

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014

Present: Ald. Rice (Acting Chairman), Blazar, Hess-Mahan, Norton and Kalis

Absent: Ald. Sangiolo, Baker and Leary

Also Present: Ald. Crossley, Albright, Danberg, Gentile, Lennon, Lappin and Cote

City Staff Present: Bob DeRubeis (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation), David Turocy (Commissioner, Public Works), Lou Taverna (City Engineer), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk), Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#239-14 SHADI ARYANPOUR, 15 Laura Road, Waban, appointed as a member of the COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire May 31, 2016. (60 days 08/15/14) [06/09/14 @ 3:10PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: Ms. Aryanpour joined the Committee. She explained that she has two young children and this is her way to get involved in the community. Her own education was very important to her and as she looked for programs to involve her children this issue became more important to her. She has taken a writing course at Newton Community Education and some classes for her children. She attended a meeting of the Community Education Commission and she felt that more hands-on work was probably needed and found the discussions more about talking things out. She is eager to get involved and that the Director has a good understanding of what is needed and using the Commission to get some ideas and reinforce some ideas as well. Ald. Hess-Mahan noted that the members of the Commission can be good advocates when grant money or funding is needed. Ms. Aryanpour said she has been quite involved with fundraising and can definitely help out with that.

The Committee thanked Ms. Aryanpour for her willingness to serve and approved her appointment.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#240-14 JOYCE LEONARDO, 22 Bowen Street, Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMISSION for a term to expire May 31, 2016. (60 days 08/15/14) [06/09/14 @ 3:10PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: Ms. Leonardo joined the Committee. She noted that she wanted to join the Commission because she also has two young children. She has experience in executive development and really loves working in continuing education. She was impressed that the Continuing Education program in Newton is bringing in \$1.6M which is more than most business schools. She has been doing some personal programming since she left executive development and was also on

the Parks & Recreation Committee for playground design in Brookline and did some work on the override campaign.

The Committee was pleased that Ms. Leonardo was joining the Commission and approved her appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#241-14 JEFFREY HERRMANN, 111 Exeter Street, West Newton, appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for an appointment to expire June 30, 2019.
(60 days 08/15/14) [06/09/14 @ 3:10PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee voted to approve this re-appointment with no discussion.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#242-14 BARBARA MELTZ, 78 Leeson Lane, Newton Centre, appointed as a LIBRARY TRUSTEE for an appointment to expire June 30, 2019. (60 days 08/15/14)
[06/09/14 @ 3:10PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee voted to approve this appointment with no discussion.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#243-14 BARBARA DARNELL, 296 Lake Avenue, Newton Highlands, re-appointed as a member of the URBAN TREE COMMISSION for a term to expire May 1, 2017
(60 days 08/15/14) [06/09/14 @ 3:08PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee voted to approve this re-appointment with no discussion

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#244-14 BETH WILKINSON, 14 Trowbridge Street, Newton Centre, re-appointed as a member of the URBAN TREE COMMISSION for a term to expire May 1, 2017
(60 days 08/15/14) [06/09/14 @ 3:08PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee voted to approve this re-appointment with no discussion.

#254-12(2) THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE recommending an ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags at certain retail establishments in the City of Newton.
[01/10/14 @ 3:36 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 4-0 (Ald. Kalis not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Leary was unable to attend the meeting and Ald. Hess-Mahan offered to provide an update on this item. He explained that Ald. Leary has been meeting as part of a working group with Nancy Hyde, the Economic Development Director; Rob Garrity, the Sustainability Director;

and Dori Zaleznik, the Chief Administrative Officer. Several meetings have taken place and Ald. Leary and Ms. Hyde canvassed a number of small retail businesses in and around the village centers and found that everyone is on board. He heard that Ms. Zaleznik would like to have another meeting but Ald. Leary felt they were ready to move forward. The Chamber of Commerce is backing this initiative as well as Green Decade. The Green Awards for the Chamber of Commerce is tomorrow and Ald. Hess-Mahan will be asking Mr. Rausch, former CEO of Trader Joe's, where he stands on this because Trader Joe's has stopped using plastic bags. Whole Foods does not use plastic bags. The larger stores are still using them along with the new Wegmans.

Ald. Hess-Mahan felt that they should bring this back in September and by that time things should be ready to move forward. Ald. Leary can provide more details at that time as well. The main thing they are looking at now is how to implement the program. Most retailers are inspected by the Health Department and this could just be another thing they check for. This will apply to stores that are over 3,500 square feet and the smaller stores may have a hardship but Ald. Hess-Mahan feels there can be some accommodation. The Mayor needs to be on board as well to avoid any kind of veto situation.

Ald. Norton said she and Ald. Leary are discussing putting together a presentation to clear up confusion on which bags would be banned and which would still be allowed.

Ald. Rice asked if the Styrofoam ban item should be worked on in September as well as a parallel item. Ald. Hess-Mahan felt that was a good idea and would check with Ald. Danberg.

The Committee voted to hold this item.

The Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees met jointly on this item:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

#119-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND CROSSLEY requesting discussion with the Inspectional Services Department to explain the development of short and long term plans to identify and correct buildings, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc., that do not conform to American Disability Act (ADA) standards. The discussion should include information on how improvements will be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan or if less than \$75,000 into a comprehensive budget plan to correct ADA deficiencies. [03/12/14 @ 4:18 PM]

ACTION: **PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 6-0**
HELD 5-0

NOTE: Please see the June 18, 2014 Public Facilities Committee Report for the details of this discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Rice, Acting Chairman