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## **Donations needed for Holocaust memorial**

By *PATRICK MEIGHAN*

*Staff Writer*

NASHUA – As an alderman, Fred Teeboom was used to spending millions of dollars just by voting.

Now that he's a private citizen, Teeboom faces what he said will be a tougher challenge: raising \$150,000 for a Holocaust memorial through private donations.

Teeboom and artist John Weidman have partnered to create a memorial for Holocaust victims in the city. Their dream took a step forward Tuesday when the Board of Aldermen unanimously endorsed a resolution that authorizes the mayor to enter into an agreement with Holocaust Memorial in Nashua, Inc., for establishing a memorial on Rotary Common.

Under the agreement, the city will do general site preparation and create four parking spaces, a total cost in labor and materials of about \$6,500.

Teeboom said the city's commitment amounts to only 4 percent of the project's cost. The remaining 96 percent will come through private donations, he said.

"This memorial is in memory of the innocent victims of genocide. Genocide is the mass murder of millions of people from a specific national, ethnic or religious group," Teeboom said.

Claire McHugh, who is also on the Holocaust committee, noted that 11 million people were killed by Nazis in the Holocaust, including 6 million Jews.

Before the vote Tuesday, McHugh said she hoped that aldermen agreed "that this memorial is a very important statement to be made in Nashua."

"It's not just a memorial. It's something we have to look at as a lesson," said Weidman, a sculptor who is the director of the Andres Institute in Brookline.

He also is a founder of the annual Nashua sculpture symposium.

"This can happen again if we're not careful. It's for education," he said.

A 12:1 scale model of the memorial, which will be built by Weidman, now exists. Teeboom said he will ask the Nashua Public Library directors to display the model there.

"The center part of the sculpture is a black cube that is polished, and in that, you see your reflection," Weidman said. "We have to not be distant bystanders. We have to pay attention to the world around us and participate in its future."

Teeboom hopes he can find residents willing to participate in the process of raising money to bring the memorial to fruition. The group has applied for nonprofit status, he said.

Donations can be made contingent on being tax deductible, he said.

"We're ready now for fundraising," Teeboom said.

So far, the support for the concept of the memorial has been great, with the plan receiving the strong support of Mayor Donnalee Lozeau and the unanimous endorsement of the aldermen, the finance committee and the Board of Public Works, Teeboom said.

The only question raised by aldermen concerned ownership of the Rotary Common and whether discovery of an artifact could halt the construction.

The common is built over the ruins of one of the city's oldest manufacturing mills. Part of the buried foundation for the mill will be used to support the memorial, Weidman said.

The site is jointly owned by the state and the city, and the state will be part of the process in the construction, as it is with the walking labyrinth now being built on another part of the common, Lozeau said.

The Rotary Common is the city's newest park and is on the west side of Main Street, just south of the intersection with Lake Street.

"The response we've seen has been enormous, absolutely enormous, and the location really is ideal," Teeboom said.

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