



# *Memorials & Dedications*

September 8, 2015 – 7:00 PM - **Minutes**

City Hall, 133 William Street, Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber,  
Room 213, Municipal Building

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

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

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; DANA REBEIRO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; BRIAN GOMES (7:03); KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR STEVEN MARTINS**

**ALSO PRESENT: COUNCILLOR JOSEPH LOPES**

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Councillor Bousquet called the Memorials & Dedications Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a communication from Councillor Martins apologizing for his absence for this meeting. This communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Winterson.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting a request to rename a section of Massachusetts Route 18, from Elm Street to Cove Street, from “John F. Kennedy Highway” to “John F. Kennedy Boulevard”, the purpose being to improve pedestrian access from our Downtown and South End neighborhoods to the Waterfront and to beautify the area (Ref’d 05/28/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (1)

Christina Connelly, representative of the Mayor’s Office was present to address the Committee. She informed the Committee that it is the Administrations understanding that they need the Council’s approval to rename the area of highway, which is now a Boulevard. If the Council passes it, the city will make up and install the appropriate signage.

Councillor Bousquet asked if changing the name would affect property deeds; would any local homes or businesses need to change their addresses. The answer was no.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concern about phase II of the project, would the city be able to control that section of highway as well. He was told that the remainder of the roadway would be able to be named, for the city has control of it once completed.

On motion by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the request to rename a section of Massachusetts Route 18, from Elm Street to Cove Street, from “John F. Kennedy Highway” to “John F. Kennedy Boulevard,” the purpose being to improve pedestrian access from our Downtown and South End neighborhoods to the Waterfront and to beautify the area. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Winterson, Alves, Lopes, Morad, Bousquet, Rebeiro, Carney, Martins, Coelho, Oliveira, and Council President Gomes, requesting that the City Council name the City-owned plaza on the corner of Front Street and Union Street “Jack Markey Plaza, “ in honor of the former eleven year Mayor of the City of New Bedford and retired District Court Judge, the Honorable John A. Markey, in recognition of his leadership in advancing the City of New Bedford and protecting its interests in countless ways that our community still benefits from today, including the lasting impact Mayor Markey’s tenure has had on the Downtown New Bedford Historic District (Ref’d 7/16/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (2)

Christina Connelly of the Mayor’s Office was present and addressed the Committee. The plaque would recognize former Mayor Markey for his years of service to the city and his contribution to the development of the historic district, as well as his tenure as a judge. The plaque would be similar in size to that of the Joseph Theodore Memorial in front of City Hall.

On motion by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the request that the City Council name the City-owned plaza on the corner of Front Street and Union Street “Jack Markey Plaza,” in honor of the former eleven-year Mayor of the City of New Bedford and retired District Court Judge, the Honorable John A. Markey, in recognition of his leadership in advancing the City of New Bedford and protecting its interests in countless ways that our community still benefits from today, including the lasting impact Mayor Markey’s tenure has had on the Downtown New Bedford Historic District. 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 Shrader, President and Committee members of the Fishermen’s Tribute Fund, for the purposes of discussing the possibility of erecting a Fishermen’s Memorial to be located at Monkey’s Island on East Rodney French Boulevard, north of East Beach (Ref’d 03/22/12, 05/22/12- tabled, letters, 09/24/12-tabled, 11/26/12-letter to the Mayor, 05/20/13- Clerk of Comm. To meet with Deb Shrader and Sue Bragdon, 08/28/13- tabled, 03/11/14- tabled for 30 days) was removed from the table by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (3)

Councillor Bousquet asked where the Committee and City was as it relates to the monument.

Deb Schrader of the Fishermen’s Memorial Committee explained the monument is ready to be ordered from a firm in New Hampshire. However, there is a shortage in funding; the price tag is estimated at \$300,000.

Christina Connelly of the Mayor’s Office informed the Committee that they have tried to get the cost down, but to place it at Monkeys Island in the South End, as they would like to is expensive. It includes assuring up the pier and the area that abuts it. There is a lot of site work and material costs involved. They did have CDM slightly rework the design of the area to help lower the costs, but when all was said and done they could not get the costs down significantly.

Derek Frates, Chairman of the Fishermen Memorial Site and Design, said that after fundraising, they hoped to get the monument in place. Once the funds were secured then they would be able to work with the city to see what can be done by the city.

Christina Connelly said the pier needs to be redone; it needs proper lighting and needs to be ADA compliant.

Harvey Kertzman, 1147 East Rodney French Boulevard, abuts the proposed Monkey's Island site. He is opposed to placing the monument on the Island; it destroys the view in his estimation.

Derek Frates stated that it was the city's plan to raise the monument up.

Christina Connelly said she is not sure or comfortable if a narrower pedestal is used as the monument base. The largest figure on the monument is human size 5' 7", it does need to be raised in some form.

Councillor Gomes said he has concerns as well if the monument is just flat. It should be raised, it will deter climbing it; it has to come up off the ground.

Deb Shrader explained the Seamen's Bethel (Port Society) has offered property for the memorial and they are not averse to placing it there.

Christina Connelly stated the Coast Guard Park is also a workable site. The city has reached out to the Coast Guard and they are okay with sharing the space for the memorial. The city would be able to make that work.

Councillor Bousquet asked if there was a target date for the installation.

Deb Shrader explained it was originally slated for 2014; but has not happened due to lack of funding. The money went to snow removal.

A discussion ensued about the other possible locations.

Councillor Bousquet asked if the city would be able to come up with some hard numbers on costs involved to give the Fishermen's Memorial Committee.

Christina Connelly said she would have DPI estimate it.

Councillor Gomes said that he would be okay with placing it where the Committee agrees.

Councillor Lopes asked Mr. Kertzman if he would pay for the schematics to be drafted and designed if they were to move the monument to another location. Mr. Kertzman has offered to do that to redesign the Monkey's Island area. He said he would be.

Councillor Winterson said he believed letters should be sent to our State and Congressional Delegations for possible assistance for the tribute. He also believed the city should come up with the costs involved for each separate location mentioned in the meetings; the Seamen's Bethel and the Coast Guard Park.

John Fernandes of 1219 East Rodney French Boulevard was recognized and he also abuts the Monkey's Island area. He spoke in favor of the Memorial and believes the Coast Guard Park location would be the best for such a Memorial.

On motion by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To send letters to the State and Federal Delegations seeking possible financial assistance in funding the City's Fishermen's Memorial Tribute; also, that the Committee send a communication to the Mayor seeking estimates/costs to erect the Memorial at the Seamen's Bethel and Coast Guard Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

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On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading on items four (4) through eight (8), severing item number five (5), and following the Chairs recommendation to take “No Further Action” on these items. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, on behalf of John Souza, 46 State Street, that the Committee on Memorials and Dedications, look into renaming Gifford’s Lane to Captain Mangual’s Lane, or something similar, or possibly to establish some other appropriate tribute to Mr. Souza’s late Grandfather, Captain Sixto Mangual. (Please see enclosed email for further information/backup regarding this request.) ( Ref’d 09/14/06, 11/26/07-tabled, 05/28/08, 06/30/09-tabled, 02/28/11- tabled, 04/11/11-tabled, 09/24/12-tabled, 11/26/12- To approve the request for a monument and to send another letter to the DOI seeking permission to erect said monument, 08/28/13-letter, 9/15/14-tabled, waiting for Master Plan to be completed by DPI) (4)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Lawrence, Lopes, Alves, Dehner, Saunders, Martins, Duarte, Council President Gomes and Councillor Gonsalves, requesting, that the Committee on Memorials and Dedications consider the possibility of creating a tribute in memory of the late Sylvester Sylvia, longtime Democratic Party activist, who joined the Democratic City Committee in 1954, and the Bristol County Commission, where he served for fourteen years, he was a public servant who contributed his time, energy and intellect to improving New Bedford, of Mr. Sylvia, Congressman Barney Frank has said “ He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of the example of what a Citizen ought to be in our democracy.” (Ref’d 08/18/11) (6)

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, 03/20/13-tabled) (7)

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 06/19/12, 03/20/13- invites, see paperwork, 07/30/14-letter, tabled) (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the City of New Bedford recognize Herb Rego for his dedication and commitment to the residents of the City, by naming the bathhouse on West Rodney French Boulevard the “Herb Rego Memorial Lifeguard Center”. (Ref’d 08/19/10) (5)

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

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees