

Public Health, Safety & the Environment: meeting on 5/2/12

Committee members absent: C. Furey, all other members present
CoW members present: Councillors McCarthy, Lovely and Sargent

Council #109, 230, 232 - B&S Fitness to discuss road race for June 10th,

Brandi & Steven Dion, owners of B&S Fitness presented. They spoke about the race, the route and their efforts in preparation for the race. They discussed that they are making a donation to the Boys & Girls Club in Salem a minimum of \$500. The cost is \$40 to \$50 per person to participate in the race.

Councilor Siegel inquired about the cost of the entire race and the money they make. B&S indicated that they are a for-profit business and their intention is to make money but they do not make alot. They stated that they sponsor these road races and want to continue to donate to various charitable organizations in Salem.

Councilor O'Keefe inquired about which charities in Salem and how much each of them get. Mr. Dion indicated that they get a minimum of \$500 each, but sometimes more depending on the amount of proceeds they get.

Councilor McCarthy inquired about the route of the race, the organizing and coordination of the race. Brandi Dion reported on the route, what time, etc.

Lt. Preczewski indicated that he's approved the race routes and he requires them to have police details. He said that the number of details he requires will depend on the route, time of the race and expected number of participants.

Brandi & Steven Dion indicated that they moved the race of August 4th to Forest River Park so no approval by Council is needed. They indicated that they previously received approved from the Park & Rec. Commission. Consequently, no action is needed on #232

C. O'Keefe moves to approve #109 and 230 , 2nd by C. Turiel, all voted in favor, none opposed.

Council Order #120 – Update on 111 North St. Gas Station

Chair requested Attorney John Carr provided the Committee with an update as to where things stand.

Mr. Carr provided update regarding the landscaping plan that was submitted by Mr. Sidiropoulos through his attorney, Joseph Correnti, completed by landscape architect Loryane Black. The submitted plan was not reviewed or agreed to by the abutters, who agreed to a plan back in December, 2011.

Mr. Carr explained further about some of the unresolved site work issues regarding the grading, the driveway entrance work to obviate flooding, the retaining wall and removal of all dirt piles.

Helen Papadopolous, 14 Buffum St., passed out information regarding email exchanges between John Carr, Loryane Black and Michael Blier. She also included information regarding the landscaping plan and site work. She indicated that the site continues to remain dormant with no end in sight.

Pat Morrow, 16 Buffum St. addressed the council and indicated that the owner of the gas station continues to do things his own way and there's been no accountability. She indicated that the City should fine/impose sanctions on him.

Jim Treadwell, 36 Felt St., spoke about the BoA decision from 1970 in making sure that its followed and adhered to.

Jim Yeanakopoulos, 109 North St., asked the Committee to apply whatever pressure is needed to get the gas station finished.

City Solicitor Beth Rennard indicated that she will get all of the information necessary and contact both John Carr and Joe Correnti to get the landscaping plan implemented and the site work done in the next week or two. She indicated that anything beyond that time frame will possibly cause us to miss the planting season and then have to wait until September.

Councilor O'Keefe moved that this matter remain in committee, 2nd by C. Turiel, all voted in favor.

Council Order # 228 – Petition by Paul Lima over neglect concerns at Loring Towers

Petitioner Paul Lima, 1000 Loring Ave., was called upon to make a presentation to the committee. He spoke about ongoing violation of health & safety of the residents at 1000 Loring Ave. He indicated that he had a lot of documentation regarding the events that have occurred and spoke about the change over of maintenance/management staff at Loring Towers and as a result nothing gets done and nothing gets addressed. Chair inquired about specifics but Mr. Lima would not provide any at this time. He indicated that despite calls to the various departments in the City on violation of health and safety, no action is being taken. He indicated that Loring Towers is a semi-private-public building with HUD funding and requirements and the City does not have true legal oversight of these matters.

Councilor McCarthy inquired of Mr. Lima regarding the existence of a neighborhood group at Loring Towers. Mr. Lima indicated that one exists but its primary function/objective is to coordinate and sponsor social events and no one there wants to get involved in what he's doing because everyone else is scared of retaliation so they keep their heads down and buried in the sand. He indicated that most of the people at Loring Towers are seriously disabled. Mr. Lima stated that he's the only one who has the courage to address these problems.

Councilor Lovely stated that, based upon the reports submitted to the committee by the various department heads in attendance, they have been responding and doing their job and the

committee and the entire Council has to rely upon them because they are the experts who have the licenses and training to address these issues. She indicated that she met with Mr. Lima on this issue, which is not normally her practice, and she did not observe anything which stood out as being a serious violation. She commented that she has a disabled client who lives in the building and the apartments are nice and seem to be well kept. She noted that if she lived in an apartment, she would view Loring Towers as an option. Mr. Lima told C. Lovely that she would quickly leave if she got an apartment there and C. Lovely disabused Mr. Lima of his assertion.

Councilor Siegel stated that he used to live in the apartment complex behind Loring Towers and many of the issues which Mr. Lima has raised are part of apartment living. He stated that many of the issues which he cited are issues which he and other residents in his apartment building experienced when he lived there.

N.B.: Mr. Lima was permitted to video tape through personal recorder his presentation but was directed to discontinue taping of city officials since he had not received their permission. Mr. Lima complied.

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Tom St. Pierre spoke about the complaints Mr. Lima has filed and the responses to those complaints. Mr. St. Pierre indicated that they have responded as best as possible under the staffing and time constraints they experience in his department (previously submitted a log of all calls from Mr. Lima and the action they took). Mr. St. Pierre noted that if Mr. Lima is not satisfied then he can petition the state for overview or HUD. He indicated that HUD has its own inspections and oversight regulations that they follow which are separate and apart from the building code inspections.

Fire Chief David Cody and Lt. Erin Griffin addressed the committee. They spoke at length about responding to all of the complaints by Mr. Lima and that they have continually made unannounced fire code inspections and really found nothing. In instances where there were some minor violations, the management of the building responded promptly to address and they do not have any issues with Loring Towers management. Lt. Griffin later reported to the committee that they even involved the State Fire Marshal's Office and they indicated that there were no issues with either the work the SFD had done on the complaints nor Loring Towers.

Health Agent Larry Ramdin addressed the Committee. He said that his department receives constant complaint going back to August, 2011, from Mr. Lima regarding health code violations. He said that his staff has been constantly tied up with complaints from Mr. Lima that have amounted to nothing when investigated. Mr. Ramdin himself has gone to Loring Towers a number of times and because of the hostile exchange with Mr. Lima, Mr. Ramdin has to bring another staff member as a witness. Prior to Mr. Lima calling, his department would receive calls from Loring Towers once every 2 to 3 years.

Chair advised Mr. Lima that after hearing statements from the various department heads, its clear that they have been responding and Mr. Lima just is not satisfied. Chair suggested that Mr. Lima contact the state and pursue whatever avenues are available to him through state oversight. Otherwise, the Council cannot assist based upon what has been reported by city officials.

Matter was adjourned by motion from Councilor Siegel, all in favor. 9:23pm.