



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Maureen T. Carney

Vice-Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell

Councilor James Nash

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 4, 2019, 4 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers

212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

Present: Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 4 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Bidwell, Carney, LaBarge and Nash were present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.

3. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2019 AND FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019 and February 21, 2019 as a group. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed with 4 Yes, 0 No.

4. Update on Human Resources (HR) Activities and Initiatives - deferred to a later date

5. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 18.241A Appointments to Various Committees, referred by City Council - 2/7/2019

Process note: The appointment of Elizabeth Silver to the Northampton Housing Authority was forwarded to the full City Council with a positive recommendation on February 21, 2019.

Housing Partnership

Dan Krassner, 16 Winslow Avenue, Florence

Term: March 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy on the Housing Partnership

Human Rights Commission

Rachel Maiore, 392 Chesterfield Road, Leeds

Term: March 2019 to June 2019

To fill the unexpired term of Brian Barnes

Megan Paik, 9 Laurel Street, Northampton

Term: March 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy on the Human Rights Commission

Councilor Carney noted that the appointment of Elizabeth Silver to the Northampton Housing Authority, originally part of this group of appointments, was approved by the full city council on February 21, 2019.

Councilor Carney said she was in touch with Dan Krassner, the candidate for appointment to the Northampton Housing Partnership. Mr. Krassner would like to convey to City Services that he would be honored to serve. He is a new homeowner as of August of 2018 and was previously a renter. Currently, he pays more than 30% of his income for housing. He found that finding suitable housing in Northampton was challenging. He brings prior experience as a real estate broker and looks forward to reducing barriers for housing to all. He is the political director of 'Represent Us,' she added.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Dan Krassner with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

Rachel Maiore wrote to let them know a little bit about her background and why she was drawn to serve on the Human Rights Commission, Councilor LaBarge related. She has been a racial and social justice activist for many years stretching back to when she was living in Northampton as a student studying Social Thought, Spanish and Latin American Studies. She earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from Emory University with a focus on international health. She has been part of Moveon.org's Training Corps for the past year where she has had the opportunity to train leaders across the country in political organizing, community outreach, race, etc. As part of her role, she has attended scores of trainings and conferences in equity, anti-racism work, conflict resolution, etc.

It would be an honor for her to serve Northampton in this way. She has sat in on Human Rights Commission meetings and feels its current focus on setting priorities through Community Listening Circles is spot on.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Rachel Maiore with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

He had a chance to talk to Megan Paik on the phone today, Councilor Nash shared. She has been a resident of Northampton for the last 4 ½ years. She originally became interested in doing issues-related work in Northampton through the Pioneer Valley Women's March. She has made it a point to model active and engaged citizenry for her children and is an immigrant herself. She has attended Human Rights Commission (HRC) meetings and is already engaged with some of the leadership there. He found her very pleasant to talk to and thinks she would be a fine addition to the HRC, Councilor Nash reported.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment of Megan Paik with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

B. 19.008 Appointments to Various Committees, referred by City Council - 2/21/2019

Arts Council

Rachel Hart, 211 Elm Street, Unit 2A, Northampton

Term: March 2019 - June 2021

To fill a vacancy on the Arts Council

Historical Commission

Emily Estes Baillargeon, 19 Allison Street, Northampton

Term: March 2019 to June 2019

To fulfill the remaining term of Bruce Kriviskey

Housing Partnership

Carmen Junno, 73 Straw Avenue, Florence

Term: March 2019 to June 2019

To fill a vacancy on the Housing Partnership

Councilor Bidwell spoke to Rachel Hart last week, he said. She has attended some meetings of the Arts Council. She has had a career in the non-profit arts sector for the past 10 to 12 years and has been the outreach manager at Amherst Cinema. She has become quite adept at seeking out and bringing in arts-related grants and has also been involved in film. She looks forward to bringing that variety of skills and background to the Arts Council.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Rachel Hart with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Councilor Nash said he spoke to Emily Estes Baillargeon with regard to her interest in serving on the Historical Commission. She has done a lot of work here in Northampton on different projects, including redesigning some of the bathrooms at Thornes Marketplace for accessibility and also working on a project having to do with accessibility for the entire building. She also worked on the redesign of Roberto's.

One of her interests is working with historic structures. They set limitations in that prospective architects have to work within the limits of the structure itself; not trying to tear things apart but preserving what's there and she really enjoys the challenge of that. She has made numerous presentations to Planning Boards in Hatfield and Easthampton and also presented to the Central Business Architecture Commission (CBAC) while working with Thornes. She is from Texas and is a graduate of Rice University. She would be happy to serve.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment with positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded.

Councilor Carney referred to a letter from Planning Director Wayne Feiden saying that Ms. Estes had been nominated to serve as its representative by the Western Mass. architectural association. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Carmen Junno is very interested in serving on the Housing Partnership, Councilor LaBarge confirmed. She is a licensed social worker recently retired from the VA Medical Center where she worked for the past 13 years helping homeless and near-homeless veterans acquire appropriate housing. Specifically, she issued veteran-specific Section 8 vouchers and helped in the housing

search process. Through this work, she became very familiar with housing issues throughout the Pioneer Valley both from a tenant and owner/landlord point of view. She also represented the VA at some of the community-wide Housing Partnership meetings chaired by Peg Keller.

If people don't have an affordable place to live, they don't have a life, Ms. Junno reflected in a written statement. Northampton is a desirable place to live and housing prices reflect this. She is very proud of the affordable housing projects recently completed on Pleasant Street, among others. A vibrant community is one that includes people of varying economic situations. She owns a home on Straw Avenue in Florence with a mix of both homeowners and renters and she loves her neighborhood.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Councilor Carney noted that the six appointments are all new appointments.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Members discussed options for departmental presentations for the April meeting since they were not sure Human Resources would be ready to come in April.

Members asked Ms. Krutzler to check with the Building Commissioner, Louis Hasbrouck. They mentioned being interested in hearing more about the internal conversation around possible local regulations for short-term rentals.

As a back-up, they suggested having Steve Connor, the Director of Veterans Services.

They also asked Ms. Krutzler to see if they should be expecting a slew of appointments at the end of the fiscal year. If they were expecting a bulk of appointments, they might want to talk about an abbreviated process for reappointments.

7. **Adjourn**

Upon motion made by Councilor LaBarge and seconded by Councilor Bidwell, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Prepared By:

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