



Memorials & Dedications

March 20, 2013 – 7:00 PM – **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber, Room 213, Municipal Building

****View Agenda ****

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS

DATE: MARCH 20, 2013

TIME: 7:21 P.M.

PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS BRUCE DUARTE, JR., CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; BRIAN K. GOMES

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS JANE GONSALVES; STEVEN MARTINS

ALSO PRESENT:

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Councillor Duarte called the Memorials & Dedications meeting to order and took attendance. MEMO's from Councillors Gonsalves and Martins were read into the record stating their reasons for not being in attendance. These MEMO's were received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Pimental, Morad, Pina, Gonsalves and Coelho, requesting that the Committee on Memorials & Dedications look into the possibility of placing a Memorial in the City of New Bedford for the Women who served in the Armed Forces (Ref'd 7/20/06, tabled 2/20/13) were received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (1)

Councillor Alves asked Stephanie Poyant for an update. Ms. Poyant apologized for not having a specific balance in their account, but stated they have approximately \$2,000.00, which does not count several commitments they have received for donations, which include but are not limited to: a commitment from Councillor Lawrence that \$2,000 would be donated from the Joe Camara Fund; \$3,800(approximately) from Linda Morad's recent breakfast event, and other contributions, etc.

When all is said and done, Ms. Poyant stated they have commitments and/or cash already donated in the approximate amount of \$10,000. However, they still need about \$23,000 more to reach their goal. They are speaking with organizations like the Madeira Club, Prince Henry Society, Friendly Sons, etc. in order to potentially utilize their resources, memberships, etc. to raise the rest of the funds needed. She reported that they will be filing for their own 501(c) 3 this week as well.

Other fundraising ideas were suggested and discussed, including direct mail, contacting members of the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce, hosting a "gala" type of event, utilizing social media like Facebook, etc.

Ms. Poyant did state that the USPS still has not given them permission to utilize the image they would like to use for the monument.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send a letter to the United States Postal Service indicating that they would very much appreciate the image to be released for use on this monument, and that the letter stress the urgency of this request, as the monument is scheduled to be unveiled on November 11th of this year. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves, 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 Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Saunders and Lopes, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet with Jeff Costa, Chairman of Financing and Marketing, Deb Shrader, President and Committee Members of the Fisherman's Tribute Fund, for the purposes of discussing the possibility of erecting a Fisherman's Memorial to be located at Monkey's Island on East Rodney French Boulevard, north of East Beach (Ref'd 3/22/12, tabled 2/20/13) was removed from the table by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves. (2)

Ms. Deb Shrader provided an update that included the fact that the Mayor has provided them with a letter of support and the sculptor has provided them with a cost schedule and has actually begun work on it already.

Christine Connelly from the Mayor's office stressed the Administration's support of this project and the location of Monkey's Island.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes, 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 Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet with the Administration for the purpose of discussing a suitable site for a memorial honoring the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, for his 47 Years of Service of Dedication and Representation to our Country, Commonwealth and our City while serving in the United States Senate, seeing that Senator Kennedy's ties to the City of New Bedford were infused by his many actions to help this city and its Citizens and the people who were dedicated to and supported the Senator; further, in this Councillor's opinion, a suitable location for a dedication would be the completion of the hurricane dike walkway reflecting the late Senator's love for the City, and for the ocean; further, that this recommendation be forwarded to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications to work with the Army Corps of Engineers; and further requesting that, if the hurricane dike walkway is not feasible, then the Committee, along with the Administration, look for another location to memorialize the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Ref'd 9/10/09, tabled 5/22/12) was removed from the table by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves. (3)

Councillor Gomes stated that Senator Kennedy was tremendous to the City of New Bedford and always fought for the things that the city needed.

Councillor Alves agreed and stated that any monument to the late senator should be located either downtown or near the waterfront, perhaps even near the Hurricane Barrier.

Christina Connelly stated that if the Committee is in deed looking to do something at the Hurricane Barrier, then it should contact the Army Corps of Engineers and suggested that Ron Labelle has a great relationship with them and could be helpful in the early stages.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications contact Ron Labelle and ask that he pursue an opportunity to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers for the purpose of discussing the possibility of erecting a monument to Senator Kennedy on the barrier; and that he respond to the Committee within 30 days.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that Mayor Mitchell along with whoever is responsible for the upkeep of the State Pier consider naming the parking lots along the State Pier which are presently lettered A, B, C, with “Whale” names, due to the fact that this is the “Whaling City” and we should be following that procedure even on the State Pier when naming these parking lots; and further requesting that the Terminal Building at the State Pier be renamed after the former Mayor Edward Harrington (Ref’d 6/19/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (4)

Councillor Gomes stated that he feels it would be perfect if the parking lots at the state pier were to be re-named after types of whales.

Ms. Connelly stated that the Administration does not have an official opinion, but that such a change does require the state being brought in. She recommended contacting Jeff Stieb at the Harbor Development Commission and Captain Richard Cunio, Manager of the State Pier. She also stated that she is aware of an ongoing plan by the HDC to “brand” the pier, and this idea could be integral with that.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: That Mr. Jeff Stieb of the Harbor Development Commission and Captain Richard Cunio, Manager of the State Pier, be invited to discuss the possibility of renaming the State Pier after types of whales at a future meeting of the Memorials & Dedications Committee. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTEED: 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 Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Duarte, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet for the purpose of discussing a suitable tribute to honor the late Thomas D. Lopes, former State representative and owner/publisher of the Cape Verdean News; and further, that this tribute be located in the Ward Four area, the Cape Verdean section of the City (Ref’d 9/27/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (5)

Councillor Gomes stated that Tom Lopes made tremendous contributions to the City of New Bedford and its culture. As the first Cape Verdean person to represent the city in the Legislature and worked so hard for his district was greatly inspiring to future generations.

Councillor Alves suggested renaming a street or section of the city, keeping in mind that often times it can be extremely difficult for residents when streets are renamed, even with the best of intentions. Perhaps, he continued, something “green” would be appropriate.

Councillor Duarte stated that he was always inspired by Mr. Lopes.

Councillor Gomes recommended that the members should think and brainstorm about locations and ideas for the next meeting.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for sixty (60) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Bousquet, Gonsalves, Lawrence, Lopes, Council President Martins, Duarte, Alves and Coelho, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications design an award to be given to City Residents who go above and beyond the call of duty to be partners in our Community; and further, requesting, that the award be named the "New Bedford City Council Neighborhood Heroes Award." (Ref'd 10/25/12) (6)

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes, 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 Related Motion, Councillor Saunders, requesting that the Council refer the naming of the Garage to Lawrence D. Worden Central Garage to the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications for design purposes (Ref'd 2/14/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (7)

Councillor Alves suggested asking Voc-Tech to create the lettering for the garage and then the Committee can approve the design and get this done fairly quickly and appropriately.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To refer to the Mayor and table pending his response, which should include when he feels the unveiling of this should be scheduled. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Gomes & Fortes, requesting that the Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet to discuss a suitable site and location, such as Police Headquarters, City Hall or the Library to honor former New Bedford Police Officers; Benjamin F. Williams, Jr., John O. Williams and Charles H. Williams, using the 1925 portrait of the Officers, along with a dedication plaque, for being the first in history black-appointed Police Officers in the City of New Bedford, and recognizing them on their multiple heroic actions while Policemen in the early 1900's. (Ref'd 03/10/05) (8)

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications, once again, attempt to contact the family in an attempt to place the picture of the first black-appointed Police Officers in the City of New Bedford, along with a dedication plaque in the lobby of the New Bedford Police Headquarters. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees