

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

RULES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

Present: Ald. Freedman (Chairman), Johnson, Baker
Absent: Ald. Parker

Also Present: Ald. Hess-Mahan, Merrill

Others Present: Candace Havens (Planning Dept.), Ouida Young (Associate City Solicitor), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

REFERRED TO LAND USE & PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES

#37-08 **ALD. BAKER, MANSFIELD & FISCHMAN** proposing a revision to the Rules & Orders of the Board to allow Land Use Committee public hearings to be held on more than one night per month.
LAND USE APPROVED 7-0 on 2-12-08
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED 3-0 with amended language.

NOTE: At the last Subcommittee meeting, it was agreed that new language would be prepared and presented. Ald. Johnson submitted a draft for discussion. Ald. Mansfield and Ouida Young also worked on a draft that was submitted for discussion. Ald. Johnson noted that she and Ald. Swiston had been concerned with putting some structure around when the public hearings could be added or delayed. They did not want political interests to interfere with these decisions. The Special Permit process was such that sometimes it became a political process and they wanted to safeguard as well as possible against that. Ald. Johnson was satisfied with the language presented by Ald. Mansfield. Her only recommendation was adding that the Director of Planning and Development be asked for his advice as well. She said it was the people in his department that would also be affected by these decisions.

Candace Havens asked that language also be added to allow for additional time for applicants or staff to complete petitions. There have been times when small problems necessitated applicants having to wait 2 months to get back before the Committee.

The approved language is as follows:

(3) **Land Use:** on the Tuesdays following the first, second, and third Mondays of each month. Public Hearings shall be held on the Tuesday following the second Monday of each month unless the Chairman recommends, with the advice of the Director of Planning and Development, that a Public Hearing be held on the

Tuesday following the first or third Monday of the month to afford applicants a prompt hearing, or when additional time is needed by applicants to file or staff to review a completed land use petition. The times and places for Public Hearings shall be confirmed in accordance with the provisions of Art. I, Section 7 (A) of these Rules.

The Subcommittee voted to recommend approval of this item to the Programs & Services Committee.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Freedman, Chairman