



# *Memorials & Dedications*

March 11, 2014 – 7:02 PM - **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber, Room 213, Municipal Building

**\*\*View Agenda\*\***

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS**

**DATE: MARCH 11, 2014**

**TIME: 7:02 P.M.**

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

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; DANA REBEIRO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY; LINDA MORAD (7:04); KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: NO ONE**

**ALSO PRESENT: CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOSEPH LOPES**

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Councillor Bousquet called the Memorials & Dedications Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. A Communication from Councillor Morad was read into the record stating she would be late in attending this meeting due to a work conflict. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Winterson.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Bousquet, Winterson, Morad, Oliveira, Alves and Carney, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications look at establishing a POW/MIA Chair of Honor, which would be dedicated and placed at New Bedford City Hall in honor of all the brave men and women who proudly served and paid the greatest sacrifice for our country. (Ref'd 2/27/14) (1)

Mr. Jim Leal, a Korean War Veteran, provided the Committee with various information about the POW/MIA Chairs, which was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

Mr. Leal explained that the Town of Freetown has this chair, and the town of Fairhaven has ordered one as well. He feels it would be a great tribute to veterans who are either KIA or MIA. He stated that the company that produces them is in Maine, and if ordered soon, the chair could possibly arrive as early as April.

Councillor Morad asked Veterans Agent Chris Gomes if the Administration is on board with this idea. Mr. Gomes stated that the Mayor is very much in favor of this. He himself prefers that the chair be placed inside of City Hall, and he likes the stadium-style seat that can be placed onto a platform, which makes it easily portable for events, etc. He also stated that the VVA has pledged to donate the funding for it, which is approximately \$300, as long as it is placed inside of City Hall. That will cover all costs: the chair, flags, plaque, platform, etc.

Mr. Gomes continued by stating that he feels Veterans Hall in City Hall would be perfect, but if for some reason that is not possible, then he feels inside the hall to the right of the stairs, by the elevator, would be a good second choice.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council that it support the placing of the POW/MIA Chair of Honor in the Lobby of New Bedford City Hall, and that the City Council, work with the Veterans Agent Chris Gomes, the Administration and the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) in order to establish the funding and erection of said monument by Veterans Day 2014. 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 and Dedications meet with Jeff Costa, Chairman of Financing and Marketing, Deb Schrader, President and Committee Members of the Fisherman's Tribute Fund, for the purpose 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, 8/28/13 tabled) (***Chairman would like Committee to know that the Memorial Statue is currently being bronzed and we need to establish a construction timeline for the Monkey's Island Park portion and where the Statue might be stored until the plaza is ready to receive it.***) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2)

Deb Schrader explained that the statue was sent to be bronzed in February and should be done late summer, early fall. She and Jeff Costa provided information to the Committee regarding the budget, etc., which was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney.

Jeff Costa explained that the budget is down from \$500,000 plus to \$300,000. The Committee members explained that they will need a place to store the statue once the bronzing is finished, as the site is yet to be completed.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send a letter to the Administration asking for an update on the following items: The actual budget for the project; The status of the preparation for the site work to start and be completed; Has the permitting process been obtained; what is the City's plan on how to fund the \$300,000 project; and, further, that this information is provided to the Committee within 14 days, and that a second inquiry is sent and the Committee Members be notified that the second request was necessary. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee send a letter to Ron Labelle asking him for an update on his progress on the site preparation, and that he be asked to respond within 30 days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee send another letter to Ron Labelle, asking him where he thinks the statue might be able to be safely and securely stored while the site is being prepared.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for thirty (30) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Gonsalves and Bousquet, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications look into erecting at least six Peace Poles

across New Bedford, with one Peace Pole being erected in each ward across the City; and further, that said Committee seek input from community groups and local religious organizations on placement of said poles (Ref'd 8/16/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3)

Councillor Lopes explained that BCC has installed such a pole inside of its downtown campus building. He explained the history of these poles began after WW2, and that they are often made out of TREX decking and cost approximately \$200 per pole. They usually have the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in several languages.

Ken Rezendes, Neighborhood United Member, stated that they can be made from any type of wood; he has one in his basement that is simply pressure-treated wood.

There was discussion about locations for the poles, which included Serenity Gardens and Buttonwood Park.

Ken Rezendes stated he would bring it up at the next Neighborhood United meeting to discuss potential sites throughout the city and report back to the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To request Neighborhoods United to discuss Peace Poles at their next meeting. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council that it send a letter to the Park Board requesting that the Members of the Committee on Memorials & Dedications and the Leadership of Neighborhoods United be allowed to present the proposal of erecting Peace Poles on Park property in the City of New Bedford. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes and Council President Martins, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications look into establishing a Sister City Relationship with Johannesburg, South Africa; and further requesting that when this matter is heard in Committee that this Councilor be invited to said meeting (Ref'd 8/16/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (4)

Councillor Lopes stated that during a visit to Portugal, he met a Madeiran from Johannesburg and learned that there is a very large Portuguese population within Johannesburg; and furthermore that the official he met would be interested in a Sister City relationship with New Bedford. Furthermore, that official may be coming to New Bedford for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Madeiran Feast. He did say, however, that he does not think the Mayor has a "warm and fuzzy" about this.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send a letter to the Mayor asking if he has any interest in pursuing and/or initiating such a relationship with a city within Johannesburg, South Africa, and that he inform the Committee of his opinion within thirty (30) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter to the next meeting. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting on behalf of the Paul Ryan Vermette Family, that permission from the Committee on City Property be given to the Vermette Family to adopt the triangle located at Mill Street and Kempton Street, outside the Rite Aide Pharmacy, for the dedication to the late Paul Ryan Vermette; and further, that the Vermette Family would like to adopt and provide upkeep and maintenance, with all costs incurred by the Vermette Family, to the triangle located east of the Hess Gas Station; and further, requesting, that the rotten trees be removed and replaced with four Cherry Blossom trees, along with a bench and a plaque in memory of the late Paul Ryan Vermette due to his contributions to businesses and buildings that he built all around the triangle located at Mill and Kempton Streets; and further, that the Vermette Family is establishing a yearly scholarship to be given to a New Bedford High School Student in memory of the late Paul Ryan Vermette. (Ref'd 4/25/13) (5)

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

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On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on items six (6) – eight (8) and ten (10) – thirteen (13) and leaving nine (9) in Committee. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Morad requesting, on behalf of Normand Cabral, Commander-Howland Chapter Veterans Association, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications consider dedicating the electrical building located at Clasky Common Park in memory of the late Louis S. Whitlow, Jr., who for many years worked tirelessly and with great pride on the annual holiday decorations display at Clasky Common Park. (Ref'd 11/22/11, 5/22/12 – Letters, when we receive a response, send results to Mr. Haggerty) (9)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications, along with the Lang Administration, discuss and complete the dedication of City Hall Square, naming it Joseph Theodore, Jr. City Hall Square, which is long overdue tribute to a great patriot; and further, that the Committee make the appropriate arrangements for this dedication to take place this spring or summer, in the remembrance of Joe Theodore, one of the greatest Citizen's of New Bedford and the United States of America – he truly loved America and its people. (Ref'd 5/11/10, 2/28/11- tabled, 4/11/11 – tabled, 5/9/11 – tabled, 5/22/12 – tabled, letter to family, 9/24/12 – table until next meeting - invite Theodore's and Ms. Connelly, 11/26/12 – tabled until next meeting, 5/20/13 – tabled, 8/28/13 - letter) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Coelho, Lopes, Lawrence, Saunders, Martins, Gonsalves, Duarte, Alves and Dehner, requesting, that the Committee on Memorials and Dedications look into establishing a Memorial indoors or out at the former Fairhaven Mills location, which is now the Market Basket Plaza, or the River Walk Area, which pays long overdue respect and tribute to all New Bedford Mill Workers, acknowledges their contributions to the City of New Bedford and its economy, describes their personal struggles and sacrifices; and further, this should also include the images captured by photographer Lewis Hine, whose photographs of American child laborers, many in the New Bedford area, were a factor in turning public opinion away from the use of children as laborers and resulted in enacting legislation banning child labor, further requesting, that Anne Louro of the Historical Commission be invited to the Committee on Memorials and Dedications meeting when the matter is heard. (Ref'd 2/10/11) (7)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, from Barbara McDonald to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, submitting information on Lt. John B. Hyde, a Civil War Officer, Veteran and prominent public servant in the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 5/16/11, 9/24/12 – tabled until the Committee receives a response from the Administration) **RESPONSE - 10/18/12** (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Martins and Councillors Coelho and Lawrence, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications look into naming the small bridge at Riverside Park after the late Jim Simmons, who was a long-time advocate for environmental issues in the community. (Ref'd 9/27/12) (10)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Martins, requesting, since the area of the new playground at Brooklawn Park is still semi complete, that Community Development be invited to the next Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meeting to discuss where to place the Ricketson Memorial at Brooklawn Park; and further, that the family of Mike Walsh be invited to take part in the discussion and location of the memorial at the Park. (Ref'd 10/11/12) (11)

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 and Dedications for design purposes. (Ref'd 2/14/13, 5/20/13 – tabled to an upcoming meeting for an update) (12)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, on behalf of the Lucio Family, the members of the Portuguese-American War Veterans Organization and World War II Veterans, that the City Council send a letter to the New Bedford School Committee and representatives of the Alma Del Mar Charter School to express our concern and displeasure for the disrespectful and disgraceful decision to install a portable classroom unit which was allowed to be PLACED OVER A LONG STANDING WORLD WAR II VETERANS MONUMENT, on the corner of Earle Street and Madeira Avenue (the former Sarah D. Ottiwell School), with no regard for the hurt and disrespect it showed to the family members and those Veterans who served our Country and displays a poor example for the children who attend the school; and further, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meet with the representatives of all parties noted to see what can be done to correct this horrendous demonstration of disrespect. (Ref'd 9/12/13) (13)

Councillor Winterson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Carney.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees