



Appointments & Briefings

October 15, 2013 – 7:00 PM – **Minutes**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

****View Agenda ****

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2013
TIME: 7:03 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DENIS LAWRENCE, JR., CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; HENRY BOUSQUET; DEBORA COELHO; BRUCE DUARTE, JR.; BRIAN GOMES (7:06); JANE GONSALVES; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS (7:06); JAMES OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR JOHN SAUNDERS

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Councillor Alves, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order and took attendance.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Public Hearing, to discuss a Resolution to create a State Authorized Cultural District in the Downtown area for at least five (5) years. (Advertised in the Standard-Times on Sunday, October 6, 2013) The hearing was opened. (1)

Ms. Dagny Ashley, Director of Tourism and Marketing began the presentation and introduced Ms. Mary Jenkins from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Ms. Jenkins stated that to date, 17 Cultural Districts have been successfully launched in the state thus far. She explained that these districts result in not only the promotion of local arts communities, but also economic development and benefits. She stated that if and when approved, the designation is good for five (5) years and is renewable if in compliance and all parties are agreeable to continuing. She also explained that various state agencies are involved in the process, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation, Housing, Tourism, Conservation and Recreation, etc.

Mr. Mike Metzler, consultant to the Steering Committee then made a slide show presentation to the Committee explaining the boundaries of the proposed district and how those lines were agreed upon.

Councillor Lawrence made a motion to receive and placed on file the information submitted by Mr. Metzler, which was seconded by Councillor Gonsalves.

Mr. Metzler stressed that there is always the possibility of adding additional cultural districts in the city after this one, as other communities have multiple districts. He also stressed that the boundaries were not meant to exclude anyone or any organization/business, but rather to help a visitor who is not familiar with the city navigate the district and to help him/her find points of interest. Additionally, since the city controls its own marketing, that strategy can be developed to incorporate and promote those establishments that are close, but outside the limits of the district.

No one spoke in favor, but the following were recorded in favor: Diane Arsenault of Downtown, Inc.; Adrian Tio of UMD, Maryann Rogers from the Cape Verdean Cultural Committee, Derek Santos representing the Economic Development Council, Mr. Mark Hess and Mr. Hank Mastey.

No one spoke or wished to be recorded in opposition. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Duarte, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the RESOLUTION to create a State Authorized Cultural District in the Downtown area in New Bedford, for at least five (5) years. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MARIA MOJICA-MOSQUEA, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Joseph Cordeiro, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2016. (Ref'd 9/12/13) (2)

Ms. Mojica-Mosquea was not in attendance.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of COLLEEN PINA-GARRON, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Robert Morris, whose term has expired; this term will expire June 2015. (Ref'd 7/18/13, 9/24/13 – tabled, not in attendance) (3)

Councillor Alves informed the Committee that Ms. Pina-Garron withdrew from the appointment.

On motion by Councillor Gonsalves and seconded by Councillor Duarte, the Committee VOTED: To take “No Further Action” on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a APPLICATION/PETITION, I.O.M.C. IRON ORDER MOTOR CYCLE CLUB, 812 Kempton Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, for a SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A CLUB OR LODGE – Non-Profit, at 812 Kempton Street. (9/24/13 – Hearing held and closed, item tabled until the next meeting on 10/15/13) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (4)

The Clerk informed the Committee that there were eleven (11) abutters notified by certified mail from the Clerk of Committee’s Office and all the return receipt cards were returned except one from a deceased abutter; they just chose not to attend the hearing.

Robert Cabral, 370 Park Street, New Bedford was present to answer questions from the Committee. Councillor Gomes asked him to explain the situations that he has recently read about in police reports allegedly involving members of his club. Mr. Cabral stated that none of his members were involved with those incidents or present when they took place.

Councillor Coelho asked where other chapters of the club exist. Mr. Cabral stated that, locally, there are chapters in Fairhaven, Fall River and Assonet.

Councillor Oliveira asked if the club is a non-profit, to which Mr. Cabral said they are; but they are currently going for their 501(c) 3 designation. Yet another member stated (from the seating) that they have received the approval, but do not yet have their tax exempt number. Councillor Oliveira responded that he then, does not recognize the club as a non-profit organization.

Councillor Lopes asked how many members are in this chapter and how many live in New Bedford. Mr. Cabral stated that out of the seven (7) members, two (2) live in New Bedford.

Mr. Cabral stated that there are five (5) motorcycle clubs in the city, at least three (3) of which are involved in illegal activities and he does not know why his club is the only one that has to jump through hoops to open up a club house.

Councillor Alves asked Mr. Cabral about an incident that occurred at Temptations. Mr. Cabral stated that none of his members were involved in any situation at that establishment, but rather it was only people associated with some of the members that were involved.

On motion by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Gonsalves, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION/PETITION, I.O.M.C. IRON ORDER MOTOR CYCLE CLUB, 812 Kempton Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, for a SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A CLUB OR LODGE – Non-Profit, at 812 Kempton Street. This motion FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 1, (Councillor Bousquet) Nays 7, with Councillor Lawrence not present for vote and Councillor Duarte abstaining from voting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Martins, Lopes, Alves, Gonsalves and Bousquet, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Administration, Tourism Director Ashley, New Bedford Economic Development Council and Downtown New Bedford, Inc., to follow up on a discussion designating New Bedford as a Cultural District. (Ref'd 8/13/13) (5)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on this matter at this time.

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Councillor Gomes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Gonsalves.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees