



## Programs & Services Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

**Present:** Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Baker, Albright, Greenberg, Humphrey, Ryan

**Absent:** Councilors Noel, Wright

**City Staff:** Quinn Etiche, Director of Youth Services; Nathan Giacalone, Committee Clerk

**Note:** *Docket items #41-20 through #44-20 were discussed and voted on together*

**#41-20      Appointment of Anna Kusiak to the Youth Commission**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Anna Kusiak of Newton North High School, Newtonville as a member of the YOUTH COMMISSION for a term to expire on September 1, 2022. (60 days: 02/14/20)

**Action:**      **Programs and Services Approved 6-0**

**Notes:**      Docket items #41-20 through #44-20 were discussed and voted on together.

**#42-20      Appointment of Anabel Marré to the Youth Commission**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Anabel Marré of Newton North High School, Newtonville as a member of the YOUTH COMMISSION for a term to expire on September 1, 2022. (60 days: 02/14/20)

**Action:**      **Programs and Services Approved 6-0**

**Notes:**      Docket items #41-20 through #44-20 were discussed and voted on together.

**#43-20      Appointment of Andrew Li to the Youth Commission**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Andrew Li of Newton South High School, Newton as a member of the YOUTH COMMISSION for a term to expire on September 1, 2022. (60 days: 02/14/20)

**Action:**      **Programs and Services Approved 6-0**

**Notes:**      Docket items #41-20 through #44-20 were discussed and voted on together.

**#44-20 Appointment of Shiv Sawhney to the Youth Commission**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Shiv Sawhney of Newton South High School, Newton as a member of the YOUTH COMMISSION for a term to expire on September 1, 2022. (60 days: 02/14/20)

**Action:** Programs and Services Approved 6-0

**Notes:** Docket items #41-20 through #44-20 were discussed and voted on together.

The Committee invited the four appointees to the table and asked them to introduce themselves and explain why they want to join the Youth Commission.

Anabel Marré was the first to speak. Ms. Marré said that she was first introduced to the Youth Commission after she began volunteering with student government at Newton North High School. This experience interested her in the inner workings of her school, and later grew her interest in involvement in the community.

Anna Kusiak spoke next. Ms. Kusiak said that she learned about the Youth Commission through her brother and her father, a former School Committee member. As she became more involved more with the Youth Commission, she began to find it interesting and fulfilling to have a say in the issues impacting Newton youth. Ms. Kusiak said that the Youth Commission allows its members the ability to make city-wide decisions.

Shiv Sawhney next addressed the Committee. Mr. Sawhney said that he was involved in student government and was interested by the policy process. He said that he found that many of the issues affecting Newton youth were beyond the jurisdiction of South Senate and after learning about the Youth Commission through his brother, he felt it would allow him to make the change Newton youth needs.

Andrew Li was the next to address the Committee. Mr. Li said that he first became involved with the youth community through student government and is now the Vice President of his class. Through student government, Mr. Li said that he enjoyed engaging with students and working closely with them, listening to their concerns to improve their school life. His sister, a former Youth Commission member, introduced him to the Youth Commission, an opportunity he could use to get involved on the city level.

After the appointees were finished with introductions, the Youth Commission appointees responded to questions from the Committee.

Responding to a question about reducing the municipal voting age to 16, Mr. Li said that he thought it would be a good way to get students involved in local politics from a young age. Mr.

Sawhney agreed, saying that it would incentivize more students to pay attention to local politics and to get involved. Ms. Kusiak said that she thought many youth would appreciate the ability to vote in local elections in the time before they leave for college. Ms. Marré agreed with the other three, saying that she felt it hard to spur civic engagement among young people when they are barred from voting until 18.

With regard to promoting diversity in Newton, Mr. Sawhney said that the Aware Day used to promote mental health awareness in which people speak about their experiences could be used as a model for a similar event relating to diversity. Ms. Marré added that the early establishment of a Gay Straight Alliance club within the Newton school system showed that Newton has pride in representing its LGBTQ+ community, along with other initiatives like To Be Glad Day.

Quinn Etiche, Director of Youth Services, spoke about the issue of vaping at the high schools. Ms. Etiche said that through a prior Just Think initiative, there has been frequent programming about vaping and education for parents. She said that the Youth Commission has been asking needed questions about vaping such as if it is on the rise and if it has stabilized. They are also looking into how effective the peer-to-peer messaging is regarding vaping. Ms. Kusiak said that she thinks it is still a problem, especially as more reports come out from people dying from vaping. She was disappointed and concerned that these reports have not motivated her peers to quit vaping. Emphasizing that as more data continues to emerge on the matter, Ms. Kusiak said that the Youth Commission will continue to work on outreach. Mr. Li said that one of the problems was that early on, his peers did not understand all of the risks involved and that he knows people who have become addicted via the nicotine. He seeks to use the Youth Commission to put out the message that vaping is not a safe alternative to smoking and still has a harmful effect on the body.

The Committee commended the students for their work with wellbeing and distress, noting it was helpful to have students involved in this process as they are often able to more effectively communicate with their peers. Ms. Kusiak said that the Youth Commission is currently working on these initiatives and will continue to do so.

A committee member commented positively that some of the appointees mentioned mental health in their applications and that all of them expressed an interest in tackling mental health issues.

Councilor Albright motioned to approve the appointments of Ms. Marré, Ms. Kusiak, Mr. Sawhney, and Mr. Li to the Youth Commission. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion.

**#46-20 Appointment of Sue Rasala to the Council on Aging**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Sue Rasala, 285 Tremont Street, Newton, as a member of the COUNCIL ON AGING for a term to expire on January 31, 2023. (60 days: 02/16/20)

**Action:** Programs and Services Approved 6-0

**Notes:** The Committee invited Ms. Rasala to join the Committee and explain why she was interested in joining the Council on Aging. She expressed how she was impressed by the four Youth Commission appointees.

Ms. Rasala said that five years ago, she decided to start tai-chi classes at the senior center after hearing good things about it and the instructor from her friends. Now, Ms. Rasala says that she goes to the Senior Center every day to practice tai-chi. She said that aside from just the tai-chi, everything else offered at the Senior Center has changed her life. Based on her time teaching, Ms. Rasala likened the Senior Center to a well-run school as there was great teamwork. After a year of using the Senior Center, Ms. Rasala said that she began attending Council on Aging meetings. She said that when the Mayor asked for applications for the working group for the New CAL project, she noticed that in all the applications, few applicants actually used the Senior Center and had first-hand knowledge about it. Despite the diverse group she had met through the Senior Center, she said that she was disturbed by the feeling that seniors and senior issues were invisible in Newton. Ms. Rasala said that this motivation motivated her to apply to join the Council on Aging to advocate for senior issues.

The Committee asked Ms. Rasala what her goal was for the New CAL project. Ms. Rasala said that she was less concerned about where it was than getting a building big enough to deal with both the current seniors and the future generations to come. She wants the new building to have the same diversity and acceptance as the one now. Ms. Rasala stated that from serving on the Working Group, she is open to any proposed site so long as it has the most support from the community. She cited examples of senior centers in neighboring communities as examples Newton can work up to.

The Committee was supportive of Ms. Rasala's appointment to the Council on Aging, noting that she has been an asset on the NewCAL working group.

Councilor Greenberg motioned to approve the appointment of Ms. Rasala to the Council on Aging. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 6-0.

**#45-20 Reappointment of Elizabeth Dugan to the Council on Aging**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Elizabeth Dugan, 62 Woodcliff Road, Newton, as a member of the COUNCIL ON AGING for a term to expire on September 15, 2022. (60 days: 02/16/20)

**Action:** Programs and Services Approved 5-0 (Councilor Baker not voting)

**Notes:** Councilor Albright motioned to approve the reappointment of Ms. Dugan to the Council on Aging. The Committee voted 5-0 in favor of the motion with Councilor Baker not voting.

***As per the request of the Chair, the Committee discussed the priorities and scheduling for the 2020-2021 term.***

Notes: Chair Krintzman opened the meeting up for discussion on the Committee's unscheduled items.

Committee members did not assign tentative dates for pending docket items, but expressed support for focusing on enforcement of the leaf blower ordinance and issues that impact basic human needs.

The Committee then closed discussion on this item. As it was not a formal docket item, no vote was taken.

Councilor Baker motioned to adjourn the meeting and the Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Josh Krintzman, Chair**

**From January 6, 2020 Docket:**

- #47-20**      **Amendment to the noise ordinance related to rock saws and similar devices**  
COUNCILORS BAKER, GROSSMAN, & LAREDO recommending amendment to Chapter 20, Article II. Noise to clarify the appropriate sound and other limit for rock saws and similar devices used in construction work in residential areas.
- #48-20**      **Request for a discussion regarding Senior Services outreach**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT AND GREENBERG requesting a discussion with the Department of Senior Services regarding outreach and services to the growing number of Newton residents who are 85 and older yet living alone. Discussion should focus on the City's efforts to provide a program; whether through current programs or proposed alternatives.
- #49-20**      **Request for update on leaf blower ordinance compliance**  
COUNCILORS BAKER AND LEARY requesting update from the Executive Department on compliance with Newton's leaf blower ordinance and discussion of possible revisions to the ordinance's enforcement provisions to improve compliance.
- #50-20**      **Discussion of handling of trash and recyclables by private haulers**  
COUNCILORS LEARY, CROSSLEY, GREENBERG AND DOWNS requesting discussion and adoption of best practices, including a mandate to separate recyclables from trash and include recycling pick up to meet Massachusetts Waste Ban regulations, 310CMR 19.017, for private haulers doing business in the City of Newton.
- #51-20**      **Request for a discussion on a new staff directory**  
COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion with the Chief Information Officer and members of the administration to discuss the creation of an online or phone-based staff directory, so that citizens can be directly connected to city staff. As examples in advance of this discussion, please refer to Somerville, Watertown, Lexington, and Brookline, which all have online or phone-based directories. This would take the pressure off the 796-1000 line so that fewer people will be on hold waiting for a free operator and in fact may free up staff who handle phone calls for other work.

**Referred to Zoning & Planning and Programs & Services Committees**

- #40-20**      **Discussion with Department Heads regarding supportive services**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, CROSSLEY, DOWNS, KELLEY, LEARY, GREENBERG, NOEL AND HUMPHREY requesting a discussion with the Director of Health and Human Services, Director of Senior Services, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation and the Director of Planning and Development regarding what Newton is doing to support

economically disadvantaged persons in Newton, including; immigrants, seniors, disabled individuals and families with adult disabled children.

**Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees**

**#64-20**

**Requesting that Her Honor the Mayor submit a new Crescent St proposal**  
COUNCILORS GENTILE, ALBRIGHT, MARKIEWICZ, WRIGHT, MALAKIE, CICCONE, LEARY, LAREDO, KALIS, AUCHINCLOSS, BAKER, NORTON, LIPOF & GREENBERG  
and JAMES COTE & BARBARA BROUSAL-GLASER requesting that Her Honor the Mayor submit a new proposal to the Community Preservation Committee allocating funds for the development of park space on the site at Crescent Street and requesting that a Conservation Restriction be placed on Crescent Street that allows the land to be maintained as open space and that signifies that the control and maintenance of the land will remain within the Parks & Recreation Department and Commission.

**From January 21, 2020 Docket:**

**#73-20**

**Request to eliminate eight at-large City Councilor seats**  
HARRY SANDERS, 607 Watertown Street requesting the elimination of one at-large councilor from each ward. This measure would take effect after the close of the 2020-2021 term.

**From February 03, 2020 Docket:**

**#100-20**

**Requesting a discussion on the fees in Newton Public Schools**  
COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN AND CROSSLEY, LAREDO, NORTON, GREENBERG, LIPOF, KALIS, NOEL, AND MARKIEWICZ requesting a discussion with appropriate members of the School Department and School Committee about fees in the Newton Public Schools. The discussion should include an explanation of the basis upon which fees are set and how the fees factor into the overall budget request of the schools.

**#101-20**

**Requesting a discussion on the 2020 Census**  
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, RYAN, GREENBERG, NOEL, KRINTZMAN, HUMPHREY, AND MALAKIE requesting a discussion with the Complete Count Committee Newton's plans to assure that all Newton residents are counted in the next census.

Newton receives a modest allocation of CDBG funds. To assure that Newton can continue to receive these funds to serve underserved people an accurate census is essential.

- #102-20**      **Request for a discussion on the vacancy of the LGBTQ+ Liaison**  
THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a discussion on whether the Administration intends to fill the recently vacated position of LGBTQ+ liaison and whether a replacement would be compensated or uncompensated.
- #103-20**      **Request to move the Ward 2 Precinct 1 polling location**  
THE CITY CLERK requesting that the polling location for Ward 2, Precinct 1, which is currently at the Old Horace Mann School on the corner of Watertown Street and Albemarle Road, be moved down the street to the Albemarle Field House at 250 Albemarle Road. Construction and the conversion of the Old Horace Mann School to the Newton Early Childhood Program will preclude the space from being used as a Polling Location.
- #104-20**      **Appointment of Julie Winsett to the Urban Tree Commission**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Julie Winsett, 33 Alexander Road, Newton Highlands, as a member of the URBAN TREE COMMISSION for a term to expire on March 1, 2023. (60 days: 04/03/20)
- #99-20**      **Referred to Zoning & Planning and Programs & Services Committee**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting amendments to the City of Newton Ordinances, Chapters 3, 7, 10, 13, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 30 to rename the Department of Parks & Recreation to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.  
**\*may need to coordinate with Zoning & Planning\***  
**Needs Public Hearing Scheduled**

**Budget Items:**

- Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees**
- #8-20**      **Submittal of the FY 2021 to FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2021 to 2025 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter.
- #380-19**      **Review/Acceptance of the FY 2021 – FY 2025 5-year Financial Forecast**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2021 to 2025 5-Year Financial Forecast for City Council review/acceptance.



## **Approved in Committee-Awaiting Council Order:**

- #41-20      Appointment of Anna Kusiak to the Youth Commission**  
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## **Awaiting NFAT:**