



Appointments and Briefings

October 28, 2015 – 7:10 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2015

TIME: 7:10 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DAVID ALVES, CHAIRMAN; DEBORA COELHO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY (7:20); BRIAN GOMES; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA (7:40); DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET; LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Alves called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications into the record for Councillor Bousquet and Morad explaining the reason for their absences, these Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins.

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Councillor Alves announced the start of Citizen's Input Time which is the first half hour of the Appointments & Briefings Meeting. (1, 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d)

The first speaker Cheryl Lizotte, speaking on Pedophiles. Ms. Lizotte was not in attendance.

Joyce Rowley the next scheduled speaker was present to speak on the Button-wood Park Zoo.

Sandra Andrade Penn was the next scheduled speaker to speak on drugs on Holly and Wing Streets; but she was not in attendance.

Roland Gendron the next scheduled speaker was present and spoke on the POW/MIA Flag.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Martins and Morad, requesting, that Department of Inspectional Services Commissioner Romanowicz be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss permitting procedures and enforcement for signs and flags on City sidewalks (Ref'd 08/21/14, 10/14/14 – tabled, 11/18/14 – remain tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (2)

Councillor Martins explained his reason for the motion, there were mixed messages being sent by the city on the placement of advertising flags on city sidewalks and property. If there is an Ordinance in place he would like to have it enforced.

Dan Romanowicz, DIS Commissioner, was present and explained there is currently no permitting process in place for advertising flags, etc. in the city. Placement of the flags currently goes against City Ordinances and the business can be fined. They are considered an obstruction. They are currently damaging city sidewalks, blocking people attempting to walk on sidewalks, creating obstructions to motor vehicle traffic. The flags are considered ground signs and they are regulated by City Ordinance. Currently they are working on new Ordinance language that will address the permitting of advertising flags. The city cannot issue a permit allowing flags because they are not allowed.

Councillor Martins is pleased there is an Ordinance on the books, but it needs to be explained to businesses. He believes letters should be sent with a warning if the businesses have placed them on city property.

Commissioner Romanowicz passed out a packet of pictures to the body of these flags that are throughout the city. These pictures were received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

Councillor Lopes told the body that the Committee on signage is working on the appropriate language to address the issue.

On motion by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Lopes asked that item number seven (7) be taken out of order and it was seconded by Councillor Gomes, there was no objection so item number seven (7) was before them.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting that Lynn Coish of Operation Clean Sweep and Mary Lou Nicholson of the Organization Be the Solution to Pollution meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to educate the Council and Citizens about the adverse effects of balloon releases on our ocean life specifically seals, sea turtles and birds (Ref'd 9/24/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (7)

Ms. Lynn Coish of Operation Clean Sweep and Ms. Mary Lou Nicholson of the Organization Be the Solution to Pollution and Miss Emma Cranford an elementary school student were present to give a presentation and a power point to the Committee on the dangers of releasing balloons in the City of New Bedford. They presented a packet of information to the Committee which was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

Councillor Rebeiro explained the issue was brought to her attention and she asked the two ladies to come up with a presentation to present to the Committee.

They gave an overview of how releasing a large number of balloons at various events have a dramatic affect on marine life. Birds, fish, seals etc. are becoming entangled in strings and digesting the latex are all harmful to marine life. The goal is to raise awareness on the impact such releases have on wildlife and the environment.

Councillor Rebeiro thanked the ladies for a great presentation and told them something should be on the books that perhaps prevent large balloon releases in the city.

Councillor Gomes explained the Airport Manager many years ago took action on this issue as it related to balloon releases affecting aircraft. He believed there may already be an Ordinance on file.

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To refer this matter to the Committee on Ordinances for further review. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT), meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, for the purpose of discussing replacing the signage along Route 18 North and South, which has become old and has sustained reflective deterioration, especially in the nighttime hours; and further, to also discuss possible signage changes that would announce attractions, placed at main intersections along with the present directions on the signage; and further, that our State Representative for that area be requested to attend said meeting along with a representative from the Mayor's Administration (Ref'd 05/14/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded Councillor Martins. (3)

Councillor Gomes informed the Committee that there still needs to be work done on the signs and he is waiting to hear from the DOT on this matter.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, 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, on behalf of Jeanne Costa, resident of New Bedford, requesting, that the City consider Out Door Fitness Equipment to be located in parks across the City, in an effort to promote good health and continue wellness for the City residents; and further, that the City Council support this initiative with funds generated from the Community Preservation Act (Ref'd 7/16/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Carney. (4)

Councillor Carney expressed concern that the right people were not in attendance as it related to the motion

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, 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 Coelho and Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings look into the possibility of installing a Handicap Ramp at Ft. Taber Beach to allow for wheelchair bound persons to have direct access to the shoreline, and that Ms. Zelinda Pereira, Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts/ Southeastern Office, a representative from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and a representative from the Harbor Development Commission be invited to attend meeting (Ref'd 9/10/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins. (5)

Mary Rapoza, Director of Receptions Parks was present to speak on this issue. She explained that this was a good idea and the Park Board is currently looking at this. The city just recently received an amphibious

wheelchair which allows a handicap individual access to the ocean, making the beach more accessible. She did feel that the beach at Ft. Taber may not be the appropriate spot for such a ramp, but it may be a good thing for West and East Beaches.

Ed Washburn, Director of the Harbor Development Commission, explained this would not affect the harbor and he is in favor of such a project.

Councillor Lopes asked if there was a way to solicit funds from Pat Sullivan's Office and he was told by Mary Rapoza that Cynthia Wallquist and her Office of Human Services were looking into securing grants to pay the cost of the ramp. It is approximately valued at \$3,500.00 per 100'. He asked that the Committee send a letter to Cynthia Wallquist asking her where her office is in the process of securing funding.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee send a letter to Cynthia Wallquist asking her to provide a status as to where her office is in securing a grant to fund the handicap access ramps at East and West Beaches and to table the issue as well. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Council President Gomes, submitting information from Randy Jones, Lion Landscaping regarding his plan to help the youth of our City (Ref'd 9/10/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (6)

Mr. Randy Jones of 22 McGurk Street, New Bedford gave an overview of the program which was designed to provide snow removal as well as traditional landscaping services to be provided by the youth of New Bedford as a form of employment, while at the same time mentoring the youth and helping them to make the right choices that will affect their lives in the future and teaching our youth core values. He needs the Councils help in pointing the program in the right direction so it will get the proper attention to create it.

Councillor Gomes asked what the cost of such a program would be and he was told approximately \$35,000 annually. Councillor Gomes felt this program would be a perfect fit for Patrick Sullivan's Office of Community Development and programming.

Councillor Winterson expressed his like for a program like this; it is needed in the city.

Mr. Jones provided the Committee with a copy of the plan which was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded Councillor Carney the Committee VOTED: To refer the packet along with a Communication of the Committee's support of the program to Patrick Sullivan of the Office of Community Development and Planning to see if it can be enacted and that they reach out to Mr. Jones directly. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Councillor Lopes, submitting a copy of a communication from South End Youth Athletic Association of New Bedford, to Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, regarding securing a permit for Lot 13 adjacent to their complex located at Clegg Field 221 Brock Avenue (Ref'd 10/08/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (8)

Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches, explained that where this is basically a non-active field, with the exception of football season when Whalers Football uses it, the field should be used to full capabilities. The Department of Recreation is looking to bring the field back to good use. They would not want the field fenced in.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concern that Lot 13 has been mothballed for too many years and we should move forward in making it a living, breathing field; Mary Rapoza agreed.

Mr. Chad Samagaio, 524 Allen Street, New Bedford, President of the SEYAA was present to address the Committee. He told the Committee that they would not use the field when the Whalers Football season came into play. The baseball programs would be over by then. They would look to use the field beginning around March 15 and stop using it in July, which is when Whalers Football camp begins.

Councillor Lopes said he would leave it up to Mary Rapoza to work with the Park Board, SEYAA and the Whalers to see that the field is properly utilized.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, 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 Related Motion, Councillor Morad, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings refer to the School Committee that the School Department conduct and pay for a study to develop a second entrance and exit to the Pulaski School and further that all Elementary, Middle and High Schools throughout the City be studied to determine traffic flows and safety of all our schools; and further to have a study funded through the 2016 School Department Budget or MSBA. (Ref’d 03/10/15, 6/9/15-tabled)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading and follow the Chair’s recommendation to refer to the School Committee. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading on items ten (10) through fourteen (14) and take “No Further Action” at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings seek to work with the Communities of Fall River, Taunton and surrounding Towns who would potentially benefit from the South Coast Rail Service to see if we could get our State’s Legislative Delegation and the Massachusetts Lottery Commission to authorize, develop and market a “Temporary Issue Lottery Ticket” specifically to raise monies that would be used to fund in the development of the South Coast Rail; and further, that the sales or distribution could be limited to the South Coast area so that primarily the residents of the area would be the ones supporting the sales and funding for the rail service. (Ref’d 12/18/14) (10)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ACT, authorizing the City of New Bedford to grant 25 Additional Liquor Licenses for the Sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to be drunk on the premises of certain restaurants. (Ref’d 04/09/15) (11, 11a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the City take immediate action to repair New Bedford tourism radio 1620AM, which broadcasts City attractions and events, and hasn’t been working for some time and can be an asset to the tourism of the City of New Bedford; and further, once this broadcasting system is repaired, that signage also be requested on the State level, to be placed on Route 195 East and West approaching New Bedford for the purpose of increasing tourism for the City, at the present time signage is only located on Route 140 South, before Exit 7. (Ref’d 06/12/14, 09/16/14 - tabled) (12)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting that the City of New Bedford and the Office of Tourism and Marketing immediately obtain the abandoned billboard at the Whale's Tail Parking Lot for the purpose of utilizing the billboard for City attractions and events; and further, that the Department of Public Infrastructure assist in any repairs needed in order to make the billboard a vibrant source of information for the attractions and destinations within the City.(Ref'd 5/14/15) (13)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with all parties responsible for the New Year's Eve celebration in Downtown New Bedford, for the purpose of bringing back the First Night concept to Downtown New Bedford on New Year's Eve; and further, to discuss bringing back many activities after 9:00 p.m. to the Downtown and Historical area which will benefit businesses and bring back the festive concept that Downtown New Bedford once had on New Year's Eve. (Ref'd 01/08/15) (14)

Councillor Martins made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Coelho.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees