

City of Somerville
Board of Health Meeting
May 25, 2006

Present: Brian Green, M.D., Chairman
Maria Luisa Parra, Board Member
Noreen Burke, Health Director
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant
Cesar Pungirum, Tobacco Control Director
Stephanie Almeida, Mongo's Madness Business Owner

Absent: Babette Mello, Board Member

Dr Green called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Accept Minutes:

Upon review of the April 20, 2006 board minutes, Dr. Green made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Parra seconded it.

Minutes Accepted: 2-0

Signing of Amended Youth Access Tobacco Regulations

Mr. Pungirum gave a final review and summary of the regulations to the board members. Approximately, at 5.15pm, Dr. Green and Ms Parra signed the document. Ms. Mello was not in attendance to sign.

Body Art Apprenticeship Public Hearing

Ms. Almeida was concerned that the Board of Health's Disclosure of Apprenticeship Body Piercing/Tattoo Disclosure Form was vague. Ms. Almeida informed the board that her business uses a similar form, which is more in-depth and detailed; it is a medical history of the clients. There are also inconsistencies between the current Health History and Client Informed Consent and the boards proposed Disclosure of Apprenticeship form. Currently each of the body art shops has their own consent/disclosure form for body art practitioners, which meets the business needs of the establishments. The board will be taking these comments and concerns into consideration. Ms. Burke will talk to Mr. Wright regarding this form and its inconsistencies. . We hope to be able to move forward at the next board meeting on the Body Art Apprenticeship Process.

Guest Announcement, Cancer Support Groups

We had a guest speaker, Ben Garton from the Center for Cancer Support & Education in Arlington. Mr. Garton gave a brief overview of his organization and he was looking for suggestions in ways that they could reach the public. Some of the suggestions were to place flyers at City Hall, and other city owned buildings, libraries, hospitals, Somerville News, SCAT, Artbeat, etc.

Director's Updates:

Ms. Burke gave an overview of the Rodent Control Subcommittee. Their plans are to change the Trash Ordinance to include the use of Uniform Trash Receptacles. Currently the Health Dept is seeking job applicants for the following three (3) positions – Scap Director, EP Asst. Coordinator, and Shape Up Somerville Coordinator. Liz Quaratiello is assisting the school nurses with completing the NIMS and ICS courses online.

The Somerville Domestic Violence Taskforce has organized its agenda. Dr Green is on the Panel Discussion at the Cambridge Alliance and would like to set up a meeting with Sonja. Ms Henkle said she would contact Sonja and try to get a meeting before the next panel meeting which is scheduled for June 20, 2006 at noon located at the Cambridge Hospital.

Ms. Burke spoke briefly and updated the board on the measles outbreak that occurred at the John Hancock Building in Boston, in which one of the employees was a Somerville resident.

Members Updates

Dr Green gave an update on the formula breast milk controversy at the hospital. It appears the hospital wants to no longer provide free samples, which are given to them by the drug companies.

Ms. Parra gave an update on the Condominium Conversion Ordinance Hearing that she attended on May 16 at City Hall. This affects the wellbeing of tenants who are forced to move when their apartments are converted.

The next board meeting will be June 15, 2006

A motion was made by Dr Green to adjourn the meeting @ 7:10pm and Ms. Parra seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Henkle
Administrative Assistant
Health Department