

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Planning & Development
Tuesday, June 22, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Committee Rm. – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Vice Chair, Councilor Robert Whynott; Councilor Greg Verga

Absent: None

Also Present: Lt. Joseph Aiello

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Continued Business:

A) Memorandum from Engineering Department re: proposed street naming for Pantry Way

Councilor Ciolino informed the Committee has all documentation received from the various required City departments per 21-3 (e) have been met. Subsequently, he reviewed with City Solicitor Suzanne Egan who suggested the matter should be referred to the DPW and the City Engineer in order for them to provide the Committee with a layout to the street to complete the appropriate documentation.

By unanimous consent the P&D Committee referred the matter of the proposed street naming for Pantry Way to the Engineering Department and the DPW for a plan of a layout of a street.

This matter was continued to July 20th.

2. Request from Talia DeWolfe to hold Breast Cancer Fundraising Walk on September 25, 2011

Councilor Ciolino stated the Committee had received emails from Fire Chief Dench and Lt. Aiello regarding the Save a Star Walk organized by Talia DeWolfe, an 11 year old fifth grader from East Gloucester Elementary School taking place September 25, 2011 to begin at 9 a.m. for registration, with the walk starting at 10 a.m. **Ms. DeWolfe** explained she organized this event from having family members who have been affected by cancer she wished to honor their memories as well as for cancer survivors. They plan on a DJ, a food table and a craft table. They have permission from Mark Cole, Operations Manager of the DPW for the use of Stage Fort Park. She informed the Committee the vending tables will be across from The Cupboard. **Councilor Whynott** believed they did not need to do anything else for vending in terms of seeking further permissions based on Ms. DeWolfe's description. **Lt. Aiello** stated he had no problem with the submitted plans of the Save A Star Walk. **Councilor Ciolino** stated since this walk has their permit from the City for the use of Stage Fort Park, and that the walk itself all takes place on City sidewalks and there are no road closures or road use involved, the Planning & Development Committee does not need to make a motion to put this matter before the City Council for permission. What they do down at Stage Fort Park is under the purview of the DPW. **Suzanna Wolfe**, 3 Old Salem Road stated that she and her husband have noticed that there are more and more events at Stage Fort Park; and with the increase in events there seems to be more amplification of sound. Even though they are not in the immediate vicinity, it impedes on their enjoyment of their home and outdoor space. She gave the example of the "Pow Wow" which has been held annually at Stage Fort Park for many years and yet she doesn't hear them. She believed that there was a way to have amplified sound in the park without it extending beyond Stage Fort Park. She has called the police, and they make a judgment regarding the noise level. She felt there should be some kind of sound regulation so that she can be outside and not listening to music for a variety of events or other loud noise from sporting events taking place there. The DPW told her they tell people to keep their sound "sane". Mr. Cole informed her he would need to have something in writing to dictate what level amplified sound should be in a City park. She asked that there is consideration of the neighbors and if the Committee could do something on regulations. **Dr. John Wolfe** noted on the first nice day this spring was the annual Pride Stride. An hour before it started there was blasting rock music. He and his wife couldn't even be outdoors; it was that uncomfortable. He asked if there was a way to have an ordinance regarding sound level for the use of the park. **Councilor Whynott** stated Pride Stride is up at the top of the hill enabling that sound to further amplify towards their home. He explained that the reason they don't hear the Pow Wow is because they are on the lower level of the park. He also noted there is a noise ordinance in place. A decibel meter has to be used to see if it

is exceeded. The hours run 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are different for later evening hours. **Mrs. Wolfe** felt there is a need for these one-time events to have sound parameters. **Councilor Verga** asked this be referred to O&A and that they look at the ordinance, to look to perhaps amending the ordinance for one-time open air events. **Councilors Ciolino** and **Whynott** agreed. **Dr. Wolfe** stated they are familiar with the noise ordinance and confirmed their understanding of it. **Councilor Ciolino** noted unfortunately sound does travel and that it is not something that can be controlled to a certain extent. **Mrs. Wolfe** felt it is doable to reduce the decibel level which determines how the sound travels. **Lt. Aiello** added that some common sense for the ordinance would be helpful, and encouraged Dr. and Mrs. Wolfe to contact the Police Department when they are being disturbed. He also informed the Committee that the Police Department was in support of Ms. DeWolfe's event. **Councilor Ciolino** stated Ms. DeWolfe has heard the concerns regarding sound and asked her and her group to be mindful of that which she assured they would. Her mother, **Alicia DeWolfe**, who was also present confirmed her daughter's plans for the race and also assured the Committee that they would be mindful of the noise situation, and that they had a permit from the DPW for use of Stage Fort Park. The Committee wished Ms. DeWolfe great success with her event.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to refer to the Ordinance & Administration Committee the matter of a re-examination of the noise ordinance under GCO §13-10 (6) with regard to one-time permitted open air events.

It was further recommended that the DPW Director be advised of this expression of concern regarding the noise level for one-time open air events at Stage Fort Park.

3. *7th Annual Reid's Ride Event at Stage Fort Park, July 17, 2011*

Councilor Ciolino noted that all documentation with the exception of a Certificate of Insurance was on file with the City Clerk's office. Brent "Ringo" Tarr, 18 Timberview Drive informed the Committee that he had submitted the Certificate of Insurance the previous day to the City Clerk's office. **Lt. Aiello** expressed the Police Department's full support of the 7th Annual Reid's Ride. **Lorraine Sacco**, Director of Reid's Ride of Lynnfield and founder of the organization, explained to the Committee this ride was started and a foundation established in memory of her son who passed away in his late teens from cancer. Their foundation has helped many other young adults with cancer to date. She expressed her family's passion for this event; and that the ride provides them with the resource for their ability to help young adults. They target research and the researchers. While she and her husband live in Lynnfield they have a great affection for Gloucester as their son spent a great deal of time here enjoying the City. This event, she expressed, is community driven but the cancer research is international. The ride starts in Lynnfield, through Middleton, Danvers, and Manchester and into Gloucester ending at Stage Fort Park. This is a family event and done with all volunteers. They keep it as safe as possible. The Fire and Police Departments are all there in each community to assist with safety. Lyons Ambulance is along the route or else their employees are participating in the ride itself. She felt her organization was very efficient with their set up and take down. She pointed out this is not a competition. **Mr. Tarr** explained they didn't come for a permit last year because they weren't aware it was necessary. He explained they have met with Mark Cole regarding the use of Stage Fort Park and have fulfilled that requirement. He spoke of the sponsors and their assistance that they provide the riders. He acknowledged they did have an incident last year by the Cupboard. **Lt. Aiello** confirmed because of that one incident he would see that a policeman was stationed near that spot. Hough Avenue would not be closed. They direct the riders off the road near the gazebo onto the dirt path in the park. **Councilor Verga** noted the race ends in Gloucester and asked how they get the riders back to the start along with their equipment. **Ms. Sacco** stated they do have a bus available to the riders along with transportation for their bikes and that some riders do ride their bikes back to Lynnfield. They are out by 12 noon.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to permit the 7th Annual Reid's Ride 28-mile Bike-a-Thon which enters the City of Gloucester on Western Avenue and continues into Stage Fort Park for their finish. All routes through the City are to be clearly marked with signage removed off the route by 2:00 p.m. the same day. Memorandums of endorsement from the Police Lt. Joseph Aiello and Fire Chief Phil Dench or his designee are on file in the City Clerk's office as of June 22, 2011. A Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Gloucester as the certificate holder is to be on file in the City Clerk's office by the close of business on July 1, 2011.

4. Request from Habitat for Humanity for a 5K Road Race, October 2011

Councilor Ciolino informed the Committee that the request from Habitat for Humanity for a 5K Road Race to take place in October of 2011 is on hold for the time being. After speaking with organizers, it was clear they had not determined the exact date prior to today and had many loose ends that would need to be tied up before they could make a presentation to the Committee. It was determined by the Committee to table this matter until such time as a representative from Habitat for Humanity's 5K Road Race informs the Chair they are ready to make their presentation for their road race permit. A request from the organizers via email to have the Committee table the matter was on file having been received earlier that day.

This matter is tabled.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.