

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13, 2020

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, January 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present:     Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Vice Chair  
  Alderman Patricia Klee  
  Alderman June M. Caron  
  Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Members of the Committee absent:

Also in Attendance:                     Alderman Thomas Lopez

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ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CLERK

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT, TO NOMINATE ALDERMAN LORI WILSHIRE TO SERVE AS COMMITTEE CLERK FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS  
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION CARRIED TO ELECT ALDERMAN LORI WILSHIE AS COMMITTEE CLERK FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PLUS A DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Kelly

The Clerk was most important pressing thing this evening but I just wanted to connect with everyone. I know I'm new to the committee and I just wanted to see if there's anything specific that we would like to hear about or make sure we have some purview over this term.

Alderman Klee

As I heard mentioned before, I would love to have someone here for affordable housing and the ilk of that. I know Substandard Housing deals with a lot of that but I think we'd work with the affordable and so on. The urban projects.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah I think that's great. Other thoughts?

Alderman Wilshire

Well as you know, this committee is in charge of allocating the Community Development Block Grant and approving the review and comment recommendations from the – I say review and comment – it's just an old habit community grants.

Alderman Caron

This is an advisory commission. I have to learn that.

Alderman Wilshire

Citizen's advisory commission for grants formerly known as "Review and Comment". I think the work of this committee on those things is really important because it helps this community especially the block grant. We have an opportunity to help organizations that might not otherwise be able to get that capital or that investment into their programs as well as the HOME Funds because as you know, the HOME Funds have been used for many projects throughout the city and right now we have one upcoming Habitat for Humanity looking to spend that money. The HOME Funds is the fund that has to be used within a couple of years. Being new, Madam Chair maybe we could have Carrie Schena and maybe Sarah Marchant come in and talk about the importance of those HOME Funds, CDBG, and review and comment. It's good to hear from the people that run the stuff if you will to know what we need to do and how important it is to the city. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah I appreciate that. I think that even for new members but also the public. You can go a number of years without necessarily knowing all the things that go on so I think a refresher would be great. I can reach out to them for that for sure.

The other thing that I was interested in, I want to meet the new grant writer and hear what's going on there. Maybe that could be a presentation or a conversation as well.

Anyone else?

Alderman Wilshire

I think the grant writer is a great idea. In fact, this is the committee that accepts grants for the city. It's not just a great idea it's almost imperative. Thank you for that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Caron

In talking about the Citizens Advisory Committee, they started meeting last week. They will be meeting for the next two months. We have no received the amount that the Mayor is going to put in the budget but Carrie is hoping we'll have it before our next meeting or the meeting after that. We have 37 applications that we're going through. We're basically trying to do five to six on a Thursday. The Committee has come up with different ways to score because as you know we do a survey of our needs for the city every five years That's

going to be done this year so that will help as well. We had a couple of new applications that we've seen so far but if you ever want to hear what's going on, you can come and sit and listen. It's a very difficult task because as you say without those agencies, the city would be picking up that responsibility for what they do in the city. So anything that we can do to help them, we certainly want to make sure we do that and to be fair to everyone that's out there.

I know that they came to see you about some issues last year when we were trying to transfer some money for an agency to help them out in a different aspect. That's really good. We're trying to keep you informed as to what's going on. If you have a notion to come and listen in for one meeting, we meet on Thursdays either at 208 or in the small conference room in Community Development. We start about 5:30. We're usually until 7:30 or so.

Chairwoman Kelly

So that's Thursdays at 5:30. Is it every single Thursday for the next month?

Alderman Caron

Every single Thursday for the next two months at least. It should be posted on your calendar.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any other general discussion?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

So first I would like to thank whichever citizen enrolled me in the Latino Magazine. I am actually Hispanic but I go to Honduras every year so I'm interested in the Latino community obviously.

I just wanted to announce also that this Saturday we're having a fundraiser for Nashua HOT. It will be at Liquid Therapy. I'll be playing open mic at 7 if anybody wants to hear my play guitar and it's for a good cause.

Chairwoman Wilshire

Anyone else?

I just want to thank the committee for coming out. I look forward to working with you guys this year. I know it's going to be a good year.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

This Saturday at 6 o'clock at the First Baptist Church in Nashua, I think its 121 Manchester Street; they'll be celebrating their 38<sup>th</sup> MLK program which is really nice. They have several large choirs that come out and they always have a great speaker. I think they have the New Hampshire Gay Men's Choir. They have the Nashua Interfaith Choir which is another large choir. They have New Fellowship Baptist Church and usually some others. It's free to the public and it's really a good time. The Mayor usually comes and a couple of other dignitaries.

Also next Monday for Martin Luther King Day, Southern New Hampshire Outreach for Black Unity will be

having their 36<sup>th</sup> MLK breakfast at Alpine Grove. Its \$40 for adults, \$20 for students, and \$45 at the door for adults, and 4 and under is free. It is a family affair. We have this year Activist Arnie Alpert from the Friends organization is the Keynote speaker. Also Habiba Hassan who's a junior at Central High School in Manchester will be speaking for the youth. That's it. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

That sounds better than my guitar.

Chairwoman Kelly

I was going to say I've attended the last couple of years and it's really a wonderful way to celebrate MLK. I have not gone to the Baptist Church one so maybe I will be able to attend that on Saturday. Thank you for that.

Do we have anyone else?

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Alderman Lori Wilshire  
Committee Clerk