

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

5:15 PM (EDT)– Public Library

Attendance: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dr. Dean Xerras, M.D., Luis Prado, Emmanuel Tellez, (Board Members); Bonnie Carroll, Director, Six City Tobacco Initiative, Paula McHatton, Public Health Nurse, John Moore, Manager of Residence Inn Hotel, Robert Griffin, formerly of 48 Medford Street, now in Salem, Devin Griffin, Elizabeth C. Caizzi, Assistant City Solicitor for Chelsea, Jennifer Kelley, Richie C. (City Employee now resident of Salem, MA(Public Stakeholders))

Meeting called to order by C. Miller at 5:16 (EDT)

1. Public Comments/Misc.:

Discussion regarding the need to update regulations prohibition of smoking in Chelsea in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 270, Sec. 22 (commonly known as the “Smoke-Free Workplace Law”) requiring employers to provide smoke-free environment to all employees working in enclosed spaces, and also banning the use of electronic cigarettes in the following places:

1. Smoking bars
2. Adult-only tobacco stores
3. (50) Fifty feet of any municipal building entranceway accessible to the public
4. Municipal-owned parks and playgrounds
5. Municipal-owned athletic fields
6. Municipal-owned beaches and other swimming areas
7. Membership associations (private clubs)
8. Nursing homes
9. Hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and lodging homes
10. All outdoor areas of restaurants, bars, and taverns
11. Public transportation, bus, and tax waiting areas

Robert and Devin Griffin spoke in support of the prohibition extending to private clubs. They report that past efforts to ban the practice stalled when the smokers assumed the leadership of those organizations. They welcome stronger protections for employees, noting how some waitstaff now suffer from COPD, and that existing measures to contain smoking are inadequate.

John Moore, for the Residence Inn Hotel, stated he was interested in attending the hearing to know where smoking would be prohibited in order to comply with the regulation.

Bonnie Carroll clarified questions regarding the use of electronic cigarettes and included new information regarding the growing popularity of these with younger people.

2. Unanimous approval of above regulations to set effect June 12, 2018. Members signed regulation.

3. Approval of April 2018 meeting minutes

4. Public Health Nurse Report:

Paula presented communicable disease report of activity since April 2018. She has worked with Luis Prado to coordinate her findings and observations to ISD and other agencies as appropriate. She also vaccinated persons who may be at threat of acquiring meningitis and has been in correspondence with a public school nurse concerned about Takis, a crunchy snack containing MSG that has grown in popularity at schools.

Announcements:

Executive session in July to have presentation by Mr. Alpert

GreenRoots Environmental Justice Group was awarded a \$75,000 grant by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to do a feasibility study to look at building a Micro-Grid here in Chelsea in case of any emergency that would threaten the city's ability to function. An invitation was made to Mass General Chelsea through Jeannette McWilliams for Mass General Chelsea to partner with this initiative.

Meeting adjourned 6: 14 PM (EDT)

Next mtg: June 12, 2018 at 5: 15 PM (EDT)

Respectfully submitted,
Emmanuel J. Tellez
May 23, 2018