



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, October 16, 2017

Present: Councilors Rice (Chair), Sangiolo, Leary, Kalis, Schwartz, Auchincloss and Baker

Absent: Councilor Hess-Mahan

#238-17 Mayor's appointment of Geline W. Williams as Library Trustee

GELINE W. WILLIAMS, 12 Hereford Road, Waban, appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term to expire June 30, 2020. (60 days 12/15/17) [07/12/17 @ 2:25 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved as amended to 2022 7-0

Note: Ms. Williams joined the Committee. The Committee had the opportunity to review her resume. She explained that she moved to Boston and received a Masters in Library Science from Simmons College. She then worked at the Framingham Public Library for four years as the Adult Services Librarian, which was a new position, to oversee the collection and new programming. She then went to Law School and worked as a trial attorney for 30 years and also running the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association for 13 years. Coming back to such an excellent library would be thrilling for her.

When asked what she would like to see improved at the Library, she said that space-needs have to be addressed. Sometimes she has to drive around for 5 minutes looking for a place to park. Many people who visit the library have some sort of disability and they should not have to walk a half mile to get to the building.

Committee members thanked Ms. Williams for her willingness to serve. They recognized her breadth of experience and were pleased to have her as a Trustee. Councilor Auchincloss moved approval and the Committee voted in favor 7-0.

#239-17 Mayor's appointment of Joshua Steirman as Library Trustee

JOSHUA STEIRMAN, 90 Atwood Avenue, Newtonville, appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term to expire June 30, 2022. (60 days 12/15/17) [07/12/17 @ 2:25 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved as amended to 2020 7-0

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Note: Mr. Steirman joined the Committee. The Committee had the opportunity to review his resume. He noted that his first introduction to the Library was through his children. He was very impressed with the high quality programming in the Children’s Room. He started looking for a way to get involved in the community and the Library was a good fit for him. He works for the Federal Reserve in bank supervision, travelling New England looking at how organizations approach their strategic challenges and plan financially for their future. That led him to other board work for a mentoring organization and a credit union. He felt his skills could be useful for the future of the Library.

A Committee member noted that it was nice to have the perspective of a parent with young children in relation to the Library. It was asked if he felt there could be improvements to the children’s program. He stated that it was good to look at breaking out the age groups and what each group needs in regard to time, space and dollars. In terms of physical changes to the programming space, he would like to learn more about the expansion plans and he plans to spend a good deal of time on that.

It was noted that \$75K has been allocated from the City for design and planning work. The Library was instructed to come back to the City Council in the future to present a plan that could be funded in stages. The allocation was originally \$500K, but the City Council only approved the \$75K. The remainder was re-allocated and not earmarked for the Library.

The Committee thanked Mr. Steirman for his service to the City. Councilor Leary moved approval and the Committee voted in favor 7-0.

#240-17 Mayor’s appointment of Jean Notis-McConarty as Library Trustee

JEAN NOTIS-McCONARTY, 122 Temple Street, West Newton, appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term to expire June 30, 2020. (60 days 12/15/17) [07/12/17 @ 2:25 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved 7-0

Note: Ms. Notis-McConarty joined the Committee and explained that she worked on the campaign to pass the override to build the library 25 years ago. She became a partner at Price, Waterhouse, Coopers serving the not-for-profit industry. She is now retired and active in volunteer and board positions. She works every week with Audrey Cooper at the Library. The library has always been important to her and now she has the time to devote more energy to the Library, and expertise in finance and government for non-profits can be very useful.

A Committee member noticed there is more focus on finance backgrounds in these new appointees. It was asked if this was done to push the library to raise more funds. Mr. Herrmann of the Library Board of Trustees said the Library has not gotten that far yet but that is something to consider in the future. Ms. Notis-McConarty agreed that the Library could use some freshening

and improvements. If the City cannot expend all the funds, there is a place for the private sector to be involved.

Committee members thanked Ms. Notis-McConarty for her willingness to serve. Councilor Kalis moved approval and the Committee voted in favor 7-0.

#241-17 Mayor's appointment of Sharon Stout as Library Trustee

SHARON STOUT, 9 Elmwood Park, Newton appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for a term to expire June 30, 2022. (60 days 10/13/17) [12/15/17 @ 2:25 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved as amended to 2022 7-0

Note: Ms. Stout joined the Committee and noted that she has been involved with the Library for the last 15 years, and loves working with Audrey Cooper. She has worked on the Spring Fling and the other events and she loves the Library. She has more community experience than finance experience.

A Committee member praised her ongoing work with the Library and reaching out to the community to raise awareness. The Committee was very pleased with her appointment and thanked her for her continued service. Councilor Sangiolo moved approval and the Committee voted in favor 7-0.

#322-17 Mayor's appointment of Peter Doherty to Newton Commonwealth Foundation

PETER DOHERTY, 66 Harvard Street, Newtonville appointed as a member of the NEWTON COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION for a term to expire December 31, 2020. (60 days 12/15/17) [10/06/17 @ 8:47 AM]

Note: The Chair explained that because this item will not be accepted to the docket until later this evening, the Committee will meet with Mr. Doherty, then put the appointment on the October 18th agenda for a vote.

Mr. Doherty joined the Committee. He noted that the Foundation is involved with the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. He has been playing the course since 1980 when Councilor Baker was instrumental in securing it for the City. He understands how the course works as well as the lease function. In 2004 a new irrigation system was added, and upgrading and renovation is ongoing. It is necessary to keep the course competitive in order to attract players.

Councilor Baker explained that when the course was founded, there was a trust fund created to have a reserve in case the course ever failed so that there would not be a financial drain on the City. The course, which has 79 acres of open space, was acquired for the City for a cost of \$175K in 1981. The Foundation is the City appointed body that supervises the course. It is all designed for self-operation. It contributes \$50K for conservation and recreation each year to the City as part of the City budget. There is no fundraising; the money is raised through fees.

The Committee thanked Mr. Doherty for his willingness to serve. The Committee will vote this appointment at its October 18th meeting.

#323-17 **Mayor's re-appointment of Marietta Marchitelli to Jackson Homestead**
MARIETTA MARCHITELLI, 100 Waverly Avenue, Newton re-appointed as a Trustee of the JACKSON HOMESTEAD for a term to expire November 1, 2020. (60 days 12/15/17) [09/27/17 @ 3:33 PM]

Note: The Chair explained that because this item will not be accepted to the docket until later this evening, the item will be on the October 18th agenda for a vote.

#324-17 **Mayor's re-appointment of Russel Feldman to Jackson Homestead**
RUSSEL FELDMAN 85 Langley Road, Newton Centre, re-appointed as a Trustee of the JACKSON HOMESTEAD for a term to expire November 1, 2020. (60 days 12/15/17) [09/27/17 @ 3:33 PM]

Note: The Chair explained that because this item will not be accepted to the docket until later this evening, the will be on the October 18th agenda Committee will have this on their October 18th agenda.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Rice, Chair