



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 B. Nash*

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1, 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 James B. Nash
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 4:01 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Carney, Bidwell, LaBarge and Nash were present.

Councilor Carney announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2019

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of June 3, 2019. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed with 4 Yes, 0 No.

4. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 19.093 Appointments to Disability Commission, etc. - referred by City Council - 6/6/2019

Arts Council

Danielle Amodeo, 50 Union Street, #13, Northampton
Term: July 2019-June 2021
To fulfill the unexpired term of Dara Herman Zierlein

Conservation Commission

Jason Perry, 14 Carolyn Street, Florence
Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Disability Commission

Judith Kimberly, 659 Park Hill Road, Florence

Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Gene Page, 46 Evergreen Road, #107, Leeds

Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Chris Palames, 659 Park Hill Road, Florence

Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Human Rights Commission

Jeromie Whalen, 31 Union Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019- June 2022

Reappointment

Public Shade Tree Commission

Marilyn Castriotta, 79 West Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Danielle Amodeo is a new appointment to the Arts Council to fill the unexpired term of Dara Herman Zierlein, Councilor Carney reminded. She is prepared to offer a positive recommendation on her appointment together with an acknowledgment of the 'immense professional abilities' the majority of applicants bring to their appointment.

Councilor Carney reviewed Ms. Amodeo's response to the question of what skills and experience she brings to the council. Ms. Amodeo noted her strong background and professional knowledge of communication strategy as well as public programming strategy and implementation. She stated that she brings ten years of experience working with arts and cultural institutions and is committed to ensuring opportunities to experience arts and culture are open and accessible to all. She has a track record of implementing public programs and communication strategies at museums and cultural institutions aimed at promoting inclusivity and public engagement.

Councilor Carney listed Ms. Amodeo's professional associations, including Museums10 Inclusion Committee, Arts at Amherst Steering Committee and Amherst Cultural District Steering Committee. She works as a Marketing & Public Program Specialist at the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College.

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

Councilor Carney also reviewed Jason Perry's application for reappointment to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Perry is a senior environmental engineer at Tighe & Bond. She commented again on the depth of professional experience volunteers bring to these appointed positions.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Jason Perry to the Conservation Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Judith Kimberly is a candidate for reappointment to the Disability Commission, being in her sixth year of membership on that board, Councilor LaBarge confirmed. She and Chris Palames have lived in the city for many years off Park Hill Road. She was secretary of the commission and has stepped down from that position but remains very active. She was very helpful and highly involved in designing Northampton's ADA self-evaluation and transition plan update and attended the public hearing on the plan June 24th. (The Disability Commission has been working on this for a year and a half.) Judith loves the City of Northampton and works very hard to help people with disabilities have a safe and good quality of life.

Councilor LaBarge moved to positively recommend the appointment of Judith Kimberly to the full City Council. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 4 Yes, 0 No.

Gene Page is also a reappointment and has lived in the city for 40 years. He is presently chair of the Disability Commission and enjoys working with all its members. He too worked closely on designing the ADA self-evaluation and transition plan update for 2019. The commission just held a public hearing June 24th and is planning to hold two more hearings. He was a former member of the cable commission and the Massachusetts Commission on Special Education.

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

Chris Palames is very interested in reappointment, Councilor LaBarge attested. He was chair for some time until stepping down to finish writing his book but has continued on as a working member. Mr. Palames' interest is in continuing the commission's work of updating and strengthening ADA compliance procedures. He worked tirelessly on drafting the ADA self-evaluation and transition update and did very well in explaining its procedures at the public hearing on June 24th.

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

He wasn't able to get ahold of Jeromie Whalen but had interviewed him last December at which time they spent an hour chatting at the Roost, Councilor Nash related. He is definitely interested in the community and being involved. From their earlier conversation he recalled that Mr. Whalen spent his winter break in Syria working with a school and that during the summer he had been up in Maine working with children with disabilities. He moved to forward his appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Marilyn Castriotta has been a member of the Public Shade Tree Commission (PSTC) since 2015, Councilor Bidwell advised. She is membership engagement coordinator at Kestrel Trust, a successful regional land trust. She has a Master's degree in conservation biology and decades of experience in conservation and environmental fields, so she is a strong contributor to the committee. She is very proud of the work of the PSTC, including the planting of over 700 trees around the city.

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

B. 19.100 Appointments to Various Committees - referred by City Council 6/20/2019

Disability Commission

Rodney Kunath, 8 Reed Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy

Energy & Sustainability Commission

Gordon Meadows, 239 Bridge Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

To fill a vacancy

Planning Board

Marissa Elkins, 50 Washington Avenue, Northampton

Term: July 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy

She spent a lengthy time with Rodney Kunath, Councilor LaBarge shared. Mr. Kunath attended Clarke School for the Deaf from 1946 to 1958. He was born with normal hearing but in 1943 due to an infection in his ears lost 70% of his former hearing. From 1962 to 1964 he attended Bentley College of Accounting in Boston then bought his first house on Glendale Avenue before moving to his current home on Reed Avenue. He is a Clarke School historian with an office at Bell Hall.

Closed captioning is an important tool for people who are hard of hearing or deaf, and Mr. Kunath is committed to making it available for all public meetings in Northampton. He wants to be part of the Disability Commission to help raise awareness and support from as many people as possible for the work the Disability Commission already does.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Mr. Kunath to the Disability Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

For the past seven years Gordon Meadows has worked to develop large-scale Energy Savings Performance Contracts for various government agencies as the Business Development Manager for CTI Energy Services, LLC, an Energy Service Company (ESCO) based in Amherst, Councilor Nash advised. He works with different government agencies to increase efficiency in lighting and energy systems. He is very familiar with the way things are funded through the government and

how to work through regulations. He is really at home with everything the energy committee is going to be looking at. He thinks he is going to be a terrific addition and he would like to forward his name with a positive recommendation, Councilor Nash concluded.

He so moved. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Prospective Planning Board member Marissa Elkins is a criminal defense attorney with a growing sophisticated practice, Councilor Bidwell stated. She was a candidate for Ward 2 on the City Council but decided it was too much work and so decided to apply to the Planning Board instead. She doesn't have a background in planning and zoning per se but looks forward to using her legal brain on this subject. She has two kids in school, so there are lots of reasons to think she would be a positive benefit to the Planning Board.

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

Councilor Carney reiterated that she is always impressed with the caliber of applicants to city committees, noting what a good thing it is to know so many people want to be involved.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Meeting Schedule Adjustment - change September meeting to September 9, 2019**

Councilor LaBarge said she would not be present for the August meeting. Members decided to cancel the August meeting, referring to the possibility of holding a meeting within the regular City Council meeting to handle new appointments if necessary.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Councilor Bidwell moved to reschedule the September meeting from September 2, 2019 to September 9, 2019 at 4 p.m. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

6. **Adjourn**

Upon motion made by Councilor Bidwell and seconded by Councilor LaBarge, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared By:

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