

City of Somerville
Board of Health Meeting
March 16, 2006

Present: Brian Green, M.D., Chairman
Babette Mello, Board Member
Maria Luisa Parra, Board Member
Noreen Burke, Director
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant
Cesar Pungirum, Tobacco Control Director

Dr Green called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Accept Minutes:

Upon review of the February 23, 2006 Board Minutes, it was noted by Ms Mello that Stephanie Almeida was not at the February meeting. A motion was made to amend the minutes to read “The Director spoke with Ms.Almeida (she was not present at the February meeting). Ms.Almeida recommended the following “. Dr. Green made a motion to accept the amended minutes and seconded by Maria Parra
Minutes Accepted: 2-0

Tobacco Control, Youth Access Regulations:

Good Times Update:

Mr. Pungirum provided an update on the Good Times smoking issues and their smoking room. After the last board meeting, an inspection was conducted. Good Times was in violation of the no smoking ban. Patrons were found to be smoking in the room. They were issued a \$100 violation. After reinspection, the room was locked and a sign was put up saying Smoking Room is Closed.

Youth Access Regulations:

Central Variety has sold tobacco to a minor during a recent compliance check. That is its 3rd violation of this type within the last two years. A fine of \$300 was issued and the store was notified that a hearing to discuss the suspension of its tobacco permit has been scheduled for April 20, 2006. Mr. Pungirum provided a brief history of the store’s violations, which includes several illegal sale of tobacco to minors, a tobacco permit suspension, and sale of tobacco with a suspended permit.

Proposed Youth Access Regulations:

Mr. Pungirum gave the board an extensive overview of the proposed amendments to the regulations. A public hearing is schedule for April 20, 2006. Special attention was devoted to Section 11 – Penalties - Discussion followed between Mr. Pungirum and the Board Members explaining how the penalties are processed. Dr. Green made a proposal under Section 11.2 to change “thirty (30) consecutive business days” to read “thirty (30) consecutive days for which the establishment is open for business.” In addition, the Board also made recommendations on the penalties for violations of Section – 11.6. First offense will be \$500 per day. The second offense will be \$500 and revocation of the tobacco license for 1 year. Once the year is up, the establishment will have to re-apply

and will have to appear in front of the Board of Health for a hearing before a new license is issued. Under Section 9.6, Dr Green ask Mr. Pungirum to ask the legal department to research the legality of the language included in this provision whereby retailers give the tobacco control implied consent to go behind the counters of these establishments during inspections. Mr. Pungirum will revise the proposed amendments with the recommended changes made by the board. After changes made, Mr. Pungirum will email to the Director and she will forward them to the Board Members for their review before the next board meeting. The proposed amendments, including the board recommendations, will also be reviewed by the City's Law Department prior to the public hearing.

Body Art Apprenticeship Process Update:

The Director, Ms. Burke, received an email from Frank Wright. After reviewing the Cambridge and Quincy forms and regulations, he found the forms to be satisfactory as written. The Director, Ms. Burke, will be meeting with a law student name Cynthia who will be working on the apprenticeship process and hopefully try to get a draft together before the next board meeting.

Director's Updates

The Director, Ms. Burke, went over the February JPHB Report and asked about the NIMS 700 and ICS 100 training. Ms. Parra informed the Board that she would be taking the training on March 30th. Ms Mello has not scheduled training. Ms. Burke explained to the board that they have until September 2006 to complete training. Dr Green will be taking the training on March 22, 2006.

Ms. Burke spoke a little about the handouts. The first topic was the Operation Poseidon, which is a series of exercises involving the Urban Area Strategic Initiative.

Alderman Ward 7, Robert Trane, made an order for the Director of the Health Dept to come before the board to update them on the Planning for Pandemic Flu. The Director Ms. Burke went over her proposal with the board that she will be presenting to the Board of Alderman at their next Board Meeting.

Another handout reviewed was Vicente Sanabria's Scap Mission and the Somerville Middle School Health Survey showing the percentages of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among our middle grades 5, 7, 8-grade students.

Alderman Maryanne Heuston has proposed that the Health Director convene a taskforce to address the rodent control issues in the city.

Dr Green made a motion to the Board of Health to offer our resident Irish native a "Happy St. Patrick's Day".

The next Board meeting will be April 20, 2006 @ 5:00 pm

A motion was made by Dr Green to adjourn the meeting @ 6:55 pm and seconded by Maria Parra.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Henkle
Administrative Assistant
Health Department

