

5/15/96 CIP

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COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

May 15, 1996

Ald. Robert, Wihby, Reiniger,
Clancy, Domainque

6:30 PM

NYNEX Bldg., 900 Elm Street
Merrimack Rm., 5th Floor, #507

Chairman Robert called the meeting to order.

Present: Ald. Robert, Wihby, Reiniger, Clancy, Domainque

3. 1996 Budget Authorization:
8.20135 Public Access CD-ROM Library

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Clancy, it was voted to approve the budget authorization.

4. Amending Resolution and budget authorization allowing for acceptance and expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$1,546.80 from the State of NH for the Pedestrian Safety Program.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Domainque, it was voted to approve the amending resolution and budget authorization.

5. Amending Resolution and budget authorization allowing for acceptance and expenditure of grant funds in the amount of \$12,000 from the U. S. Dept. of Justice for Operation Street Sweeper II.

On motion of Ald. Domainque, duly seconded by Ald. Reiniger, it was voted to approve the amending resolution and budget authorization.

6. Amending Resolution and budget authorizations providing for decreased CDBG funding of Youth Recreation Activities (P&R), Youth Recreation Activities (MHRA), and Communication Facility Management and increased funding of Neighborhood Playground Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$47,000, and authorizing expenditures for same.

Ald. Wihby, moved to approve the resolution and budget authorizations. Ald. Reiniger duly seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued where Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Maranto explained the specifics of the project. It was noted that the Simpson park was to be done with Lafayette a few years before but funding was not adequate, the project approved as part of this year did not have sufficient funding to complete which was the reason for the requested transfer. Mr. Maranto additionally noted that the funds for Youth Recreational Activities could not be used for that purpose at this time the city was at its cap for CDBG public service activities. Mr. MacKenzie additionally responded to questions on priority listings for school playgrounds and funding mechanisms.

Chairman Robert called for a vote. The motion carried.

7. Amending Resolution and budget authorizations decreasing \$2,000 in cash funds from Project Greenstreets and increasing Fun in the Sun in the amount of \$2,000 in cash funds, and authorizing expenditures for same.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Clancy, it was voted to approve the amending resolution and budget authorizations.

8. Continuing discussions relative to the proposed FY97 CIP Program as follows:

Highway Projects --

- Resurfacing
- Sidewalks
- Drainage
- Street Reconstruction
- Bridge Maintenance

Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Projects --

- JFK Coliseum
- Pine Island 4-H Center
- West/Memorial Field
- Livingston Park

Traffic Projects --

- Center of NH Parking Garage

Miscellaneous Projects/Programs --

- Central High School Lockers
- SCBA Gear
- VNA

Business Revolving Loan Fund
 Rooms & Meals Tax
 St. Marie's/Parkside Addition
 "The Living Classics"
 Families in Transition
 Helping Hands
 Community Health/Pharmacy

A handout was provided to the committee. Mr. MacKenzie advised that the first section related to public service projects which they could use HUD CDBG and other types of funding to address public service activities. They are capped, they can only use up to 15 percent of the CDBG funds towards public service projects. There were a number of projects that the Board had interest in assisting, Helping Hands, Community Health/Pharmacy which they had started to address. There were some questions on VNA day care as well. Mr. MacKenzie noted they had received their final allocation from HUD, close to what had been anticipated, close to \$3 million for the three HUD programs, but the actual amounts they were shy in some areas and more in others. As a result of all those issues, comments from HUD, they had recommendations relating to the public service projects. The recommended changes were on page 2 of the handout reading as follows:

			New Totals
2.50503	Rehab/Lead Paint, MHRA	-\$20,000 CD	\$30,000
2.20718	CHC Pharmaceutical	+ \$3,000 ESG	
		+ \$5,000 CDBG	\$40,000
2.50501	Emily's Place, YWCA	+ \$5,000 ESG	\$5,000
2.50604	VNA Day Care	+\$15,000 CD	\$60,000
2.50606	Welfare Dept	+\$10,500 ESG	\$17,500
2.50608	Helping Hands	- \$2,000 ESG	\$6,000
2.50623	Security Deposit Loan	- \$5,000 HOME	
	Fund	+ \$9,100 ESG	\$40,500
2.50626	Families in Transition	+ \$4,400 ESG	\$7,000
2.50627	Accessibility Program	+\$20,000 CD	\$20,000
6.1000	HOME Projects	+ \$7,000 HOME	\$473,650
8.30353	Special Needs Facility	+\$25,000 CD	\$275,000

Mr. MacKenzie noted that because of CD monies being cut \$45,000 they did have to find some cuts in certain areas and went through the listing of recommendations advising of various changes, balances of existing programs, specifics of the projects, and related discussions by the Board with respect to the pharmaceutical program.

Mr. MacKenzie addressed the next item, Central High Locker Rooms, which were anticipated to be funded in the School Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) for next year (July 97). When the bids came in higher for heating and ventilation for West and Central they had some concerns and felt that they would have to

use some of the monies from Central High lockers to fund that project. Mr. MacKenzie noted they had gone to the Board to request reallocating \$500,000 from a future year into this year to handle both the science labs at West as well as heating and ventilation at Central and West. As a result of the commitment by the Board they took at the last meeting they would then have the \$400,000 necessary to do the Central High locker rooms. Mr. MacKenzie noted that they had looked at the time that, there was interest in trying to get that done this summer, but the funding will not be available until July 1, the design process will take a few months, it will have to go to bid sometime late this fall or wintertime so construction probably could not start until next June. Mr. MacKenzie noted he had spoken to the principal about construction during school which is not normally recommended, but in this case the lockers are not utilized because of the poor condition they are in so they may wish to explore further construction during the school session.

Ald. Clancy commented on the urgency of getting the lockers done, noting they are changing in school rooms.

Ald. Domainque commented on the drainage problem with the Memorial Locker rooms asking if they were going to have the same firm do Central. Mr. MacKenzie noted that he was aware there were problems with the west and memorial lockers; that an architect had not yet been chosen but they would keep that under consideration when the architect selection occurred.

Mr. MacKenzie addressed sidewalks, noting there will be approximately \$500,000 available for sidewalk projects in various bond and CD programs from the past. Mr. MacKenzie noted he had spoken with Mr. Thomas and it was felt a portion of those funds could be applied to the 50/50 program, formerly a successful and popular program. Mr. MacKenzie noted that he would like to come before the committee in the future and review sidewalks, priority setting, so the committee is familiar with how priorities are set for sidewalks, drainage, etc.

Mr. MacKenzie moved to discussing drainage noting there was a new program for major drain improvements, in the past there only having been chronic drain program funds, this year there was a \$225,000 allocation for a major drain project. Mr. MacKenzie noted they did have the chronic drain funds which formerly were assigned to the public works committee which had been assumed by the CIP committee, which they could discuss prioritizing at a later date.

Mr. Thomas noted that previous year balances 95/96's had already been committed by the previous Public Works Committee and were waiting for construction, so what was available now based on the proposal would be the FY97 appropriation, which was the \$25,000.

In response to questions from Ald. Domainque, Mr. Thomas advised there had been a priority list of about 35 projects which the Public Works Committee had taken the top 8 or so projects and funded in the previous year.

Mr. MacKenzie addressed street reconstruction and resurfacing, noting the city had generally spent on the order of close to \$1.5 million street reconstruction, which is totally removing the top pavement, sometimes removing the sub-base and reconstructing the street. In the past couple years the funding for street reconstruction has been close to what is requested by the Highway Department. The other part is resurfacing, taking areas broken up pavement, and putting a topcoat on it. The funding probably has not been close to what has been requested in the past. The difference being that street reconstruction can be funded by bonds, street resurfacing cannot, it has to come out of direct cash, so there is a larger hit tax wise from resurfacing. Given the limited funds that the city has had available the resurfacing has been about half of what has been requested. Mr. MacKenzie noted that \$225,000 cash for resurfacing equates to about 7 cents on the tax rate.

At Mr. Girard's request, Mr. MacKenzie explained that there was no money allocated for street reconstruction in this plan, the money is actually being reallocated from the bond balance of the recycling and some other fund balances, the Notre Dame Bridge Project, Dunbarton Road Project, Recycling Project, and Hampshire Plaza Garage project. They had recommended that this be rolled over towards street reconstruction projects, Kelley Street Bridge reconstruction and improvements at the Center of New Hampshire Garage. In total they were looking at approximately \$1.4 million towards reconstruction, and then additional CDBG funds.

Mr. MacKenzie addressed the JFK Coliseum, there were phase II repair projects for the coliseum included as an enterprise program, so fees that the department gets would be used towards \$160,000 to the repair project. The parks director noted that it was to address structural and safety issues of the building.

Mr. MacKenzie moved to the Pine Island Center noting there was a request for \$225,000 for reconstruction of the facility there. It was number 14 on the priority list of the department and did not receive funding. Mr. MacKenzie noted there was a lot of interest in the facility, however, there would need to be a lot of work of consensus building, planning, etc. and perhaps come back next year with a plan on what to do about that facility. Mr. MacKenzie noted that he felt they should make sure the monies received (\$107,000) are earmarked for that facility. Mr. Girard noted that the funds were being held in escrow by finance. Discussion ensued where it was determined that the committee wished to recommend that the \$107,000 be earmarked for that facility.

Following brief discussion on the current status of the property and options available, on motion of Ald. Domaingue, duly seconded by Ald. Clancy, it was voted to recommend to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that the \$107,000 be set aside for capital improvements for the Pine Island facility. Within discussion Mr. Girard noted that the funding request for Pine Island in the budget process was not related to the fire, but for improvements that had been requested to the property.

Mr. MacKenzie moved to discussion of Livingston Park. Mr. MacKenzie noted the committee had been looking at the West High Memorial Field project and was wondering if there was any way to do Livingston Park Project. CIP had been talking with Parks and Recreation to see what could happen at both sites. Mr. MacKenzie noted there were attachments in the package that had been distributed. One described the West High Memorial Field and the other Livingston. Mr. MacKenzie noted there were facility problems at the West Memorial Field, it had not received much funding in the past and it is deteriorating. They looked at whether they could put a regulation track at that site, they had a sketch and after looking it would appear that they would have to acquire property either on the south or on the north or both. The north property was the naval facility, now abandoned, which there were a number of problems with and they would have to acquire properties on the south side which were multifamily properties, affecting 6 to 12 families. It would probably amount to about \$500,000 based on a couple of other eminent domain proceedings done in the last couple of years. It also would remove the properties from the tax role. Putting a full track facility there might have to eliminate the existing tennis courts and softball field. The principal at west has indicated that both of those are actively used by teams at west and they would be concerned about losing those. In addition the cost for building the facility would be in the area of \$2 million. Based on those difficulties, it did not appear reasonable to put a regulation track at the West Memorial Field. There is a need, and Mr. Baines, principal of West concurred, there is a strong need for improvements at the park. The football field is in terrible condition, they would like to improve it to have the West High games there which would also relieve Gill Stadium, which is heavily used most of the time and takes a beating. There is also a need for improvements, there are some drainage issues a steep hill side that is deteriorating, the stands, stairways, all deteriorating. The tennis courts are not in too bad of shape at the moment, although there was some need for improvement. In general they saw the facility could be improved by allocating approximately \$250,000 over two years. It would take care of most of the existing facility deficiencies. The breakdown was \$150,000 the first year, to allow an initial master plan and design for the site and perhaps by fall do some of the basic infrastructure such as drainage issues, and most construction work would occur next summer spanning two fiscal years.

The next facility was Livingston Park. Mr. MacKenzie noted that the park is one of the largest city-wide parks in the city, it has the most activities of any park in the city in terms of different types of activities, and the city has not had over the last decade or so the adequate funds to address this facility, there had been no significant funds put in other than the warming hut which was federally funded, there have been some improvements to the soccer fields and baseball diamonds but a lot was assisted by the leagues. Other than that there had not been a lot of money put into what is perhaps one of the major parks in the city. He believed if they could find the money to make the improvements to the park and there are a number of needs ranging from access as a major issue recognized by Parks and Recreation. There were a lot of kids walking along Daniel Webster Highway and crossing at various locations, access is at an angle it is tough to see coming in or going out of the facility and there is access problems at the southern access point near Dunkin Donuts. The pool is a very heavily used pool but not a great facility, there is no circulation, cleaning system, cleaned primarily by flushing it out. He saw a need for the facility whether or not track was built at that location. There were now some schematics now forming which look like it could accommodate a track facility. The original approach was that they would try to keep the two year program to a certain amount that would have a neutral impact on taxes, no significant increase or decrease, so they look for ways to reallocate funds without changing the bottom line dollar figure of the bond amount. They would be recommending for Livingston would be allocating \$100,000 in this year's FY97 program, combine that with a bond balance from the US First facility which has an outstanding bond balance of about \$280,000 and that would be \$380,000 for FY97. Then in FY98 allocate \$500,000 towards the facility. They felt that next year they should allow \$100,000 for neighborhood park rehabilitation.

Ald. Reiniger asked what amount would be for a track. Mr. MacKenzie responded they had allocated money because they knew the park needed a lot of work, the Parks and Recreation did hold a public hearing, it was well attended with a lot of priorities there, and the consultant now working with them is coming back with some recommendations. Mr. MacKenzie noted that Parks had prepared a couple of sceneries one or both may include a track and they have a range of monies anywhere from \$850,000 to \$1.5 million. The recommended amount would be hire than the \$350,000 so it is capable of developing a track under that funding scenario, but he would hesitate to guarantee that until they saw the final results and priorities of the master plan they have going on.

Mr. Ludwig commented that there would be another informational session being held on May 20. Within a week after that the consultant had indicated that they could put some kind of dollar amount on various items and at that time some better recommendations as to what should go first and what should be

addressed. Mr. Ludwig noted that they tried to get some information from the consultant last week and that is where the \$850,000 to \$1.5 million estimates had come from, obviously the larger number included better access approaches to the entrance and access and the way everything seems to be laying out, but something may change as a result of the informational session and they should wait to get some better figures there.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that the funding mechanism recommended potentially funds a track there but he wanted to see a master plan and get the additional input to determine whether or not it would be in that phasing.

Ald. Reiniger asked if it would include a football and soccer field. Mr. MacKenzie responded affirmatively. Mr. MacKenzie noted that this was perhaps a bonus of doing the track because the football and/or soccer fields were at a premium for schools and leagues. Mr. Johnson noted that it would be at the recommendation of the schools or leagues it could service either soccer or football and noted that central did have a practice field.

Discussion ensued relative to the condition of soccer fields in the city with specific reference to the Rimmon site. Mr. Ludwig noted that they had recently done work over there but with the extensive use and compaction it was virtually impossible to maintain any of the fields.

Ald. Reiniger asked if there were any less expensive areas that had been located for a track. Mr. MacKenzie responded no, they had started looking a couple of years ago trying to identify potential sites for track and the difficult was that the regulation track was a good sized facility and Manchester did not have a lot of area left, they had looked at 3 or 4 different sites. Mr. Johnson noted that they had looked at Derryfield Park several sites but there was concern about the amount of site work that would have to be done there, wind exposure on the top, the side was grading issues, in front of Hillside was not large enough and they looked at the HOB0 jungle area and the concern there was mainly was the wind coming up the river for sanctioned meets at that facility, and then they returned to looking at Livingston.

Ald. Reiniger referred to the area by the river noting that in the early 1980's the Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a course plan to make that area a park area, there were extensive plans which had fell by the boards when the federal monies ran out. Ald. Reiniger stated he fully supported the track, and if had to would support the track at Livingston, but thought in tight financial times it might be worth looking at a thriftier alternative. Ald. Reiniger commented that although the civic center was by the side for the moment, he felt it would be great to have a first class sports facility in the downtown which could stimulate development in the downtown area.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that there was concern about vandalism issues in that area as well due to the isolation of the area.

Ald. Wihby noted that centerplex they could say is dead but they did not know that it was dead they were still working on plans and if they put a field over there then they would have to work around an athletic field or rip it apart and start all over again doing it somewhere else, because they did not have a master plan in that area. Ald. Wihby noted that was the biggest economic development activity the city would have was something that would go there, the city owned the property and to put a field there, the cost was not going to be different he did not think.

Ald. Reiniger commented that in speaking with people the 20 acres it was felt was adequate to do both if the city wanted to do that.

Ald. Wihby asked if the centerplex had been taking up most of the land there in the plans presented. Mr. Taylor noted that the plan discussed did not have the building on that site, and subsequently was moved to that area but he had not seen the drawings.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that when they spoke of the civic center there was a need for 2,000 parking spaces and at the time there was an interest in using the old Service Merchandise site for the parking with some overflow into HOB0 jungle. Service Merchandise site is no longer available. During discussion of the civic center there had been some concern that there would not be enough parking even with the Hobo jungle as a parking area.

Ald. Reiniger noted that Portland, Maine had built a center near the water which had made it very appealing so it would not be unusual.

Ald. Wihby noted that if you had a master plan for the area and it fit in it would be one thing, but not knowing what could be there and what potential it has he felt they would end up putting it in the wrong place.

Ald Reiniger noted they could perhaps take the concepts and do a general plan, look at both.

Chairman Robert noted that they could perhaps delay actions and look at the situation. It was noted that the intent was to have CIP reports be available to the Finance Committee the next Monday evening.

Ald. Clancy stated he felt the land was too valuable to put the track down there, it should be kept for something bigger and better.

Ald. Domaingue stated what she was hearing from Planning and Parks was that Livingston and West Memorial were problem areas needing addressing for quite a long time now, and the sense she got was that there was a real need in the city for a regulation track because we did not have one. This was important not only to the high schools but also to the families that are in this community. Ald Domaingue stated as she was looking at the funding she was looking at almost \$900,000 going into one park in a two year period of time and \$250,000 going into improving the athletic territory that is near West High School and it appeared out of balance to her, asking why there would be such an imbalance of allocation.

Mr. Johnson noted that Livingston was the city's largest park, it was a community-wide park, it did not service one ward or neighborhood, it had been on the CIP plan for ten years requiring a master plan. The swimming pool is located there, the athletic field, the pond, there are many issues, when they had a meeting a couple of weeks ago they had over 100 people that came out, one of the largest responses they had, there was a lot of concern for the park so that was why they had emphasized the need of the park, it is used by Central High School, little leagues and the entire community, and nothing major had been done there besides the warming hut in 30 or 40 years or initially when the park was constructed in the 30's.

Mr. Ludwig commented on the projected costs of the recommendations in correlation with Ald. Reiniger's comments of costing less by the river, noting they could go into Livingston wipe out the forestry and put a track on there for less expensively than the recommendation that appeared to be coming forward as to location within the confines of the whole park, so they did not want to be misleading in saying that they could do it for perhaps \$350,000 or \$400,000 they were talking about relocating as part of the track a softball field that is heavily used now, eliminating some of the ledge if that is where it went, and relocating a playground, so it was tied as excess baggage as part of the track which adds additional dollars but still not addressing access into the park at that price tag. Drainage was a big thing, the basketball courts were sunk down there were additional issues should they put the track in the proper location, they could drop it elsewhere and get it in there less expensively but they would not make the people happy as it impacts to the ponds or trees or the park in general.

Ald. Domaingue asked when the city had invested that kind of money into one park. Mr. Maranto noted that they had expended close to \$1 million in the inner city Basquil/Sheehan area playground and pool. Mr. Johnson noted the parameters of the park area involved including practice fields, pony fields, playgrounds, pool, etc. commenting they did it more or less the same there was a master plan initiated first. Mr. Johnson noted that the city had invested a lot of federal money into the parks but those in the outer parameters had not received much investment over the years.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that the sheer size, Livingston Park was 134 acres, West Memorial Field was something less than 10 acres, with all of the activities upon it did require significant investment. Mr. MacKenzie noted that the proposal was two years phasing and the board would appropriate only one year at a time, the future year for planning purposes where generally they expect to see the allocations coming to.

Ald. Reiniger noted that in his view parks were a major economic development tool.

Discussion ensued relative to whether the committee wished to act that evening and what it would reflect. Mr. MacKenzie advised that the changes would be as specified on the handout on page 2 and the recommendations relative to Livingston Park and West Memorial Field, the balance was information that had been provided on where the funding was. Mr. MacKenzie noted the other outstanding issue was the street reconstruction which there were no specific recommendations given.

Chairman Robert noted that there were other items that the committee had indicated that they wished to discuss that had been outlined on the agenda.

Ald. Wihby wished to move on the recommendations presented. Discussion ensued where the clerk advised that it would be appropriate, if the committee desired to move forward with recommendations, to recommend that the CIP resolution be amended and explained that the resolution was sitting before the Finance Committee for action at this time.

Chairman Robert noted willingness to allow the committee time to contemplate and return another evening for action. Ald. Domainque questioned why they would want to wait, with everyone there and the issues being discussed that was the intent of the meeting as she understood it. Chairman Robert urged the committee wait until they heard everything else, noting there were concerns that some of them had. Ald. Wihby noted he did not have the concerns anymore.

Chairman Robert advised he wished to go down the listing on the agenda.

Mr. Girard stated when the Mayor brought his budget in there were several different referrals he referred the CIP budget to this committee for their review and recommendation and if the committee were in agreement with Mr. MacKenzie's recommendations the appropriate motion would be to amend the Mayor's CIP proposal to Mr. MacKenzie's recommendation, after doing that they needed to make recommendations on the CIP budget as a whole. So they could recommend the CIP as amended to the board.

The clerk noted that the resolution was in Finance Committee.

Ald. Wihby commented that they could go through the other items but that action should be taken so that the Finance Committee could address the CIP on Monday evening.

Chairman Robert requested Mr. Thomas address Bridge Maintenance.

Mr. Thomas advised that Bridge Maintenance had been covered, there is \$30,000 cash being allocated which will allow them to continue the annual inspection work, in addition there is some 96 bond balance monies in the amount of \$400,000 to do some repair work on the Kelley Falls bridge. Mr. Thomas commented that this was an adequate amount for the fiscal year upcoming.

Chairman Robert requested Mr. Lolicata address the Center of NH.

Mr. Lolicata commented that reports from the contractor indicate a crack in the second level, they had expended \$20,000 to fix it. Mr. Lolicata noted there were three phases involved, the second involving \$990,000 for 96/97 season, the tables reflected a request of \$657,000 and they received \$275,000 so far. Mr. Lolicata noted that he wished to have \$400,000 to \$500,000 allocated to start the project which was a top priority, the condition/appraisal report having been received yesterday which indicates the facility is poor to good. He wished to have something allocated to start the program.

Mr. Girard noted the \$275,000 allocated had another \$160,000 added from bond balances, bringing it to \$442,000 to start. Mr. MacKenzie noted future years allocations reflected \$600,000 in FY98 and \$500,000 for FY99.

Mr. Lolicata noted he would speak would review the report with Mr. Desmond the next day and see what could be worked out.

Ald. Clancy asked how much revenue the garage brought in annually. Mr. Lolicata responded around \$100,000 ballpark figure.

Chairman Robert requested SCBA Gear be addressed.

Ald. Clancy noted that each fireman should have his own mask. Chief Kane responded that everyone should have their own face piece, the other issue was that the back packs some that they were using were high maintenance items 10-15 years old and those packs were getting to the end of their life, it was considered one of the highest priorities of the department in terms of safety of the fire fighters to perform their basic function of getting into a burning structure and getting someone out.

Chief Kane noted under last year's funding they hold off on purchasing because it was thought if they combined two years bidding they would be able to reduce the price of the product and there were technology changes coming about.

Mr. Girard noted that there was \$100,000 appropriated last year and the recommendation this year was \$250,000 for a total of \$350,000. Chairman Robert asked Chief Kane if those funds would be sufficient. Chief Kane responded affirmatively.

In response to questions from Ald. Domainque, Chief Kane advised that in going out to bid with the technological changes, they were hopeful they could take care of the problem with the \$350,000 rather than what was originally anticipated a year ago.

Chairman Robert moved discussion to the revolving loan fund.

Ald. Wihby asked if they were putting cash into the business revolving loan fund, and they were not so that was done, he had no further question regarding it.

Chairman Robert moved to St. Maries/Parkside.

Chairman Robert noted that he thought the committee would be asked to fund an addition to Parkside Junior High School. Mr. Girard noted that the school department had requested \$2.5 million to put an addition onto Parkside Junior High School. The mayor's office in March initiated discussions with St. Marie's about whether or not they would be interested in leasing their school to the city. It was indicated they would, they drew various city officials from Planning, Building Services departments to go inspect the school and city officials found it to be a well maintained and appropriate facility for a school. There would be a need to do some minor handicapped accessibility modifications. Mr. Girard further noted that they would be willing to lease the school at basically what it costs them to operate it roughly \$55-\$65,000 a year, they would take care of the heat, lights, water, custodial cleaning and maintenance of the facility within the figure. Because the church was willing to provide the city that deal the mayor did not recommend funding for the addition to Parkside Junior High School in this fiscal year or the next. There were discussions regarding that, the school committee did act Monday night on the mayor's letter it was received and filed with a request that the Superintendent draw a response to the Mayor's letter and advise the board of what options they thought might present. The concern we have is that Father Montminy is actively looking for tenants in that building, they are not confident that the building will be around next year when the superintendent indicates he will have a so-called crowding problem on the west side, 3 of 4 schools being at or near capacity now. The mayor did not see the need to put an addition onto a building that is suppose to handle a temporary

bubble which the St. Marie's school could do. There was also some discussion about relocating the Chandler School population to that building which would not serve the population problems on the west side and not alleviate the problem, the other concern was that from all projections they had seen it would appear that the Chandler School population is going to expand and would outgrow the facility at St. Marie's and further it would be significantly more expensive to make St. Marie's a handicapped facility for the Chandler population than it would for a normal elementary or six grade population. The idea behind the proposal would be that they could alleviate the crowding problems on the west side by relocating the sixth grade classes which are currently at Parkside and Parker-Varney to this facility which could easily accommodate it and shift the lines to take the pressure off of Northwest which was really the school having the crowding problem.

Mr. MacKenzie stated they had looked at the potential for a middle school on the east side and an addition at Parkside to address the west side problem. The mayor's office had identified this possibility to address the enrollment increase and given the sizeable commitment towards a number of projects that we had he had felt it might be a good option to look at as well given that \$2.5 million could buy a lot of facilities that are needed including improvements to our existing schools. Mr. MacKenzie noted it was a nice facility which did not mean it was an ideal situation because you would be operating different programs in different parts of the city, on the east side you would have 3 middle schools operating as middle schools, you would have a facility on the west side serving just 6 graders. The kids would come out of one school one year into one school for one year and then into junior high for two years. From a facility standpoint it made sense because in the long term they saw the enrollment stabilizing and declining in the younger grades.

Ald. Domainque asked in terms of the School Board, was the receive and file meant they would not even entertain it or was it a refusal. Mr. Girard stated he was there, the initial motion was to receive and file, which was amended as Committee Member Tremblay expressed concern to receiving and filing it and investigating the possibilities that may be there, as a result of that reservation the board amended the motion to have the superintendent respond to the mayor's letter with a letter outlining his concerns over the mayor's proposal and what if any possibilities they saw the building may be used for. Mr. Girard noted that there were other uses of the building at present which would need to be relocated, and Father Montminy would need an answer from the city by the beginning of June because it would take time for him to relocate his facilities. Mr. Girard noted the superintendent he believed had to come back to the School Board by its next meeting which was the second week in June.

Mr. MacKenzie noted that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen could provide information to the School Board about possible future funding for a Junior High addition, but could not make determinations on leasing of space for the School Board.

Ald. Reiniger noted that in tight financial times it was an arrogant move by the School Board to deny it outright, and made further comment on whether or not there was an overcrowding problem, what was going on here. Ald. Reiniger noted he had called the state department of education and received enrollment statistics which he shared with members. Ald. Reiniger noted that throughout the 70's they had upward of 1,000 to 2,000 more students than they have now, yet we have an overcrowding problem now. We have 147 more classrooms now than in the 70's, and he had concerns about building a new school at this point and he felt it should be checked out.

Ald. Domainque noted that from the 70's to now there were many federal laws passed in particular which would effect the number of classrooms required, and commented on her disappointment with the School Board actions, feeling they had taken a cold approach with a Board that had been trying to work with them. She did not want to talk about Parkside additions right now, the city could not afford it.

Chairman Robert noted that putting an addition onto Parkside would further encroach on the park area which he did not think was the best use and felt the alternative would work and meet the needs of all of the people on that end of town.

Chairman Robert noted that if the committee wanted he would send it up as a recommendation of the committee.

Ald. Wihby noted that if they were sending the CIP budget in and not putting it in they were saying it there.

Mr. Girard noted that the committee could recommend that the Board request the Board of School Committee to reevaluate its position with regard to using the St. Marie School.

Ald. Domainque indicated she would move on that.

Chairman Robert addressed the Living Classics.

Mr. Girard indicated that the request was received late, the Mayor had reviewed it and decided it should not be funded because of the demands on the CIP where the funds would have to come from and it would not be serving a Manchester only population, and no other cities or towns whose kids use the program had been approached for support.

Ald. Clancy indicated he wished to move to Mr. MacKenzie's recommendations for the CIP.

Chairman Robert requested the clerk's clarification who advised it would be appropriate to recommend the CIP Resolution be amended changing tables as required to the recommendations set forth by Mr. MacKenzie reflected in the handout.

Ald. Clancy moved to recommend the CIP Resolution be amended to meet the recommendations outlined.

Mr. Girard interjected to the contrary stating that Ald. Clancy should be moving to amend the Mayor's proposed CIP resolution to reflect Mr. MacKenzie's proposed changes.

The clerk advised with all due respect to Mr. Girard, the CIP resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance by an action of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and at the same time when the mayor presented his budget proposal, within the proposal his recommendation was that the CIP Committee review it and they would report to the Board. The CIP resolution will need to be read by title only, and the Finance Committee will then need to make whatever amendments it may wish to make. The normal procedure for that would be for the clerk to make the committee's report stating that it recommends that the finance committee make certain amendments to that resolution, the resolution that will be attached to the finance committee will not be the actions of this committee, it will be the resolution originally referred to the committee. The motion would be for the Committee to recommend that the resolution be amended, and the clerk will provide within that report, what table is to be amended, what projects they are amending and by what amount, and that is something that the clerk's office puts together for the committee. It would be based on all of the numbers they vote on, and the clerk would insert technical terms as required.

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk referred to the handout, page 2 the listing of changes to be made, the recommendation would be to make changes to that table of the resolution. The next item as she understood was dealing with item 8, Livingston Park and West Memorial Fields, where they would be recommending changes to two fiscal years, 1997 and 1998, and within the committee report would reflect those changes with project numbers to increase or decrease the amounts appropriately. If there were further actions they wished to take with regard to the resolution it could be included in the motion, if it was not a physical change to the resolution it was suggested that they take those items separately for separate reports so as not to confuse anyone.

Ald. Clancy moved to recommend the resolution be amended to the recommendations of the Planning Director. Ald. Wihby duly seconded the motion.

It was noted that the balance of the CIP resolution was not recommended to be changed, which was in essence, reflecting support by the Committee.

Chairman Robert called for a vote. The motion carried.

The clerk advised that she understood there was a question of increasing CIP cash by \$200,000, adding this amount to street resurfacing, from the rooms and meals funds.

On motion of Ald. Domainque, duly seconded by Ald Clancy, it was voted to recommend the resolution be amended by adding \$200,000 in cash for street resurfacing to be funded through the rooms and meals tax funds. Ald. Wihby was duly recorded in opposition.

Ald. Domainque moved that the committee recommend that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen send a request to the School Board to reconsider their actions. Chairman Robert duly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ald. Reiniger again commented that he could not vote to endorse the expenditure of funds for the middle school and recommended they table the items pertaining to the middle school. There was no second to the motion.

Mr. MacKenzie outlined the process involved thus far and future meetings scheduled with the School Board.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Wihby, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.


Clerk of Committee

