disabilities, and several others – homeless obviously are deemed under the CDBG program to be predominantly lower income. The answer shortly is yes you could do it anywhere in the city.

Alderman Deane

If there was an area identified by Public Works then there could almost be like a yearly contribution if the committee chose to do so for ADA compliant ramps throughout the city.

The other question I had is on the sidewalk repairs that you state here – are those sidewalk repairs just from whatever is being disturbed while the curbing is being lowered – is that what you refer to as sidewalk repairs?

Theodore Setas

Actually it is areas where the concrete is broken up and we feel that it is substantial enough – it is in such disrepair that it would require replacing a panel and also areas where there is asphalt sidewalk and we may want to replace with concrete because asphalt is usually a temporary patch within the city in these areas. If it is something that has been dug up because of the sewer or water line that was replaced with the asphalt we would like to get it back to concrete as it was originally.

Alderman Deane

It is unfortunate that there is such a variety of different types of sidewalk and curbing in this city and grass strips. It is unfortunate we didn't stay to one standard of level curbing and concrete sidewalks. We continue to have site plan approvals done with asphalt and grass strips, and nothing is consistent any longer. Thank you.

Theodore Setas

Also as you are aware we also have a sidewalk contract going out shortly, and that should address some of the other areas of the city. The Streets Department will be coming out shortly. We have begun work on Locke Street from doing the survey work. They should be doing the sidewalk this week. There are a few other areas within the city that I am sure you are aware of. The Streets Department is also going to be building those sidewalks as well as some contract.

Alderman Lozeau

Do you anticipate having any money left after these 34 ramps are installed?

Theodore Setas

I think we are looking at about \$3,000.

Alderman Lozeau

I noticed the other day – I am not sure of the name of the street, but 55 Taxi is on that street, and that sidewalk is in pretty rough shape. I am wondering if you had anything left if you could include that. I don't see how a wheelchair can get down that sidewalk because it is so cracked up.

Chairman Cardin

Any further discussion on this?

Alderman Plamondon

Where this is Ward 4 I will testify that these particular streets in this particular neighborhood, particularly in the north end of the Tree streets hasn't had any focused attention whatsoever on the streets and sidewalks since we did the CSO work on Chestnut Street, which was our first attempt at traffic calming. I will tell you we learned a lot from what we didn't do. Since then there has been nothing. The area is in great need. As Alderman Lozeau noted School Street, which is where 55 Taxi is and the other side of the High Street Garage, is in severe need of some sidewalk attention. I would also point out West Otterson near the Elm Street Middle School there is a section of maybe 125 or 150 feet where the sidewalk is so bad that nobody walks on it. It was paved over cement. The whole thing has cracks that I would say is as big as 3" wide and maybe an inch deep. This is right next to a school. It is another area that I would like for us to – I would hate to asphalt over it, but right now it is really unsafe. My point being that this entire area needs some attention. It goes back to our last Human Affairs meeting when I mentioned I would like to – although I support the services we have been doing that with such focus that we have looked away from inner city projects, CDBG approved areas, where we can do some of this maintenance work, which really affects the quality of living in these neighborhoods. If we don't put attention to it we can't turn the neighborhoods around – crime,

drugs, having landlords invest in their buildings and their facades – none of that would happen without some type of investment and upkeep of the city. I would really encourage and ask my colleagues to support this because I will. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Alderman Plamondon I do support this, however, I just want to mention that I think this committee has been very supportive of city projects especially in the parks system and putting a lot of money towards the parks and to me that directly affects the neighborhood and the quality of life. Certainly I do support this project as well.

Alderman Deane

I don't know if I misunderstood what Alderman Plamondon said about the fact that this inner city area hasn't seen any attention. I think that the sections of Ward 4 have seen an enormous amount of attention. I think Kinsley Street a year or so ago was paved from the hospital all the way to Main Street. There are a number of side streets off there Mark that have also been paved all the way through. If there is dilapidation of streets, which we know is pretty much citywide we should focus on the way that they grade them and see if there are some areas that maybe they are not being graded properly. I know I had a call from a gentleman from Ward 9 who could not for the life of him understand why they were going to pave his street. Usually people call because their streets aren't getting paved and this gentleman was upset – he said there is one little pothole they could fill there is nothing wrong with the street. If I remember correctly I think a majority of the paving this year is in Ward 9, which was presented to us at Public Works along with the street-paving list.

I think the city has made some significant investments in the inner city along with the CSO work that was done as well, which is now no longer so we do have to remember all of that street paving that was put off that was going to be part of this separation project is no longer. The \$100 million we see in savings isn't quite a \$100 million – there is a lot of street paving that has to be done now. We have to look at that. I do believe that we have spent some time pretty much all over the city. Not enough, but some. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

I think that was Alderman Plamondon's point.

Alderman Plamondon

Just to clarify – I realize we have spent monies on updating our parks, but my point was more on the lines of bricks and mortar type things. I won't debate the need for providing CDBG assistance and services, however, some of these bricks and mortar things as I was trying to point out we have not had the focus. Yes we have done some paving in this inner city area, but Kinsley Street and West Hollis remember that is Route 111. Those are extremely heavily

traveled arterials. The various side streets there is a little section here behind City Hall and Elm Street that was paved, but not the rest of Elm for example. In the bulk of these streets, they haven't seen paving in many, many years. Maple Street and Mulberry and I could go on and on where they have not seen attention – the smaller streets. Granted they don't get as much travel, however, that same argument could be made in where we are focusing this year on paving – those are not heavily traveled streets in fact not as heavily traveled as the downtown streets as well. I concur with nothing against the neighborhoods of Ward 9, but they just don't see the volume of vehicles that they do down here. I don't want to belabor the point. I can go into a lot more detail, but there is not a lot of sense to it. Thank you.

Paul Newman

If I could throw in my observations just from experience – through CDBG we did many blocks of streets and sidewalks over the years. One of the questions is always why not here or there and so forth. I think strategically one of the cost effective ways that we have found is to concentrate geographically because otherwise you are moving crews around and it becomes inefficient and ineffective – crews, material, deliveries and so forth.

Chairman Cardin

Is there any other discussion? The motion before us is to accept the communication, place it on file, and grant the request for the \$18,372.90.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Department
Re: Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

These are the amendments that we voted on last week at our last meeting. There were a couple of suggested further amendments. We have changed the title of the resolution, add reference to the FY '05 Home Funds and Consolidated Plan so as to reflect the content of the resolution, the CDBG #14 specifies human service agencies to be funded. This is as per the 505 CDBG split as advised by the Administrative Services Division.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO FURTHER AMEND IN THE TITLE OF THE RESOLUTION TO ADD THE REFERENCE TO FY05 HOME FUNDS AND CONSOLIDATED PLAN, SO AS TO REFLECT THE CONTENT OF THE RESOLUTION AND IN CDBG #14 TO

SPECIFY HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES TO BE FUNDED AS PER THE 505/CDBG SPLIT ADVISED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ON THE QUESTION

Paul Newman

You have the resolution later on your agenda. Did you want to amend it when you get to taking that up for final passage?

Chairman Cardin

We do.

Alderman Lozeau

That amendment has been made in the body of this resolution right?

Paul Newman

It is as you suggested yes a re-draft for your consideration including all of these things. Unfortunately the shading didn't carry over to the copy you got. I had it all nicely highlighted.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Chairman Cardin

Okay so the motion before us is to accept the communication and place it on file. Is there any other discussion on that motion?

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

-

Chairman Cardin

On our agenda R-05-180 shows as held in committee. I believe we passed that at our last meeting.

Alderman Tollner

Just to be safe I would be more than happy to make another motion for approval of R-05-180 contingent on Planning Board, Zoning Board, and any other permitted approval needed.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-05-180
MOTION CARRIED**

R-05-180

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

**AMENDING THE USE OF FUNDING BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES
OF GREATER NASHUA IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**

Alderman Tollner

Just for the record in case anybody is out there watching TV tonight we did take care of this last week, but just to be safe I will make a motion.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-05-180
CONTINGENT UPON FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ZONING BOARD,
PLANNING BOARD, AND ANY OTHER PERMITS NEEDED FOR APPROVAL
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-05-196
MOTION CARRIED**

R-05-196

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

Alderman Lori Cardin

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner

Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Alderman David D. Lozeau

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS GRANT, FISCAL YEAR
2006**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO AMEND R-05-196 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE
AMENDMENT ATTACHED TO PAUL NEWMAN'S COMMUNICATION ACCEPTED EARLIER
THIS EVENING**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lozeau

I would like to go back to this consolidated plan if I may. Can I ask the question do we have any homeless shelters not shelters but homeless homes in Nashua now other than I believe Mary's House on Pearl Street?

Paul Newman

I would defer to Klaas Nijhuis who is much more familiar. He can probably find that in the plan in terms of – let's see is it page 72?

Klaas Nijhuis

From memory – Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter has two homeless shelters; one for individual men and one for families and for women. I believe there is a total of 30 beds associated with those two shelters. In addition Harbor Homes runs the Maple Arms Apartments just a little ways from City Hall and that has a varying number of beds – typically around 24 during a normal program year, but as we go into emergency winter conditions that number increases. Those are the two other emergency shelters perse that reach out to the homeless. For those individuals who find themselves homeless because of acts of domestic violence there is an organization in town called Bridges and it was formerly Rape & Assault Support Services. They have 10 beds for domestic violence victims who find themselves homeless. In addition, through the interfaith hospitality network, a new organization that started operating I believe in November of last year, there are 14 family beds available on a rotational basis right now in the basements of I believe a

network of 8 or 9 churches, but they will be moving hopefully if everything goes well to a permanent situation in Hudson at the Presentation of Mary Academy. I believe that is the extent of the homeless beds. I do want to correct Mary's House is a Section 8 housing for formerly homeless individual women, but because of HUD rules it is actually categorized as permanent supportive housing. It is not that they are there for a limited period of time but that becomes a permanent home until such point in time they choose to leave.

Chairman Cardin

Does that answer your question Alderman Lozeau?

Alderman Lozeau

I just want to go back to Harbor Homes with their 24 units in Maple Arms – is that short term or long term housing?

Klaas Nijhuis

That is short term. The HUD definition for emergency housing is ideally something under 30 days. In the City of Nashua because of the housing shortage and the inability to place people who are in shelters because of the lack of affordable housing, the length of stays have gotten pretty close to 50 days for most individuals who are homeless. The normal avenue for progressing out of shelter housing is into transitional housing – we are familiar with those entities – the Nashua Pastoral Cares and the Margarite's Places of Nashua.

Alderman Lozeau

Go into Harbor Homes again they have veterans listed here and 20 beds. Is that short term or long term?

Klaas Nijhuis

The veteran's housing is transitional housing I believe, and again if we look on page 72 – it doesn't really classify it – it is about 1/3 of the chart down – those are those 20 beds that are currently on Amherst Street, but that is a transitional housing program.

Alderman Lozeau

Transitional housing is about 30 days and do they work with trying to find them housing inside of this transitional housing?

Klaas Nijhuis

The HUD definition is somewhere between 6 months and 2 years and yes there is extensive

case management involved with most transitional housing situations. In the case of the transitional housing providers in Nashua and in all cases – they are there for 2 years. Under extreme circumstances they may be there for a little bit longer, but it is for a longer haul and it is about getting them ready to go back into the normal housing market.

Alderman Lozeau

I am just having a hard time with this veterans home. I see here on the chart on page 56 that there are 8 persons that weren't sheltered and then I look above and there is 336 persons that weren't sheltered in a different category. We are proposing to build a veteran's transitional housing is that correct? Is that the one we are proposing on Spring Street?

Paul Newman

Yes. Indeed actually this is a relatively small portion of the funding will go toward that. Harbor Homes was awarded a substantial grant from the Veteran's Administration, and there are I believe some other sources also that are pertaining to this. The total cost of this project is probably in the vicinity of \$1.5 million of which again the city shares with many of the housing projects is that equity and city participation that is often a key ingredient in a development.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Alderman Plamondon

Maybe I can address some of the questions Alderman Lozeau had regarding Spring Street. That is proposed for veteran's families. Right now on Amherst Street there is a smaller shelter, but it is just for men. I was able to – I had the privilege of taking a tour there and meeting some of our veterans there and their councilors and I was very impressed with the way it was run and these gentlemen and their goals. Some were working, some were actively seeking employment, some were going to school, but they all had goals to further their lives and to be strong members of our community. From what I saw there and then their explanations of the need of these homeless families that are veterans I think it would be a good fit for the area. As was mentioned earlier the population is transient – it moves so the numbers go up and down. I don't know what the averages are. I would like to see numbers on like an annual average because I think that is probably a better number to work with. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-196 as amended.

Alderman Deane

-
On Item 1 where it says Memorial Park Junior Field Renovations – when we finished that field I believe in '99 we did a field dedication to a young boy that had lost his life in the canal out behind the Boys Club. Although we didn't go through the formal process of bringing it through the Board of Aldermen and everything else back then we just did it. I guess I will bring a piece of legislation in to formally do that. I should probably just wait. It would just clearly identify where the area is.

Chairman Cardin

Are you talking about right behind the Boys & Girls Club?

Alderman Deane

Yes. What would your recommendation be wait until I bring legislation in to do that or to change this from Memorial Park Junior Field to Jamie Kabrubious Field?

Alderman Plamondon

I think I Already did that.

Alderman Deane

You would have to look back. I don't remember that.

Alderman Plamondon

Two years ago I think I introduced legislation on that.

Alderman Tollner

It has been named for him for probably 5 or 6 years. As long as I have been on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club it has been that way.

Alderman Deane

I don't know if we formally did it or not. I will ask Sue to look into it, but it would have been in the spring of '99.

Chairman Cardin

We can ask Sue to investigate that and report back.

Alderman Tollner

I think Alderman Deane brings up a good point. Just to be safe maybe what we do is put Memorial/ and then the name and then that way we can go forward with the legislation and in the meantime we can look up to see – I think Alderman Deane’s question is has it been formally named through the formal process with Park & Rec., the Board of Public Works, and the Board of Aldermen – we should just check that out.

Chairman Cardin

Do we want to check that out before we make an amendment to this? Do we want to amend that now and ...

Alderman Tollner

Maybe amend it now put Memorial Field/the name of the child and then – I don’t think we have any problem whatsoever of passing it. If for some reason something happens we have both names in the legislation.

Alderman Plamondon

I could have sworn I brought legislation in some time ago on it, but if not I will certainly endorse, co-endorse or what have you to move forward. I just don’t think it was for this field. If my memory is right I think it was for the other field in back of the west – in back of the school. Again this was a long time ago. Either way I think it is good to have Sue look it up and see if anything was done on it. If not let’s move forward. I certainly would also support an amendment to this current legislation on that boy.

Chairman Cardin

No one has made a motion to amend this yet. Are we sure that this is the same field, the same park that was named after the young man?

Alderman Deane

Absolutely.

Paul Newman

Listening to this I was thinking if indeed it has been done – if it hasn’t is it the most ceremonial way to accomplish it to tuck it into this?

Chairman Cardin

Probably not probably a more formal resolution to do it might make a little more sense ...

Alderman Deane

We can do that. If it hasn't already been done we can do it. We did have the dedication some 6 years ago.

Chairman Cardin

Why don't we have Sue investigate whether or not there has been a formal resolution, and if not you can co-sponsor it with Alderman Plamondon. I would be happy to add my name to it.

Alderman Deane

We will do that. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Is there any other discussion on R-05-196? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-196 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Tollner

I have another motion here. I guess we have already taken care of it when I introduced the communication with regard to the sidewalks so I think we are all set.

HELD IN COMMITTEE

-

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Re: Plus Company and Area Agency HOME Allocations

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

-

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Committee Clerk