



## Programs & Services Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Noel, Albright, Greenberg, Wright, Humphrey, and Baker

Absent: Councilor Ryan

Also Present: Councilors Oliver, Malakie, Downs, and Bowman

City staff present: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Linda Walsh, Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Joseph Mulvey, Chief Information Officer; Seth Bai, Director of Veterans Services; Gregory Ansaldi, Deputy Director of Information Technology; Perry Rosenfield FP&A Manager; Connor Roach, Senior Financial Analyst; Mignonne Murray, Director of Senior Services; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture; Shin-Yi Lao, Public Health Manager; Ruth Hoshino, Director of School Health Services; Norine Silton, Executive Administrator; Alissa Giuliani, City Solicitor; Meghan Murtagh, Assistant Director of Youth Services; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link:

**#146-23      Appointment of Alexandra Fuchs as a Newton Library Trustee**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Alexandra Fuchs, 99 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands as a Newton Library Trustee for a term of office set to expire on June 30, 2028. (60 days: 06/30/2023)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 6-0 (Councilor Baker Not Voting)**

**Note:**      Alexandra Fuchs was introduced and stated that she sees the library as a community-building institution and would like to do meaningful work as a Newton Library Trustee. She further noted her professional experience in nonprofits, fundraising, and marketing. A Councilor asked what she would recommend the Library do differently. Ms. Fuchs commended the work of the library on the children's room and recommended that the library could be a greater venue for events to help draw in more patrons.

**Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees****#155-23      Appropriate \$140,000 to a Parks, Recreation & Culture account**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund a “Heartbreak Hill” banner and playground improvements.

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Held 6-0 (Councilor Baker Not Voting)**

**Note:**          Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer was introduced and described that the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A) gives the City money each year for hosting the Boston Marathon. This money is historically used to defray expenses incurred from hosting and playground improvements. He also stated that the banner mentioned in the docket language has been installed temporarily for the past two years on the day of the marathon. Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture, stated that the Department will work with DPW to install the poles permanently and that the banner would be attached to the poles for a few weeks leading up to the day of the marathon. She also stated that this banner has been well received during previous races and helps motivate runners. The allocation for playground improvements would be used to supplement the Department’s budget.

Regarding the funds received from B.A.A, a Councilor asked if they are enough to cover the expenses the City incurs in hosting the marathon. Perry Rosenfield stated that he can get information from departments to calculate the total cost of hosting the marathon. Multiple Councilors expressed concern with the funds being spent on this banner especially if they do not fully cover the cost of hosting the marathon. When asked about the time sensitivity for Councilors to decide on this item, Mr. Yeo and Mr. Rosenfield stated that this item is not as time sensitive as allocating free cash but would like a decision soon. Councilors agreed to hold the item until the cost of hosting the marathon can be provided and voted 6-0 (Councilor Baker Not Voting) on a motion to hold from Councilor Noel.

**#176-23      Reappointment of Nancy Levine to Election Commission**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Nancy Levine, 379 Central Street, Newton as a member of the City of Newton Election Commission for a term of office to expire on March 31, 2027. (60 Days: 07/14/2023)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:**          Item #176-23 was read into the record and a Councilor expressed general concern regarding what is being done to prevent the events of certifying the 2021 Municipal Election from happening again. Councilors voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Krintzman.

**#177-23      Reappointment of John McDermott to Election Commission**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing John McDermott, 7 A Washburn Street, Newton as a member of the City of Newton Election Commission for a term of office to expire on March 31, 2027. (60 Days: 07/14/2023)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:**      Item #177-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressed no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Noel.

**#178-23      Reappointment of MaryLee Belleville to Dogs Off-Leash Advisory Committee**  
PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT reappointing MaryLee Belleville, 136 Warren Street, Newton Centre as a member of the Dogs Off-Leash Advisory Committee for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2023. (60 Days: 07/14/2023)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:**      Item #178-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressing no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Albright.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Josh Krintzman, Chair**