



Appointments and Briefings

May 17, 2016 – 7:03 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS

DATE: MAY 17, 2016

TIME: 7:03 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; BRIAN GOMES, VICE-CHAIRMAN (7:30); IAN ABREU; DEBORA COELHO; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; JAMES OLIVEIRA; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR NAOMI CARNEY

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Councillor Bousquet called the Appointments & Briefings Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Carney stating her reason for her absence. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad.

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Councillor Abreu made a motion to take items one (1) through nine (9) all up at once, which was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

Councillor Lopes asked to sever item number one (1) and Councillor Morad asked to sever any one that is not in attendance tonight, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu.

Councillor Bousquet announce that he had a message from Tim Walsh stating he is unable to attend this evening as his wife is sick and he needs to take care of the children.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of TIM WALSH, New Bedford, MA as the New Bedford Housing Authority representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. (Ref'd 4/14/16) (1)

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

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of SYLVIA GOMES, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Ms. Sylvia Gomes, New Bedford, MA explained that she currently sits on the Cape Verdean Recognition Committee and has done so for two to three years now, she is a member of the Martha Briggs Society and she currently serves as an Attorney for the Department of Family Services and is a former Assistant District Attorney in Bristol County. In answering questions from the Committee she is familiar with the Community Preservation Act and believes that the Act will allow for the betterment of the entire city, and that she has no particular agenda.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of SYLVIA GOMES, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JESSICA BAILEY, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (3)

Ms. Jessica Bailey, New Bedford, MA explained that she was excited to have the chance to serve on this Committee. She has been watching other communities that have such a Committee and has watched how they have used the funding towards the betterment of each community. She is excited that this is money that is coming back into the community for the betterment of the city. Past experience has her serving on the Board of Directors for the Zeiterion Theater, the Working Waterfront Festival and a number of other non-profit organizations.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JESSICA BAILEY, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ARTHUR MOTTA, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017 (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (4)

Arthur Motta, New Bedford, MA expressed his excitement in becoming a member of this Committee, he is specifically interested in the historic preservation portion of the Committee though he is open to other ideas on how the funds received may be applied to other projects throughout the city. He explained that he was asked by the Mayor if he would be interested in serving on this Committee and after some thought he applied. He is the former Director of Tourism for the City of New Bedford and is currently employed by the New Bedford Whaling Museum. He also currently sits on the Dartmouth Historic Preservation Committee, the Festival Theatre Board of Directors, and the New Bedford Symphony Board of Directors.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ARTHUR MOTTA, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ROSS NUNES, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017 (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (5)

Ross Nunes, New Bedford, MA informed the Committee that he was humbled and excited to be nominated for this Committee, he is the youngest member submitted for approval to the City Council. He has owned a home in New Bedford for three years. He gave a brief history of his personal life as a band member and said he understands the need in being able to stretch funds that will help to develop and improve areas within our city. He believes he brings a different perspective because of his youth to the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ROSS NUNES, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JANINE DASILVA, New Bedford, MA as the Historical Commission Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2019 (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (6)

Janine Da Silva, New Bedford, MA has been in New Bedford since 2005; she is employed by the National Park Service. She serves as the secretary for the Martha Briggs Society and is a member of the New Bedford Preservation Society. She has a degree from Princeton University in history, and a Masters degree from Roger Williams in historic preservation. She believes the Committee should be charged with meeting with the public, gathering ideas on how the funds should be spent and then deciphers and disseminate the funds in an appropriate manner.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JANINE DASILVA, New Bedford, MA as the Historical Commission Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2019. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of PAUL PACHECO, New Bedford, MA as the Conservation Commission Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2019. (Ref'd 4/14/16) (7)

WITHDRAWN BY THE MAYOR.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of COLLEEN DAWICKI, New Bedford, MA as the Planning Board Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018 (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (8)

Colleen Dawicki, New Bedford, MA stated she was excited to be able to play a role in this Committee; and is interested in setting up a process to see where the money is going and how it is to be spent but to also develop a preservation plan.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of COLLEEN DAWICKI, New Bedford, MA as the Planning Board Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2018. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of DIANE BERUBE, New Bedford, MA as the Board of Parks Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017 (Ref'd 4/14/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (9)

Diane Berube, New Bedford, MA, explained that she was a teacher for thirty-five years in the Dartmouth School system. Since her retirement she has volunteered for a number of community entities that involved the arts both visual and performing as well as local historic preservation. She is a member of Tree City and the Friends of Buttonwood Park, as well as the Marion Institute and the Buzzards Bay Coalition. She is very excited at the opportunity to serve on this Committee.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council the APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of DIANE BERUBE, New Bedford, MA as the Board of Parks Representative to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; this term will expire April 2017. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Morad thanked all the candidates and appreciated their honest answers. She explained that it was her hope that the Committee proves her wrong for she was skeptic that such a Committee could be fair across the board and throughout the city in dispersing the funds received. She expressed her desire that the money needs to be spent equally and that the community must be active participants in how the money is dispersed.

Councillor Lopes also thanked the seven individuals who have been nominated and commented on the diversity from the young to the old that makes up the foundation of this Committee and thinks this is a good thing.

Councillor Oliveira told the Committee that he has been supportive of this Commission and the members that have been presented before him tonight. He has taken criticism because this can be viewed as a tax and must understand from the part of the city that he sits in there are a lot of people who worry about their taxes. This is a huge undertaking for this Commission and he asked that the Commission remember that it is the entire community that should benefit from the funds received.

Councillor Winterson thanked the nominees and is encouraged by the wide range of diversity.

Councillor Martins thanked the applicants for their passion.

Councillor Abreu voiced his support for this Commission and said that with the proper implementation that this is a direct connection to economic development in the city.

Councillor Rebeiro explained that this reminded her of the Barcelona affect that how uplifting this Committee can be for our city and that if people care and work towards the betterment of the city they will begin to believe in them.

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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 10/10/15, 10/28/15 – 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 – tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Morad. (10)

Zelinda Pereira, 208 Rounds Street, New Bedford, Director of Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts addressed the Committee. She expressed a concern that the New Bedford residents that are

wheelchair bound doesn't have the ability to access the city's beaches. It is difficult for a wheel chair to maneuver the sand. She has seen such ramps in other communities and felt it would fit well within the city.

Mary Rapoza, Parks and Recreation Director also addressed the Committee on this issue. She informed the Committee that the City did look into purchasing such ramps. Last year they were fortunate enough to receive an amphibious wheelchair that allows the handicapped individual to access the beach and maneuver the sand; it also has the ability to float in the water. This was donated by an organization called Smile Massachusetts. Smile Massachusetts was asked if they would be able to assist in the placement of these ramps and they were told that the type of ramp that would work for the city comes in fifty foot mats which is five feet wide, that would allow you to roll them up in the evening and safely store them away preventing vandalism. Fifty feet of this type of mat sells for \$1727 each it would take an estimated 200 feet at an amount of \$7328 to complete the project in the fall at each beach.

Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Citizens with Disabilities, had looked into possible grants that would cover this expense but to date has not found any.

Councillor Lopes stated that he has approached CFO Ari Sky to include the funding in the budget for fiscal year 2018.

Councillor Coelho asked whether or not the CPA monies soon to be collected might be used for this type of project, she was told they may be. She asked Mary Rapoza to reach out to the CPA Committee once established to see if funding may be secured through them.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for six (6) months. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To request Mary Rapoza to reach out to the CPA, once established, to see if funding is available for installing handicap access ramps at the city's beaches. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Appointments & Briefings request that Park Director Mary Rapoza and Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Citizens with Disabilities reach out to two organizations in our area, Cameron's Kids and Noah's Wish to see if they would provide funding for the handicap accessible walkway ramp prior to the distribution of CPA funds. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings about establishing a policy and procedure manual for parking at Fort Taber, the Fort Taber Community Center, and any Special Events Requests utilizing Fort Taber Park (Ref'd 716/15, 9/30/15 – tabled to January 2016) was removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (11)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Parks, Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza, Police Chief David Provencher, DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, and Department of Facilities and Fleet Management Director Kenneth Blanchard, for purpose of putting together a comprehensive plan of action to deal with summer events being held at Fort Taber and in the south end; and further, that Parks, Recreation and Beaches Director, the Police Chief, DPI and DFFM strictly enforce park rules and regulations including parks and beached closing times, furthermore; that the City look into hiring park and beach enforcement officers to

enforce the rules and regulations of our parks and beaches (Ref'd 7/16/15, 9/30/15 – tabled to January 2016) was removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (12)

Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks and Recreations explained the city was in the process of completing a new set of policies and procedures to be followed.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concern of the lack of signage as it relates to parking and park rules. It should be larger signage, the size of a 4 x 8 piece of plywood. He stated when he travels to Florida the signage as it relates to parking, beaches and park behavior is large so there is no mistake as to what is and is not acceptable.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To take “No Further Action” on item eleven (11). This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To table item number twelve (12) at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Related Motion, Councilor Morad, requesting that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza; the Park Board Chairman, the Director of the Health Department, Dr. Brenda Weis and Police Chief Provencher, be invited to a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the procedures for granting permits for events to our parks, to ensure all related facets of the permitted events are in place. (Ref'd 7/16/15, 9/30/15 – tabled to January 2016) (13)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, 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 Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting, that Mayor Mitchell, Parks Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza and DPI Commissioner Labelle, post signage notifying the closing time for new harbor walk and bike path, “CLOSING AT SUDOWN” AND “NO TRESPASSING” and that anyone violating the Notices will be subject to immediate arrest; and further, that Animal Control issue citations for those violating the pooper scooper law; and furthermore, that surveillance cameras be installed at the highest point along East Rodney French Boulevard for additional security in the day and nighttime hours (Ref'd 10/22/15, 12/15/15 – tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (14)

Ken Blanchard of DFFM, Richard Correia of DPI, Manny Maciel, Dog Officer and Mary Rapoza of Parks & Recreation were all present to address the Committee. It was agreed that the walkway should be open to dogs, as long as owners clean up after their pets. It was also agreed it should not be closed at dusk due to the change in season hours and those just getting off work should be able to enjoy the walkway as well as those who are able to use it during the day. There has been an issue with broken lights, but the perimeter is checked daily and repairs, if needed are done immediately. The damage to lighting has subsided over the months and is practically a non-issue now. It was agreed that the city should look into stalling cameras as a form of security. It was also established that the walkway does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Park Department.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, 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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On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chairs recommendation and take “No Further Action” on items 15 – 19. This motion passed on a voice vote. They were as follows:

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 3/10/15, 6/9/15 – table, 10/28/15 – Refer to School Committee) (15)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, Winterson, Carney, Martins, Morad, Bousquet, Oliveira, Council President Gomes, Alves, Rebeiro and Coelho, requesting that a Representative from Mayor Mitchell’s Office, Patrick Sullivan, Director of Planning, Housing and Community Development and Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Community Services, Carl Alves, Executive of PAACA and Reverend David Lima, Inter- Church Council meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the City’s Plan for an emergency drop-in shelter for this upcoming winter. (Ref’d 10/22/15, 12/15/15 – tabled- tabled, 1/25/15- table for 60 days ask Cynthia Wallquist to provide the Committee with a written update on the homeless issue in the City, after the new home has opened and the homeless count has taken place.) (16)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Martins, Winterson, Oliveira, Lopes, Alves, Rebeiro, Carney and Bousquet, requesting, that representatives from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren be invited to a meeting of the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the overdose crisis in the City and the impact it has on families and grandchildren how addiction effects the entire family, also to discuss possible solutions. (Ref 12/17/15) (17)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, ONCE AGAIN, that the School Department consider the implementation of school uniforms throughout the New Bedford School System; and further, requesting that members of the School Committee appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings for the purpose of discussing the implementation of the school uniforms and to also discuss security measure proposed by the City Council, such as an emergency silent alarm system and what, if any security measures have been put in place throughout the New Bedford Schools. (Ref’d 10/24/13, 9/16/14 – tabled, 3/10/15 – tabled, 6/9/15 – tabled, 11/10/15 – remain in Committee) (18)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Winterson, Martins, Carney and Lopes, requesting that Police Chief Provencher and Carl Alves, Executive Director of Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA), meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the drug overdoses happening everyday in our City; and further, that the Committee look into what other Cities and Towns are doing to combat this serious issue. (Ref’d 11/12/15, 12/15/15 – tabled) (19)

Councillor Morad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

This meeting adjourned @ 9:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees

