

## PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUNE 6, 2022

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber as well as via Zoom teleconference.

*To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.*

The roll call was taken with members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present:

Chairwoman Shoshanna Kelly presided.

### ROLL CALL

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair  
Alderman Tyler Gouveia  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Derek Thibeault

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Mayor Jim Donchess  
Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director  
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

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### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### Bob Keating

Bob Keating, 5 Coburn Woods. I'm a member of Granite State Organizing Project in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua. I'm speaking about an item coming today about the eligibility and criteria for the housing trust fund and I want to appreciate all the effort that made that come to this point and appreciate the diversity in terms of the recommendations for members on that commission.

The only comment, and I don't think it needs to be changed at this point in time, I think there is enough flexibility in it is that nowhere is it defined what affordable housing is. As we know, that term if used very widely and meaning a great many different things to people. What their hope is that from Granite State Organizing Project is that a significant portion when the criteria comes before the full Board eventually that a large portion of that would be put to people who would be below the average median income. So thanks again for all the work over a long period of time to get here and I hope the encouragement to give large amount of monies for the AARP – I know \$10 million is a figure that had been given. I hope that is continuing in peoples' minds. So thanks again.

#### Francis Murphy

Francis Murphy, 72 Berkeley Street. I rise to speak in favor of the proposed ordinance to establish the Greeley Park Advisory Committee. I am familiar with the terms of the proposed ordinance and I note that one member is signed or reserved for the Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC). I'm the current Chair of that and so I'm familiar with the role of the advisory committee. I know advisory committees can make no decisions. They advise, they participate in debates about things, and this instance would be about Greeley Park. Presumably to preserve, protect, and enhance the park. I envision that committee to do that to advocate for the protection and preservation of Greeley Park just like the present advisory committee does for Mine Falls.

The stone house in Greeley Park is probably the most photographed spot in the City. I know it is in disrepair right now and so I would look forward to the advisory committee advocating for its repair and restitution. I would like to see the advisory committee, if it's adopted, to advocate for a master plan for Greeley Park that would sort of govern going forward - what goes in, what goes out of the park.

Finally, I have researched the origins of Greeley Park from the farm that was gifted by Joseph Thornton Greeley to the City back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the gift by Joseph Cotton that resulted in the stone house. The layer of the park was the result of input from the famous architectural firm Boston/New York Frederick Law Olmstead who was responsible in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century for creations of city parks around the nation, including New York's Central Park, Boston's Emerald Necklace, and our own Greeley Park - Frederick Law Olmstead. We got a history. We would do well to remember the history of Greeley Park and the Olmstead spirit that was responsible for the original design and layout for Greeley Park. Thank you for listening to me and I hope the ordinance passes.

### Tonya Nizely

Hi, my name is Tonya Nizely. I am a resident at 83 Major Drive and a member of the Granite State Organizing Project and just a community volunteer. I want to speak in behalf of the Housing Trust Fund and just want to support it. I just want to bring attention to the word "affordable housing" again. I'm hoping as we move forward with this housing trust fund that we can understand in order to help the most vulnerable people in Nashua that need this. We might want to change the terminology to income based instead of affordable because of the large, large number of people that are not making a minimum wage that is a livable wage. So I would like everyone to take that into consideration and possibly make that a thing. Thank you so much.

### Reverend Sally Newhall

Hi. I'm Reverend Sally Newhall. I live at 33 Digital Drive, Unit 308, here in Nashua. I was rising to speak about the Housing Trust Fund, which I'm really excited that we're getting the housing trust fund. I'm delighted that it's happening. I echo that we need to be aware of affordable housing in Nashua and I would expand our thinking about what affordable means because affordable yes means those who are working at minimum wage or below and we have folks like that in Nashua. Right now, it costs so much to live in Nashua that even someone we hire as a beginning teacher or beginning police officer cannot afford, unless they have a spouse earning more money, to buy housing at the affordable going rate in Nashua. We need to support more housing so that even our median income members of our community can afford to live in Nashua. It's ridiculous to hire people to work for our City and then for them not to be able to find housing in our City.

I really hope that the plans that I understand are going forward for the Housing Trust Fund for the Board that will handle that would include members of the City. I hope that you will look for a wide variety of folks to be on that Board to represent the needs and concerns of the City. Thank you very much.

### COMMUNICATIONS - None

### INTERVIEWS

#### Board of Registrars

William Grady (new appointment)  
14 Tinker Road  
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: May 1, 2025

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess just so you know some of the people who are not in the Chamber are on Zoom.

Mayor Donchess

Okay, I did not know that.

Chairwoman Kelly

I just noticed.

Mayor Donchess

Well I am here to nominate or have nominated William Grady to the Board of Registrars. The Board of Registrars is a three person Board that oversees the voter checklist and voter registration in general. Mr. Grady has expressed a strong interest in serving on the Board and we've definitely been looking for someone. Currently we have two members and were Mr. Grady confirmed, we would then have a partisan balance. Mr. Grady is a registered Republican. We have a registered Democrat and my understanding the third person is "undeclared". The ordinance says you can't have more than two people of one party.

Mr. Grady as you can see from his resume, a long business background. He is a member of the Rotary Club. He went to Bishop Guertin High School. Obviously a lot of knowledge regarding the City and again is very enthusiastic about making sure we register as many people as we can and that everybody that possibly can will go ahead and vote. So with that I will give you Mr. Grady who will tell you a little more about himself and who will answer your questions of course.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Mr. Grady go ahead.

William Grady

Thank you Mr. Mayor and Chairwoman Kelly. I feel very excited about to serve the City of Nashua. Being born and raised here, it's a City that cares. It's a City that is a community. Whether or not you're coming from outside like my parents did in 1959 and raised a family of four, I found the opportunities here two-fold. I know I'll be able to give back to the community but also a great life, quality of life that's been (inaudible) been put together by a lot of dedicated people over the years. Part of giving that back is ensuring that the vote to sacrosanct which is a piece of the ability to incorporate as many people as possible sharing your voice about the betterment not only of our country, but our State, and certainly for our City. I take this as a very honorable roll and look forward to serving with my fellow registrars to make sure this vote is accurate, is maintained, and also expanded to as many people as possible to celebrate our great country in voting. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Mr. Grady. I am going to open it up. Can you just move the mic a little bit closer to you so everybody can hear you? Members of the Board who have questions? I know Alderman Klee wanted to speak. I knew you were instrumental on bringing Mr. Grady forward.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam Chairwoman and yes when I sat here in the aldermanic chamber one day and it was brought to our attention that we only had two members on the Board of Registrars, I immediately looked to see what party they were from because I knew we needed to have equity. I saw that we had - truthfully I thought we had two Democrats. I didn't realize that one was an Independent and so on so I knew that we needed to have at least one Republican.

There are a number of Republicans that I know that would be very qualified for this, but Mr. Grady's name bubbled right up to the top for me. As you've heard me say before, when I first met him he honestly put me through my paces. Someone had said you need to speak to him and I said okay and I had asked to have my sign put on his lawn and so on and he said, "not until we have a conversation". It wasn't the regular conversation of what do you stand for. He questioned me. He was actually one of the first people I spoke to and as I said, he put me through my paces. He let me know that he was an engaged voter and that he was the kind of person who just didn't say, "okay you're for this, you're for that". "Why are you for it?" That was the question he kept asking was "why". So I learned when I went and spoke to people I almost started with "why" I feel the way I feel and "why" I want to do what I want to do. I think that earned me respect from other people and I do fully give him credit for that because he taught me the "why" is more important than the "what" in this particular case.

He used to be in Ward 3. He is now in Alderman Dowd's Ward - Ward 2. Alderman Dowd you're lucky to have him there. He is very engaged and he will put you through your paces too. I got many a call going "why"? Why is this happening, or why are we voting, or what is your stance on this? He didn't just let me sit back and be an Alderman or a State Rep. He asked those whys and the hard questions. So I think he is perfect for this position and I hope that you'll look upon him favorably. Thank you.

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Questions from the Committee?

#### Alderman Clemons

I, too, have had the opportunity to engage with Mr. Grady before. I think it was a pleasant experience. I think he has integrity that this Board demands. When I say that, there is a lot of people out there who want to believe that there is nefarious things going on in our elections. I'm not going to speak to the rest of the country but I will speak to Nashua and it doesn't happen here. That's because we have people that care about the process, that care about doing things the right way. We have strong traditions here and we have people who are in positions of power that care about the process, and the care about voting, and Mr. Grady will certainly bring or keep that tradition moving forward in a non-partisan manner. I have full confidence in that and I support him 100%.

#### William Grady

Thank you.

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez?

#### Alderman Lopez

I couldn't think of a why question. So what do you think other than why? What do you think we can do better in improving our process for the volunteers, for the people working the polls, accessibility for the individuals that are trying to vote, and then transparency afterwards?

#### William Grady

Thank you for the question Alderman Lopez. I think the leveraging of technology as we've seen the past two years in expanding people's voices and understanding from a webinar perspective or instruction can certainly allow people to voice how they can actually improve the process. I think basically best practices we portrayed on a "why" basis as I think it will be a great part of our committee. I've done some studying on the past meeting minutes of expanding the outreach not only downtown but throughout the festivals. I think it would be a great idea. Let's take that same idea and concept and

expand it out to ETV. Let's put that out there. Let's talk to people and have a dialogue about it and have interaction. Certainly when you have a Zoom meeting like today with interaction expanded, we can talk about those issues and put a committee together and actually format a plan that can have multiple outreach on a number of people and actually speak to what we got in improvements. That's what I would do leveraging technology is what I've had to do the past two years being in sales and working across the world literally, and working with people, and collaborating, and winning not only their ideas but also ideas that I didn't agree with. We built a consensus all over by technology. I would rather us have interpersonal like we have this evening, but the reality of the situation is that people live online. People access online. Let's make that information and improve the overall process online as well to specifically.

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate that answer and I'm looking forward to supporting your nomination.

William Grady

Thank you Alderman Lopez. I appreciate that.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else, any members? Okay. I just want to thank you first of all for bringing Mr. Grady forward. I thought that your speech at the beginning was spot on for someone who would be on the Board of Registrars. I especially love to hear the idea of expanding that voting ability and getting as many people registered to vote that want to vote because it's really important that people get out and vote. So it sounds like you will be a great addition and you will work in a non-partisan fashion to make sure everyone has that right. Thank you for coming forward.

William Grady

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I appreciate that. Thank you so much.

Chairwomen Kelly

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

I just want to welcome you to Ward 2 and look forward to a lot of questions.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. We'll take up your nomination at the end of the interview period so thank you.

Mayor Donchess

So now Mr. Widhu would hopefully come up.

Conservation Commission

Richard Widhu (new alternate appointment)  
23 Syracuse Road  
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: May 1, 2025

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Widhu you can come up and join us in the horseshoe thank you.

Richard Widhu

Thank you for allowing me appear before you tonight. I live at 23 Syracuse Road. I've lived there since 1986. I've been attending the Nashua Conservation Commission meetings for the past five months, gone on site walks with them, and volunteered for work days with them. I am a land steward for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and some property over in Wilton, Temple, Mason. I decided it was time for me to spend time really right around here and pay attention more to Nashua.

I'm a member of the Nashua River Watershed Association, NH Audubon, and several other State environmental organizations. I've been learning online presentations and in-person nature walks about forestry, plants, wildlife, ecology, and hydrology, and also learning quite a lot from the Conservation Commission meetings learning from the other members about what details when people bring their projects forward. I appreciate your consideration.

Major Donchess

And I would add in addition to what Mr. Widhu said, that he has talked with Sherry Dutzy - a very active Chair of the Conservation Commission. As he said, has attended a lot of meetings. Ms. Dutzy is very enthusiastic about Richard's nomination. He is nominated to be an alternate member because the regular member positions are filled but as an alternate, he will be able to participate very actively as he already has been doing as a volunteer.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. I'll open it up to any questions or comments from the Committee?

Alderman Dowd

Well I can verify that he was at the last Conservation Commission meeting because we had a discussion about the plantings for the new school. In fact, they even tried to get him to vote and he hadn't been sworn in yet. So I think he'll be an outstanding candidate and I just wanted to let everybody know, including yourself, that we finally got the Wetlands Permit from the State of New Hampshire and the Wetlands Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. So all engines ahead full.

Alderman Klee

Full disclosure. Mr. Widhu is a Ward 3 resident who has not been transferred over to Ward 2. Thank goodness. I lost 1,200 residents to Ward 2. I can affirm that I have seen Mr. Widhu in many emails and so on relative to his name and so on about this. I think he would be a good candidate. I think it would be a positive action. I know that many members such as Chairwoman Dutzy has spoken very highly of him and so on so I think definitely a good choice.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam Chair. Clearly upon looking at your background, you have a passion for the outdoors, and the environment, and the conservation of not just Nashua but the surrounding area. I think you'll make a great asset to the Committee. Thank you for volunteering.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll just make a comment. I was on the Conservation Commission in the beginning of my first term. They were a group of highly intelligent people. It's so interesting in those meetings and your background is so perfectly matched. So I really appreciate you coming forward and I know you'll do great on the

Commission.

Cultural Connections Committee

Claudia Decker (new appointment)  
59 Robinson Road  
Hudson, NH 03051

Term to Expire: May 24, 2025

Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess, do you want to speak to your nomination first? I know Claudia is on Zoom.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you Claudia for coming in. I didn't see you here in the room, so I'm glad you're on Zoom. So Claudia I have nominated to the Cultural Connections Committee. She is a Spanish teacher and has taught Spanish at Nashua North and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Rivier University. She's been teaching for 22 years. She has a Master of Art in teaching Spanish, fluent in Spanish, and she is part of the NH Writer's Project, and she serves on a National Advisory Council as President relating to I think the Spanish Culture. She can pronounce the name of that organization correctly, so I'll leave that to her. I think she is eager to serve. I know she will be a great addition to the Cultural Connections Committee.

Claudia Decker

Thank you Mayor Donchess.

Mayor Donchess

So I will ask Ms. Decker then to tell us a little bit about yourself and of your interest in serving on the Committee.

Claudia Decker

First of all as I mentioned in my biography, I was born in Columbia and raised in the United States. I was in the Air Force. I joined the Air Force right out of High School. So I have a great love for this country. I'm so grateful to be here, always have been and so when I left the Air Force and was able to go to the college on the GI Bill, I studied languages and culture and so had the opportunity to serve in a different way.

I want to serve on the Cultural Connections Committee because it is an extension of what I do at school at Nashua High North. As a teacher of language and culture, I feel that it's my duty and my pleasure to educate students not just in grammar and in vocabulary, but also in what unites us all in spite of our obvious differences. I've had the pleasure to volunteer for a couple of the Nashua festivals. I am very honored to continue serving the City in this capacity. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Miss Decker. Questions or comments from the Committee? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So given that you're also an adjunct faculty at Rivier and you're involved in higher education, Rivier University is particularly a well-resourced community as well. Are you familiar with the One Nashua Cultural Navigators Program and do you think there's any opportunities to partner in that community with maybe service learning students, or students working on service projects, that kind of stuff?

Claudia Decker

Absolutely and thank you for bringing that up. This gives me an opportunity to mention my services presently at the National Spanish Honor Society. It's pronounced the "Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica" of the AATSP. As part of this organization, I get to be a chapter sponsor and so I have a chapter of the Spanish Honor Society at Nashua High North. My Chapter is 14 years old and much of what we do is related to service to the community.

At Rivier, I've been there a year and hopefully next year maybe we can consider opening a chapter of Sigma Delta Phi which is Spanish Honor Society but for college. I do have plans to connect with Greater Nashua and not just from Nashua High North but also at Rivier invite my students to do learning projects outside of the classroom that serve the community.

Alderman Lopez

Just to clarify, the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica is just the Hispanic Honor Society? I don't say "just".

Claudia Decker

Yes. It's part of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. So in order to have a Chapter in high school or in college, you have to belong to the AATSP and then you can open up a Chapter. The Chapter's mission is to promote Hispanic culture, to arlema estodes aruna – all for one, and basically to use the Spanish language and culture to go outside the classroom and to form alliances and friendships, especially to serve community.

Alderman Lopez

I'm excited about the opportunities that you're bringing to build on things that you're already doing, but equally excited for the opportunities that you bring to build on new ways. Thank you for your willingness to step forward.

Claudia Decker

Thank you for having me.

Chairwoman Kelly

Other Committee Members? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. Miss Decker I saw that your bio said that you went to Weber State University. Did you live in Ogden when you went there?

Claudia Decker

I lived in Ogden for quite a number of years. I attended briefly while I was in the service and could take courses while I was in but then when I left, I went to the University of Utah and then decided to finish my studies at Weber State. I love the Weber Campus.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, it's a beautiful campus. I lived not too far from there in Ogden - Canigo Apartments right down the road from there. When I was working at Thiokol with the DCAS office. It's a beautiful school and a really good school. I saw that you got your Bachelors of English through there. So I'm quite impressed.

Claudia Decker

Well thank you. It's quite a diverse community as well.

Alderman Klee

Yes, it is. People don't realize how diverse that community is up there. I didn't know if you had taken some online courses or if you actually had been up that way to experience all that different type of culture there.

I have to say I don't get to vote for you here, but I will get to vote at the regular Board meeting. You're quite impressive hearing what you had to say. I think much of what Alderman Lopez questions had asked. I think you will be definitely a – I don't want to say a force to be reckon with but I think you will bring some great ideas to the Commission. So thank you for stepping up.

Claudia Decker

Thank you so much.

Chairwoman Kelly

I also want to say thank you for stepping forward. You sound very impressive and the right fit for this Cultural Connections Committee. I do have a logistical question, so just bear with me. I know that this Committee meets at 8:00 a.m. on a school day and I know you're a school teacher. Are you going to be able to make the meetings because I know they have had issues in the past with quorum?

Claudia Decker

So they record the Zoom meetings and so if I'm not able to attend I just go back and look at the meeting and I forward my notes to the Chair. Right now the Chair is Elizabeth Barry from NCC. If I happen to have a plan, I can jump in for a few minutes but of course with all my teacherly duties, I couldn't possibly devote the entire hour to a meeting. I do stay in touch via email with the Committee members.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alright thank you. Anyone else? Any additional questions? Okay we'll take up your nomination at the end of our interview period.

Claudia Decker

Thank you very much.

Nashua Arts Commission

Joseph Olefirowicz (new appointment)  
35 Newbury Street  
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: May 31, 2025

Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess would you please introduce your nomination.

Mayor Donchess

Joseph will be a great addition to the Nashua Arts Commission. He is the Music Director at First Church

where he does a really fantastic job. But if you look at his experience and his resume, you will see that he has vast experience with the performing arts with orchestras specifically at various locations in Europe. He spends six months a year in Europe or you have been doing that back in...

Joseph Olefirowicz

Three to four.

Mayor Donchess

Three or four months in Europe with various orchestras over there. He is incredibly knowledgeable about music. I think given his very extensive background will be a great addition to the Nashua Arts Commission.

Joseph Olefirowicz

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. If I could just take a moment to introduce myself - Joseph Olefirowicz is my name. My career started in 1994 after graduating from Ithaca College actually conducting the German Incarnations of several Broadway Companies in Europe. Actually the boom of that industry coming into the European scene beyond London where I've probably three or four custom built new theaters have been part of in terms of the design process and that kind of thing moving on toward more crossover, and classical music, and film music while living in Berlin in the late 90's. Actually 23 years ago yesterday, we opened the first incarnation of Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame as a new musical. So that has gone through many other things.

Since 2008, I've lived in Nashua as a resident of the City on 35 Newbury Street and have been the Minister of Music of The First Church of Nashua and as well established the churches first music concert series as its Artistic Director which will enter its 15<sup>th</sup> season this coming fall. So on the broad spectrum of traditional performing arts, I have a lot of experience. I am also a trained theatrical lighting designer which would have been the other career had the podium not taken my attention. Otherwise I'm looking forward to serving on the Arts Commission as someone that has a professional profile both here and abroad and serving the City of Nashua in the capacity that the Arts Commission needs for voices that are active in the arts.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you very much. Committee Members questions or comments?

Alderman Lopez

First I'd like to congratulate you on the (*inaudible*) voices active in the arts. And second I just wanted to know what your impressions of various facilities that we have here in the City are for small group or larger art performances? I know that we're looking at the Keefe Auditorium and whatever we're going to do in terms of Elm Street development process. And then additionally, Court Street as a performance space. Can you speak to your impressions of that, and whether we can do more with these spaces, which ones we should work to preserve?

Joseph Olefirowicz

Certainly I'd love to speak to that. I won't speak to the new Performing Arts Center because I did write an op ad for the Telegraph back in early 2020 that kind of speaks on my thoughts on that. But you bring up two facilities - one in particular that is very dear to my heart, the Keefe Auditorium. I'm concerned about the Keefe's future with it transitioning away from being a school. It was at one time if not still is New Hampshire's largest theatrical facility in terms of audience capacity. I believe there is great potential there, but have learned recently some of the great challenges of cost that would integrate

separating the Keefe from its main building in terms of utilities, and building, and that kind of thing.

I'll speak briefly on Court Street in that I think I stepped into Court Street the first time 12 or 13 years ago and was quite surprised and how it is this little diamond in the rough. Really kind of a venue that has a lot of potential but it came out of I'm assuming the late 70's early 80's big theatrical push for what they called "thrust theaters" which is a 3-sided sort of performance space that can do smaller venues. I'm fascinated that the theater actually has ballet studios and a black box theater in the lower level that are currently unused.

I think the balance of Keefe, Court Street, new performing arts center can allow various different performances for various groups to be here. One of my largest concerns, and I know she's on the nomination for the Commission as well, is that a professional organization like Symphony NH may find some difficulty in a performance space in Nashua if the Keefe comes out of the portfolio of Nashua performing arts culture. So I think on that level, the Keefe is one of the big concerns or big loves on my end having actually played with the Symphony for a number of years as it's acting principal keyboard early on in my tenure here also have conducted the organization for a Pops Concert a number of years ago. So Alderman Lopez I hope that gives a little bit of a broad overview and if I missed something in explanation or intent, please let me know.

Alderman Lopez

Thanks for your input. I look forward to singing your praises metaphorically when it's time to vote.

Chairwoman Kelly

Other Aldermen have questions or comments? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. As the liaison to the Art Commission, I welcome you to that Commission. I think you bring a lot of background. You're not shy on your opinion as we've all heard. That's not a bad thing. That's a good thing because things like that challenge people to think a little differently. I appreciate that. I know we've had a few emails that have gone back and forth at times and we're not always on the same page, but that's a good thing again because it does makes people think differently. I do appreciate a lot that you've done for this community. I think you will be a great asset when it even comes to talking about things like the Keefe. I say let's protect and do as much as we can for it as well as Court Street. I think the more the merrier in here.

Your resume is quite amazing from your musical background, to your theater background, and so on. The Board currently has amazing people on it and you will work really well with them. Thank you.

Joseph Olefirowicz

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I'm not going to try the last name again. I'm going to have to say it at least one more time, but I thank you for stepping up. I, too, like Alderman Lopez I am concerned about the two buildings we spoke of - 14 Court Street and Keefe Auditorium because there's a misunderstanding out there at the three venues that we're going to have are the same thing and can be

interchangeable and that's just not true. So I appreciate those answers to Alderman Lopez and I'll be supporting this nomination. So thank you for serving.

Joseph Olefirowicz

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Thank you Madam Chair. So Joseph is the reason why I dragged myself out of the house tonight to come and offer my support of his nomination. A couple months ago he reached out directly to me and asked if I'd be interested in sitting down with him so that he can give me some theater and arts for dummies because admittedly it's not something I know a whole lot about. And so we did meet and spoke for some time and his breath of knowledge on the arts and theater community in the City in my limited experience second to none. Just looking at his Facebook page and seeing some of the symphonies that he has worked with is beyond impressive. So I'm very excited for his nomination. He even mentioned back then how excited he was to potentially be on this Commission. So I'm glad to see his name come forward and I look forward to voting on it at the next full meeting.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else? I'll put in my thoughts here at the end. Thank you for coming forward. It was very clear that you're very passionate about musical arts and do what you get to do every day and just how you talked about it. I was on the Board of Symphony. So I also know what that's like. I'm a big music fan but also have similar concerns about Keefe, the new Performing Arts Center, and 14 Court Street and what is going to happen with all of those because each individual theater brings something different and as you pointed out, they are very different uses. So looking forward to having your voice on the Commission and we can work on that all together. I'll take up your nomination at the end.

Deanna Hoying (new appointment)  
361 Whitford Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

Term to Expire: May 31, 2025

Mayor Donchess

I'm here to introduce you to Deanna Hoying who is the new Executive Director of Symphony NH. And so that alone makes her very qualified and capable of being on the Nashua Arts Commission. But if you look at her resume, she has a degree in musical performance - I think the French horn and she has served at the Symphony NH in various capacities for around three years. She also has been with many other orchestras and opera companies in various locations: Kentucky, Louisville, and elsewhere around the United States. So with her experience, she and Joseph together will be able to really give us some good advice. I suspect they know each other. So I'm really pleased to be able to nominate Deanna and I'm glad she is willing to serve. I guess I would ask you to tell us a little bit more about yourself.

Deanna Hoying

Thank you Mayor Donchess, and Madam Chairwoman, and Aldermen. Thank you so much for letting me speak tonight. As the Mayor has mentioned, I've been in arts and music education for more than 30 years. I've been a performer, a music educator. I've lived in lots of part of the country and I've been involved in arts administration now for quite some time with various opera companies and orchestras. So it's my honor to be heading now Symphony NH. The 2022-2023 season is going to be our 100<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary. In April of 2023, we celebrate 100 years and all 100 of those years we've had a presence in this City. So we've very excited about this opportunity to look back at our history and celebrate all that has been accomplished with the arts.

I also serve as a board member for Arts for NH. Particularly, my role is as Advocacy Chair and so I'm also the State Arts Captain for NH for American's for the Arts. So I recognize the value and importance of advocacy on behalf of all the arts. We know that a vibrant arts community is representative and serves a vibrant City and I think being on the Arts Commission would be an opportunity to make sure we are able to advocate for and support all of the arts in Nashua.

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Any questions or comments? Alderman Klee?

#### Alderman Klee

Thank you again Madam Chairwoman. I actually did not expect to speak to all of them but having being the liaison to the Arts Commission, I do appreciate you stepping up and as the previous speaker I think you will be a great asset to it.

Your resume you speak to community outreach and you spoke about advocacy. Sometimes that is one of the biggest issues when it comes to the arts. People think of the arts is just kind of like "fluff". I mean when we went to school what was the thing that they cut first when they needed money was the arts programs and so on. So it's very important to get the community engaged, get them engaged in positive looking towards this as how it brings vibrancy as well as money into the City. I know one of the comments that were made with the Master Plan so to speak that the Arts Commission did was why do we keep talking about the money of it. For the average person, that's what they see. I'm much like Madam Chairwoman here who I love the theater. I love listening to music. I love seeing the artwork we have throughout the City, but again some people just think of that. So my question to you after that long introduction is how would you work to get a better community outreach to get a positive note to the community as well as get more art people engaged with the Commission and so on? Do you have ideas on that?

#### Deanna Hoying

I do. Most of my background has been in education and community engagement. I think one of the things that we need to do is meet the people where they are. Often times we expect people to come to us wherever we are, but sometimes we also need to be able to go where they are and understand where they are coming from and help them understand the role that the arts play in a vibrant community. There is a lot of research out there about the role of the arts and healthy cities and how and actually the federal level, they're looking at the fact that cities with arts communities that have rebounded faster, they've seen the economy rebound faster because the arts were able to generate people coming back and coming out. So there's actual data behind all of this information that we have. So I think helping people understand it's not "fluff". It's part of our human experience. It's how we share things and I think if anything that the pandemic has taught us when we were all separated and cloistered in our homes that we need that connection. However we experience that shared connection whether it's in a symphony hall, watching theater together, going to see great works of art, having those opportunities for people to remind themselves about how important that sharing is. Again meeting them where they are, not always expecting them to come our hall. Maybe we find ways to go out and play in churches, and synagogues, community centers, and schools. Opportunities, again, to meet everybody where they are and that's great if they want to come and see us play in the halls. I think the opportunity for us to go out and really meet them is what we need to do a little bit more and I think we can do that.

#### Alderman Klee

I'm really happy that you said "meet them where they are" because one of the complaints that we do get from citizens throughout the City is that all the arts is downtown. You're forgetting about these so when you brought up the fact of going to the community centers, or going to the schools, and so on to introduce that, and to bring that forward, and to show the community. Sometimes it's not performances, sometimes it may be a sculpture, sometimes it may be a piece of art work, and so on. I'm really glad you said "bring it to where they are" rather than asking them to come here. So thank you so much. Perfect.

### Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez?

### Alderman Lopez

As a build on the art is not fluff. As a clinician obviously and with a background in school counseling, our brain-based learning and multiple intelligence do play a number of roles. Symphony music is understood to help cultivate brain development in infants, and toddlers, and it's essential as a processing tool in addition as well. Different cultures approach music differently and have their own different experiences. So when you're saying meet people where they are, I can see it being very important not only physically but culturally.

So I know there're some opportunities. Ash Street for example at Los Amigos Park, we have a round stage used as a backdrop and then audio we have an electric source. So you could little symphonies in the park or musical presentations that people could come to. We have any number of non-profit organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, Pals, or Girls, Inc. that have communities that have a forum for that. What is the partnership that you get from elected officials with regards to that? Do you ever have people invite you to places or things and can we do a better with that as Aldermen as saying "okay we represent this neighborhood as local Ward Aldermen what can we do to help you connect with the features unique in your environment"?

### Deanna Hoying

Yes, that is a really good question. In my experience, we haven't had a lot of that and of course the last couple of years has been a little weird about how we manage all of our community engagement. I do think it's something that we could - usually we are approached by organizations. So we have Beaver Brook approaches us. We've had Londonderry Historical Society approach us. Typically those kinds of groups say hey we'd love to have you guys come and do this, that, or other thing". I think there's certainly an opportunity to do a little more out in specific areas that we're not really aware of until someone says "hey we've got this space". Obviously, we have some limitations as far as what our musicians need to be able to do as far as heating, and cooling, and that kind of stuff as far as outdoor opportunities. I think if the more we can get that information from you, we can certainly tailor a program and a group/ensemble to come out and do something with you. It is something that our music director and I have been talking about anyway is about having a multi-cultural approach.

Yes, we're going to still do the classics, but we're also going to look at a wide and diverse group of composers both past and present looking at different kinds of music. There's so much - you know I hate labeling it "classical" because it's music and yes it's a particular genre of music but I think music is music and the more we can showcase a diversity of our composers, we're always going to do Mozart and Beethoven. I also want to do living composers, and I want to do Florence Price, and I want to do all kinds of things that celebrate African-American heritage. Our music director is half Indian and we're looking to actually do in a couple of years a really cool Indian based concert. We actually did one a couple years - we did it during lockdown. We did east meets west and we had an Indian group come and play with us during that time which was fantastic. So we're going to keep building on those opportunities to reach out and look at all these different communities and celebrate them and celebrate us.

Alderman Lopez

I'm sure many of us are willing to reciprocate and if there's anything – well I'll actually give you some ideas later.

Deanna Hoying

I bet you will. I'm looking forward to hearing them.

Alderman Lopez

It would be helpful for us on occasion to not just ask what can you do for us, but also say like hey we have these things if you ever need them.

Deanna Hoying

That would be wonderful. Thank you so much.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set Alderman Lopez? Anyone else? Okay thank you Deanna we will take up your nomination at the end of this period.

Lauren Spira-Savett (new appointment)  
39 Coburn Avenue  
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: May 31, 2025

Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess?

Mayor Donchess

Miss Spira-Savette I've nominated her also for the Arts Commission. She has a very strong business background which I think will be useful to the Arts Commission and the arts community. She graduated from Harvard undergrad and Columbia with an MBA and then has had various positions in the corporate world, but most recently she worked for NH Public Radio. She has also been active with the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter as a resume writer and volunteer, and actually a member of the Board of Trustees of Symphony NH, and is an active member of Temple Beth Abraham. I think she will be a good addition and provide, again, some business expertise in thinking about how we can advance the arts in the City. With that I will ask her to tell you a little about herself and add anything that she thinks she'd like you to know.

Lauren Spira-Savett

Thank you Mayor Donchess. I've lived in Nashua for about 14 years and have been very involved in the arts throughout my life. Since arriving in Nashua as the Mayor mentioned, I've served as a Trustee of Symphony NH. I also currently serve on the Board of Upbeat NH. My children have been very involved in theater in Epping, NH, and music programs in the Nashua schools. Professionally as the Mayor mentioned, I've work in business and spent over 25 years in human resources and organizational development in a variety of industries. I care deeply about the arts. I care deeply about the City and it would really be an honor to serve on the Nashua Arts Commission.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Questions? Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. Hi Miss Spira-Savette. I've obviously known your husband for quite a while and had some great conversations with him so I know your family well. So we've talked about music with the last couple of interviewees and want to talk a little about art itself. We've had Positive Street Art do a lot of great things in this City and when the barriers came and we were using as art and people didn't like that. So I want to know if you have any ideas how to build that type of art into the City as opposed to you know we don't have any museums. We don't have any of those kind of art. We do have hangings here and there throughout the City but was just wondering what you thought about that part of it.

Lauren Spira-Savett

Well see that I love it. I love the paintings on the barriers. I love the murals. I would say more would be a very good thing. To be honest I haven't thought about where else we should expand it, but I would be very much in favor of looking for opportunities to do more of that.

Alderman Thibeault

Great, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

As we are talking about street art, I'd point out there are two very large parking garages with all the front that you need. I think ultimately effective art is more often than not an expression born of positivity. I don't necessary mean positivity just like everything is wonderful. I was at Positive Street Arts new studio opening yesterday and I watched expressive dance movement literally show an interpretative dance expression of hopelessness and what does it look like when people try to express it. What was interesting was the dancers trying to express hopelessness moved towards each other and ultimately ended up supporting each other. So that's where I think our arts community flourishes. So with that in mind are there ways we can address some profound issues our community is facing whether it's the epidemic of suicide that we've been experiencing the last couple of years, whether its adverse childhood experiences, the trauma of going through a pandemic that we always was going to happen to other people and not us? Do you see ways where we can kind of pursue ways to kind of explore those issues through art and if that's something do you think that the Art Commission might be able to show leadership with?

Laura Spira-Savett

So I'm very new to the Art Commission. I've been to only two meetings, but I would say certainly that's very worthy of discussion. I think art connects us in ways that other things can't and I think in times like this it's more critical than ever to look for opportunities to connect with our community.

Alderman Lopez

It's a great answer. Thank you for being willing to contribute to that.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, again, Madam Chairwoman. Similar to what I had commented to the previous speaker is that sometimes the community, I don't want to use that word "fluff" because you don't want to do that unless I'm talking about peanut butter, anyway the aspect of art is beauty and as we said it brings the community together. It allows expression that we can't necessarily speak or even write about. But there's also the aspect of art when it comes to the money of that, of funding, and so on. First off, I want to say "thank you" for the resume writing that you did with the Nashua Soup Kitchen that I'm sure was extraordinarily helpful to many people that way and so on.

You do have a business background as well as your art background but that brings a different flavor to the Commission. I think that's a good aspect of it. One of the things that the Commission is really good at is helping give these little groups a tiny leg up with some funding and so on. Recently we just got the new grants. If you've been going to the last few Committee, you're aware of those or one of the few communities that actually got that very large grant which is a great boom for us but how would you engage with feedback? I see that one of the things that you put in here was that you lead – I think the way you put it was lead implementation of a 360 degree feedback process new performance and development and planning process. I think feedback from the community is extremely important and how would you try to work with the Commission to try to get that feedback maybe to engage people to bring them into the arts and to understand how the arts actually help both financially, as well as virtually, culturally and so on. Do you have any ideas as to that?

Laura Spira-Savett

That's such a great question and I love how you put that. I think one good way to do it is simply bringing people together in focus groups and discussion groups around just those issues. I think it also when people have the chance to give feedback, they're more likely to be involved in future efforts. So that's a benefit as well. I have a lot of energy around just getting the word out to people as well. I know when I found out how wonderful the arts were in Nashua, it made me feel completely different about living here.

So I feel like the more people we can connect with, the more people we can get information on the arts to the better.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I like the way you worded that, perfect. Thank you very much.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam Chair. First off thank you for your dedication to the arts in our community. I agree with our colleague from Ward 3. I think your background brings more diversity with a business background as well as just a love for the arts, and a passion for the arts, as well as living in Ward 1. It's great to see. So I look forward to supporting your confirmation. I look forward to working with you in the future to see how we can advance the arts in Nashua.

Laura Spira-Savett

Thank you so much.

Chairwoman Kelly

I have one question. Thank you for your willingness to serve. You clearly have a strong resume for this. My question is around the Mayor pointed out you have a business background and I'm sort of interested in how you'll use this on the Commission because I work with a lot of artists and they don't always have that piece of it.

Laura Spira-Savett

That's a good question. So I'll mention again I'm very new to the Commission so I think it depends on what they need. I hope I bring some business thinking to how we promote things, to how we reach people, and how we get the word out to folks. I think I'd be speaking too soon if I knew exactly how I'd use it, but I do appreciate the question.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great, thank you.

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE - None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS: WILLIAM GRADY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 1, 2025;**

**THE FOLLOWING NEW ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: RICHARD WIDHU WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 1, 2025;**

**THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT AND NEW APPOINTMENT TO CULTURAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE: DEEPA MANGALAT WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 28, 2025 AND CLAUDIA DECKER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MAY 24, 2025; AND**

**THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION: JOSEPH OLEFIROWICZ, DEANNA HOYING, AND LAUREN SPIRA-SAVETT ALL WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE MAY 31, 2025  
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

All thank you for your time. You'll be sworn in at the next Board of Alderman meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-22-015**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Tyler Gouveia  
Alderman John Cathey

Alderman Derek Thibeault

## **ESTABLISHING A GREELEY PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Note for the record that Alderman O'Brien has joined us in the chamber. I'm going to open this up for discussion. I think it's your piece of legislation Alderman Klee.

#### Alderman Klee

Thank you so much for everybody taking the time to look at that. I think that when Mr. Murphy spoke, he spoke quite elegantly about Greeley Park. Greeley Park is a beautiful place that we hold art events, we hold – there were times that we had Shakespeare in the Park, and we have the Fairy event at Greeley Park. There's a lot that goes on at Greeley Park and I think that it's time to give it its own voice. We have done that with Mine Falls. I think the Mayor could probably speak to this as well. So after I speak if he could have a moment as well.

The issue is that the stone house - we drive by, we see it looks beautiful. Any given weekend you can see people doing prom pictures there, you can see wedding pictures being taken there. I think it is probably one of the most, not necessarily the most, but one of the most photographed areas within the City. There is so much more potential there. I know I've spoken to people wanting to put in more paths and so on down at the I think that's considered the eastern end of the park. There are some paths in there already but to kind of give it the attention it needs. It doesn't necessarily mean that we'd be able to fund any of these things, but I think it would give a voice to that park. It's one of our larger parks in the City. We've heard before on different things have gone on. Trip Advisor speaks to Greeley Park and all that it has to offer. The truth is that at this point would be no cost to the City with possibly a staffing that would have to be part of this Commission and so on. I think it's a no cost, but a voice to a beautiful park and yes it is in my Ward so I'm slightly prejudiced about it. If the Mayor could speak also, I'd appreciate it.

#### Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess

#### Mayor Donchess

Thank you Madam Chair. Well our two premier parks in Nashua are of course Greeley and Mine Falls Park. We've had an Advisory Commission for Mine Falls for a long time and they have definitely strengthened the park. Not only do they meet with the Parks Director to talk about the direction of the park, but they also manage clean-up efforts, periodic volunteer efforts to make improvements at the park and clean things up, and they discuss problems and direction, problems to be corrected, and future direction of the park.

So the legislation here is modeled exactly after Mine Falls. It's really the same language with the exception of Mine Falls has a member of the Nashua River Watershed Association because it abuts the Nashua River. This legislation instead designates the Lower Merrimack River Advisory Council because the park abuts the Merrimack River. Certainly these, as Alderwoman Klee said, an Advisory Committee can help advocate, point out problems. Recently there have been illegal fires, people starting camp fires where they're not supposed to, needles, other things like that. Those things need to be addressed.

Also as Alderwoman Klee mentioned in terms of the future of the park, there is this whole area down by the river between the soccer fields and the river which really is underutilized and people should begin

thinking about if it should remain as it as or if there should be more trails. There is the potential for really beautiful vistas over the Merrimack River and because it abuts the Merrimack River. So like the Advisory Commission for Mine Falls, this can help strengthen our other major Nashua park.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. All set? Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I think to Alderman Klee's response or the Mayor, I was confused to the specific language prohibiting anybody from being in Parks and Recreation as being a member of the Committee. I can understand being a citizen representative and having a dual role where you don't want to have a voting role that might represent your boss but not having a liaison or an identified position of the role there from Parks and Recreation - I understand this Committee to be important because Nashua has done a great job with Greeley Park over the years. I think a huge part of that is Parks and Recreation, so I was wondering what the thought process there was?

Mayor Donchess

Well I think that language tracks the Mine Falls. The Parks Director definitely meets with and functions along with the Mine Falls Advisory Committee but is not actually a member of the Committee. So in order to mirror what we've done at Mine Falls which, again, I believe has been very successful, I think that language just was carried forward. Is it essential? I would say no, but it does mirror what we see at Mine Falls.

Alderman Lopez

Just a follow up. I would imagine that that Committee would be more successful with coordination with Parks and Recreation and I can kind of see the logic of not having an Advisory Committee advise itself, like have that department. So I guess I understand better now. I was just confused because it looked like there wasn't a role for them and I wanted to see that there would be.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. To what the Mayor had to say, I agree. It's kind of following that type of advice that we have from the Mine Falls Commission. I think to say that no member would be that meeting that they'd be no voting member and so on. I think having a liaison of a non-voting member - so for instance I am on the Arts Commission as a non-voting member just as a kind of give guidance and to bring it back forward to here but I think we tend to get - if we start putting a Board member on or even a Parks and Rec., we may dissuade them from some of the ideas that they may have. So I think it's good not to have them as a member, but it would not be a bad point to put them as an advisory type of advisory. I know it kind of sounds silly but just to help guide them if they come up with these huge ideas. I think it's working with the Mine Falls Commission and I think we should kind of keep it within that so it doesn't become too much.

Mayor Donchess

I assume the rational is because this is an advisory commission advising the Board of Aldermen and the Parks Department that a cross-over doesn't make sense. Now is that language essential? No but it is in the Mine Falls ordinance so we just mirrored it as I said.

Chairman Kelly

All set Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yes, I'm surprised that it's in the Mine Falls language. I never noticed that. I'm just trying to figure out scenarios where I feel like the city department is an essential partner to anything. They have the information needed and probably be valuable for supporting it and not even like I'm not exactly sure where our line ends and the Board of Public Works begins. I guess I was a little confused.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I have thoughts, but I didn't know if anyone else from the Committee wants to speak. Oh, I didn't see your hand Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

That's okay. Just an aside if this Committee saw fit to put a liaison on that, personally I know this is now in your hands so I don't have a voice in it but I personally would not have an issue with it. I just wouldn't want them to be a voting member because it looks like it's too city heavy and I would prefer this to be kind of a citizen type of active group.

I do agree with what Alderman Lopez said is that it's good to have them there maybe as a liaison to give advice and it may hold more weight when it forward to either Public Works because this will probably have a Public Works aspect much like Mine Falls does or the Board of Aldermen but I would not want to see a voting member from the Board or from Public Works.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Klee. Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam Chair. I would agree, I think a non-voting liaison would probably be good. I know I sit on the Airport Authority and I'm a non-voting member. I think it's just good to see from different perspective when you don't have to make the immediate decision. You're able to kind of look at it from a different angle. I think the whole idea itself is a great idea. I think anytime we can get citizens together who are passionate about saving a small part or not saving but maintaining a certain part of our City is a great idea and finding people who are passionate about saving Greeley Park and making sure it looks great. I think it's a very good idea.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. Yeah I didn't know how to vote coming in on this one. I wanted to hear kind of I thought I was going to get some different sides on it. Hearing the gentlemen speak earlier, I thought it really made sense especially hearing about Mines Falls and how it's helped the Mines Falls area. I think it's a good idea and I think to Alderman Gouveia's point, citizens want to speak and want to give their input. It doesn't cost anything so why not, right? So I think I am going to support it. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. I'll start by saying I absolutely think we have incredible parks in Nashua and I use them all the time with my children, by myself. Greeley especially is a beautiful park that we're so lucky to have.

My concern with this piece of legislation is that it's very focused on one park, which we already have Mine Falls but does it make sense to just have a Park Advisory Committee and then have people from different Wards or different parks kind of be those appointees so that we don't end up with a Roby Park Advisory Committee, and a Greeley Park, and a Mine Falls Park. Just asking to both sponsors of this legislation of what they think of that. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. On the surface, I think that sounds like a good idea but when I kind of delve into it, it's kind of similar to when we talked about the trust fund for Court Street. When we start putting everything together, we kind of dilute it. We have a building trust fund but we knew that the Court Street was special and needed to be special. Does Roby Park need an advisory committee? I would support that as well. Do you want to do a Park Advisory Committee of just the smaller parks? I don't have a problem with that. I think Greeley kind of stands on its own. It's one of our larger parks. I think even though Parks and Rec. is right there in Greeley Park, I think sometimes it doesn't get the attention that it needs. I know people say oh that's up in the north end. It gets lots of attention but the truth is we have a stage and a shell that has never been completed. It needs more attention to that. I think this advisory committee could actually look at all aspects of it. How can we take advantage of it?

One of the things that we've changed a lot are the baseball fields that are there and as the Mayor referred to it as the "soccer fields". If you talk to many people about the soccer fields at Greeley Park, they'll look at you like what soccer fields? They don't even realize that many of those have been turned into soccer fields and so on. It has the pickle ball court and so on. So I think the Advisory Committee could help to navigate how we can use the park better. It's a larger park. It's not one of the smaller parks that we have within the City. I know when we talked about - I won't go into the details of the Barker and Bartlett Street issue - but it came and they said Ward 3 has all these parks. Well yes and no. When you take the park as being the Firemen Memorial is considered a park in Ward 3, we don't have a lot of picnickers out there. So a Park Advisory would take all of those things into it.

I think Greeley is very unique in its own way and I would, again, I would support an Advisory Committee for Roby Park especially if the Aldermen came forward and explained why they felt this especially when we have disc golf and everything, maybe we do need one but I don't think it should preclude us having one for Greeley. We've shown the benefit of a very specific park, Advisory Committee for a very specific park when we looked at Mine Falls and yes Mine Falls is much larger than Greeley but it's different. I think that because of the diversity of all these other parks, we can't lump them in together. My opinion is the same thing of having a Building Trust Fund versus the Court Street Trust Fund. So thank you.

Mayor Donchess

I would say if you kind of spend some time with the people who were on the Mine Falls Advisory Committee, I'm sure they value Greeley Park but they're very passionate about that park. They're willing to go there on the weekends and work in the park, and organize, and they're constantly, and they pay a lot of attention to it. Therefore, I think that's what we want to duplicate. We want to find people who are passionate about Greeley Park specifically and they'll spend time on that particular park. If we wanted to do it for - I guess the #3 park in the City is Roby and we could do it there as well but certainly 1 and 2 and probably tied for first are Mine Falls and Greeley.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Yeah what I would hate to see kind of to Alderwoman Kelly's point is us going down the road of listing out all the parts and then creating 100 advisory committees for each one. But that being said, Greeley Park is not the largest park but certainly probably the most well-known park in Nashua. The Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee does a fantastic job and that park is such a large area that it needs help from a committee as the Mayor said dedicated volunteers that know the ins and outs, know the secret places, know what's going on, and can kind of bring different issues to the forefront, and basically reach out to the community for people who do care and are like minded and willing to work and put in the effort and things like that.

I think Greeley Park can use the same sort of effort and the same sort of community outreach and I think this is a great way to do that. I think when it comes to these advisory committees you have to look at the area that you're talking about, and whether or not it's large enough to support such a committee, and whether or not its diverse enough to have a committee that can meet every month and talk about a number of different issues that run the gamut of "well there's performances at the stage here, and there's e-coli in the river here, and we have a boat launch here, and on this side there's a development that's happening if people want to talk about that. It's so multi-faceted that you need a group like that versus a smaller park that maybe just has a baseball park in it, or one thing whatever, and it probably doesn't need the attention, and probably has people that already are dedicated to it on their own or it's easier to oversee from the Parks Department point of view they don't need the help of an advisory committee for a smaller park like that.

So I agree with you. I think we need to be cautious about doing down the road of having an advisory committee for every single park in Nashua but I think on the other hand, I think that this one is going to be a good thing for Greeley Park. I think if we can get people together who are passionate about it, know the ins and outs, know what the neighbors are saying, know what the visitors are saying, and things like that, I think will be doing a good thing for our community.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. I have a couple of other questions and thoughts. One of the things that we've come against recently with Roby Park and other ideas that people come up with which are great is also the conservation of wetlands and things. So had you considered, I don't think I saw it, having someone from the Conservation Commission or how are we interfacing with the Conservation Commission when we're making changes with the parks?

Mayor Donchess

As with Mine Falls, a member of the Conservation Commission is a designated member of the Greeley Park Advisory Committee. So the language is two members will be appointed for the length of their tenure on the Conservation Commission. That's the same with Mine Falls and Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee. So the Lower Merrimack Organization is, again, at Mine Falls that's the Nashua River Watershed Association but a member of the Conservation Commission would be on there.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great thank you.

Alderman Klee

And it does add to the completion of their tenure. So once they're appointed to there if they would leave the Commission, someone else would have to go on there but it's not like they have to keep being appointed. So as long as their tenure is active, they would be on it. So we should not lose anybody from the Commission. I agree with you. That was actually one of the first things I looked for was to

make sure of that because we do have hidden wetlands within the park and so on. Thank you for bringing that forward.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you for the answer. So I think Alderman Clemons brings up good points. I think Greeley is a unique park. I still have concerns about equity of voice and that the two downtown parks are going to have lots of voices. I know you specifically Alderman Klee helped clean up the tot lots, etc. So I'll level with you. I will support this but I think we need a park advisory board for these smaller parks that really don't get the attention that they need either.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I 100% agree with you. I think our smaller parks such as the tot lots do kind of get lost within the neighborhoods. I think it would also help park advisory and I know this is kind of going off subject, but I think a park advisory committee would be very good to ensure that we did have parks in every one of our Wards because right now I don't think that we do. So I think it would kind of help bring that conversation forward. I would not want to see a park advisory per park because as I pointed out, the Firemen's Memorial is considered a park in the City and we do not want to have...

Mayor Donchess

I think there might be 38 parks.

Alderman Klee

Yeah. We've got quite a few parks and some of them are very small. I mean even Foster Square is considered a park. Truthfully other than I call it the "poop land", it really is not a park per se that people would go to. I think a Park Advisory Committee or however you would want to do it in addition to something like that would kind of bring the voice to the parks. I don't think our citizens know how much we have here in Nashua. We kind of hide them away. Trip Advisor referred to Greeley Park as the "gem of Nashua" and why I take a lot of pride in that, we have a lot of gems in Nashua. I have to say they haven't been to Mine Falls if they say that, or maybe they haven't been to Roby Park, or even any of the tot lots. People that live in those areas are very proud of their little parks. So I do agree with you as far as a general and maybe putting one of the members of each these other advisory - the Greeley and so on, on that park advisory would help.

Mayor Donchess

So you know June Lemen when she wrote for the Telegraph did a series on which she visited every single park in Nashua and wrote article about it.

Chairwoman Kelly

I want to find those.

Mayor Donchess

Yeah it was quite good. That's where I think I got the idea of 38 but we should ask Ms. Lemen and she'll be able to tell us the exact number.

Chairwoman Kelly

We might have more by now hopefully. Okay, I will stop beating the same drum here. I think we've talked through these points and I think a park advisory will be something that I'm going to put in very

soon so hopefully you and I can work on that. I think approaching it as these are the two biggest parks. The rest of the parks can go under a park advisory and having liaisons sounds like a good approach, but we can talk about it. Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Madam Chair before we take the vote, can I please just clarify. We haven't added in language for a non-voting liaison. Would that be something we would want to go forward with?

Chairwoman Kelly

Oh, you wanted to add that.

Alderman Klee

May I just make a suggestion that there be a liaison from both Public Works and the Board of Aldermen as non-voting? If you want to just do it from Public Works, I would be happy with that as well. But I think as Alderman Gouveia had mentioned, one of the aspects of having someone from Board of Aldermen there is that when it comes forward we can be the voice for that whether we vote it or not. I always think it's good so we can enlighten each other as to it.

Chairwoman Kelly

So to clarify, you're saying you would like, and someone on the Committee is going to have to make a motion, a non-voting member from...?

Alderman Klee

The Board of Aldermen as well as a designee from the Public Works and Parks and Rec. Let them make the decision to who sits on it. I think much like the Planning Board.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I would just caution picking a liaison from the Board of Public Works without asking them whether they want to have a liaison. They're going to be here tomorrow night so we can ask them that question and make any motions at the full Board of Aldermen meeting.

Chairwoman Kelly

Do you want to hold...? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, I would support adding one from the Board of Aldermen. I think we should let the Board of Public Works decide if they want to engage with this Committee after it's established to have a liaison. They can always establish that on their own and just have somebody that works with the committee and the committee can decide whether they want to do that if that's the case. That is the approach I would take.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah so I had the same thought. When we were talking earlier, it was expressed that it wouldn't be opposed to. I was kind of like oh we can do it for anyone – and Alderman. They can always put a new amendment in. So I kind of wanted to check and see what Parks and Rec. how they felt because they may feel like putting a staff member there who doesn't get a vote. They'd rather it be optional rather than a role. It looks like its empty and I was a little hesitant about actually adding a member of the Board of Aldermen too without talking to the President because we have a lot of committees to liaison with so not exactly sure what the obligations of that would look like. I think at least checking with Parks and Rec prior to the full Board meeting would be a good idea.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mayor Donchess do we have a liaison to the Mine Falls Park Advisory from the Board of Aldermen?

Alderman Klee

Yes we do.

Mayor Donchess

I'm not sure.

Alderman Klee

We do.

Alderman Clemons

We do.

Mayor Donchess

I don't know who it is though. Who is it?

Alderman Comeau

We do have one because I wanted to put in for it, but I didn't get it.

Mayor Donchess

Okay so the answer is yes.

Alderman Gouveia

Yes, I would have to agree. I don't want to speak for another board before consulting with them or tying them to an obligation of adding a liaison. So I'd like to move to amend the ordinance adding in a non-voting liaison from the Board of Aldermen.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO AMEND BY ADDING A SENTENCE TO THE END OF § 12-42 AND SHALL READ, "A NON-VOTING MEMBER FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN SHALL BE CHOSEN TO SERVE ON THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE."**

Chairwoman Kelly

The motion is to amend. Any discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Donchess

Thank you very much Madam Chair.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED  
MOTION CARRIED**

Alderman Klee

Madam President I think I need to take back what I said. I'm looking at the membership of the Mine Falls Advisory Commission and I do not see a member from the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Comeau

I just pulled up all of our liaisonships and it's not on there.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, we're not on there.

Chairwoman Kelly

We can always talk about it tomorrow and change it tomorrow.

Alderman Klee

I think Aldermen have shown up at the meeting but it's yeah.

Chairwoman Kelly

Well we can address it once it goes before the Board.

Alderman Clemons

Just briefly on that. I think we made the right decision – my opinion, I think we made the right decision tonight. If anything, I think we need to add one to the Mine Falls.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay great, we're going to move on.

**O-22-016**

Endorsers: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderman Thomas Lopez

**CLARIFYING ANIMAL PROHIBITIONS IN PARKS**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

And this is yours Alderman Klee so I'll let you speak to it first.

Alderman Klee

I know there was a lot of controversy about this on social media people saying "you're not going to allow my dogs in parks?" It has absolutely nothing to do with - it's just taking the current signage and just saying "pet". There are places that don't allow dogs or horses, but you can take your alligator, your chicken, whatever you want there but you can't bring a dog or horse into certain parts. All this does is clarify those particular parks to change it. This was brought forward through the ADPAC - the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Commission. I believe it was Officer Langus our Animal Control Officer or ACO who asked to have this clarification.

The reason for it is we often say is that we bring forward needs and he had a need. He had someone who had actually brought something that was not dog and a horse. Truthfully, it is escaping my brain but we had a very long conversation about it. I cannot tell you what it was. I think it was a reptile of some sort. To be honest with you, I've known even Greeley Park where dogs will always be allowed but there was someone who was sunning their boa constrictor not that long ago. So this will not affect Greeley Park. Greeley Park will stay boa constrictor friendly, and I'm not advertising that, but there are some smaller parks where dogs and horses are not allowed for various reasons. Probably the "poo" issue, especially of a horse and of a dog. He just wanted to clarify it.

The cost to this based on the analysis is about \$5,000 and that is for the changing of signs. There's no other cost to that. Once the signs are changed, it's just the average cost of changing signs and so on throughout the City. One of the things is that we have a lot of conflicting signs in the City where it says there's a sign there that says, "no dogs allowed here". Pennichuck is one of those places. So on the field there's a sign that says "no dogs allowed". That's very clear but within a foot of that sign, it says "please pick up after your dog". So which is it? Is my dog not allowed in there or do I have to pick up its poo? So this is going to fix those signs. Kind of clear up those signs and it won't say "dogs" it will say "no pets" and that's kind of some of the things that were going on.

Chairwoman Kelly

Wow, there are a lot of people who want to talk about this. Alderman Clemons and Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Clemons

So yeah when I was younger, when I was in high school, I worked at CVS in downtown Nashua. When you walked in, it said "no shirt, no shoes, no service" and it also said "no pets". One time I was standing by the door and a guy walks and he's got no shirt on, no shoes, and he's a giant boa constrictor wrapped around him. I just looked at him and I said, "sorry man you're violating all three". You've got to go." It's funny because the point is, right, we're updating the ordinance so it says "pets". I think back to my time at CVS and clearly it said "pets" and it makes sense because you want to be clear with people about what the expectation is in different places. You also want to give the Parks Superintendent the latitude to be able to clarify what is and isn't allowed in certain areas. I think this certainly does that. I don't think it changes anything at all as to what we are currently doing except to say maybe updating some of that where well unfortunately you can't bring your boa constrictor, you can't do this in certain places, you really shouldn't have been able to do that all along. That's sort of the intent of the ordinance and certainly support it.

Alderman Lopez

I think it's also a good improvement to change it "pets". The only reason I know this is when I was in college my glasses were even worse than they are now and so I was not a fan of the possibility

presented to me of getting a seeing eye dog and they legit tried to convince me I wanted a seeing eye mini pony. I was like that's not fair. If you have legislation that explicitly says you can't have a horse, or a dog, versus a pet like if you say it's a pet, then service animals aren't excluded. So I think that's a better update than just specifically saying random things you can't.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

I'd like us to clarify that very quickly because we're replacing the fence and all the signs at Pennichuck. I'd hate to replace them twice. Let's get the wording down because those two signs are coming down.

Alderman Gouveia

Yeah just one quick point from you if I can to Alderman Klee. Just so I'm clear, I think I have it right, so this would make it so it would tell you where you can't have a dog, correct instead of where you can? Okay. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

To that point, there was conversation as to do we start posting signs to "your pet is allowed here" and so on. I think that was going to create confusion because most people see signs that prohibit not allow. So that's one of the things that did it.

If I may just add one more thing. One of the other controversies on social media was pets versus farm animals. Someone said "can I bring my cow there"? Technically speaking, you probably know why. But there will be someone that will push that envelope. I think there is State and perhaps Alderman O'Brien will know, I think there's State legislation because we were a farming community that allows farm animals – very specific farm animals – when they are – I don't necessarily mean leashed but have to do that that can be allowed onto certain parks. I don't really want to go down that way but I want to address it because it was brought up and sometimes I shake my head and say I'm not even typing anymore. It's not worth it.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm going to bring my leashed chicken. I think Alderman Comeau was next.

Alderman Comeau

On the face of this, I have no general problem with this legislation. I did have a couple of nitpicky questions if I could ask through you to the author of the legislation?

Chairwoman Kelly

Sure.

Alderman Comeau

I just was curious since we just had this conversation about pets and what is a pet if it would make more sense to just say "animals"? When I saw this on the agenda, I looked up the definition of "pet" and it says, "a tame animal". I could just imagine somebody with a python saying this isn't a pet because it doesn't...so I didn't know if it would make more sense to just make it "animals" and then I would like to know if it would be prudent to maybe add some language excluding officially license service animals

from this. I know we kind of assume that that's the case and we have the ADA and everything, but maybe just putting it on paper that saying it doesn't apply to that would be prudent.

The third and last I had was I wanted confirmation because the language in the existing ordinance does say they're "prohibited except where allowed" and this would change it to "allowed except where prohibited". Does that mean we have to resign all the parks that already have existing signage? I like the idea of they are prohibited everywhere. I know there is a lot of baseball fields that are used – baseball and softball fields but there's no signage but we know that you can't bring dogs on the baseball field for the "poo" reason. So I'd hate to think we'd have to go around to every baseball and softball field and add signage. Right now the existing ordinance already prohibits it except in the designated places where we do allow it. So I wonder if that change is also necessary.

#### Alderman Klee

Thank you. I really appreciate you bringing each of those topics up. First to address the thing about the animals and let me write ballpark so I remember to go back to it. The thing about animals and we did talk about that. We had a very lengthy conversation about it. The problem with animals is then you get people who are going to stand there and go the squirrel is there, the fox is there. So it became quite hard to define. You can't bring your animal in there or you can't do that when there are animals in general running around in there. That's why they opted for pet and you're right. People can say well my boa constrictor isn't tamed so it's not really a pet, but I think the looser definition (maybe not the Webster definition), but it's a domesticated animal that is living within your home and so on and so forth versus even farm animal. I grew up where my great grandmother had a pet cow and that cow met you at the bottom of the driveway and walked up with you. So you know I still would not expect her to have brought her cow here but it was her pet.

To the ball park comment, they are prohibited on the field while play is happening but because the ball parks aren't all incased in fencing, such as at Greeley Park, we can't stop people from walking their dogs across the ballpark. So the only time, and I had the same issue with the tot lots, not all the tot lots are dog prohibited or pet prohibited. Only the ones that were fenced in could we put something to that. It's very difficult to say to a person who has their dog, you can't go from here to here. You're going to have to find a whole other road to go through that. So I think the City has put in that at least it was explained to me. I have not gone and looked at the ordinance so I don't want to quote anything but the way it was explained to me was that we can't stop someone from walking their dog but during play and so on, they could cite someone. They could stop them from doing that. It's kind of one of those gray areas and I'm not really sure if we actually have put that into the ordinance so I don't want to say that I know that for a fact. When I did speak to Parks and Rec about the tot lot and about ballparks that was kind of the explanation that was given to me. Did I hit all your points?

#### Alderman Comeau

For the most part. There are a lot of fenced in ballparks that are not like the ones at Greeley. I think we don't want dogs on even when there is not playing because a lot of people don't clean them up and then when I go to my softball games we have to walk the outfield before the games to "depoop" them which is no fun.

#### Alderman Klee

May I comment Madam Chairman? I agree with you Alderman Comeau. I think anything that's fenced in, we should be putting up signs. I don't care how many of the parks that we have. We should be putting up signs that say they not allowed within a fenced in park. The reason for that is because what happens too often is much like what happens in the tot lot is people that live in apartments and want to let their dogs run, but don't necessarily belong to a dog park. Hopefully at the dog park we're doing will give them some space, they want to let the dog - it's a nice safe environment within a gated community. We have that with our soccer fields and so on. So I think prohibiting something like that, we've done it

with our cemeteries. We've done it with the fenced in tot lots. I think it would be a good idea to have that kind of signage for that fenced in, any kind of fenced in athletic field.

Alderman Comeau

So I just wanted to be clear so if we do pass this as written are those ball fields going to be resigned? Is that what the administrative costs associated with the legislation is for?

Alderman Klee

I believe it is and if I'm wrong I will correct that before the next Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

I'll bring up Alderman Clemons favorite topic when you talk "ordinance". I didn't see if there was a specific fine if you violate these signs number one. If it's not an ordinance, you can be fined up to \$1,000 as Alderman Clemons well knows because we have been down that road before. The other thing is, who enforces it?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Both very good questions. The enforcement usually falls within the Animal Control Officer. Of course, he's only there – right we have one and he's there Monday through Thursday, I think, and one weekend he now works. He has limited hours, but it's also enforced by our Police Department. Parks and Rec will shoo people out and so on.

Will they do fines? We have fines for being off leash. We have fines for pooping and not picking it up. There are dollar amounts that are put to that and this Board actually did, I think it was actually the \$25 fine, is what we did put in Ordinance not that long ago. I think it was within the past year and that's part of what the Animal Park Board Advisory did. So there may not be fines for violating bringing your dog in, but yes there are fines for not having your dog on a leash and not picking up after it.

One of the things I can tell you is that when I speak to our Animal Control Officer is he does not like giving out tickets for this. He will for repeat offenders, but he likes to do much like our Police Department does let's educate before we do fining, before we do arrests, before we do anything like this. So it doesn't always mean anything to put up a sign and people are just going to ignore it. There are those that are going to ignore it and there are those people who are going to be aware. I'll be honest with you I always brought my dog, especially in the winter time, walking through the City cemeteries. They're perfect. They're paved. People abused it and now we have it posted in our cemeteries that you cannot bring your dog in there. It broke my heart because it was a nice safe place for me to walk my dog but because people abused and so on. I would never bring my dog in there. Will somebody else do it? Probably. I can't fix the world but I think we can at least make it a little bit better by putting something like this in it. Thank you for your questions.

Alderman Comeau

Sorry it's my own fault for asking so many questions the first time and I appreciate your answers. I think you missed the question I had about the service animals. What are your opinions about adding language to exempt service animals?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much Madam Chairwoman. Thank you for the question. I apologize because it did hit my head. We did talk about that and there is basically the ADA that says service animals can go almost anywhere. I think even into kitchens and so on. I think when we start putting in verbiage like that where it already exists what happens if that law changed, for instance say they said accept in this thing, we'd have to remember to go and find it and make the exception here. Where it already exists, I don't know if we want to duplicate it. I think it creates confusion with legislation. I can tell you that from even here in the City one of the things that the Animal Control Officer the reason why you see so many of these type of legislations, he's been going through and saying okay well this one is contradicting this one and so on. So the more places you put things, the more things you have to remember to correct. So while it already exists, I do agree with you it would help. What we do often times if you don't samples of the signs here but on the signage we always put "exception within ADA compliance". They cite those type of RSAs and so on. So I don't think it needs to be in the legislation but I think it's a good point to bring up at least for conversation for the community to hear.

Alderman Comeau

I'm glad to hear the conversation happened during the writing of the legislation so thank you.

Alderman Klee

May I just compliment the ADPAC Committee? I know Alderman Lopez was also – he was on it as the liaison and now he is the alternate liaison. They are a hard working group of people that constantly push the boundary of but the what if. My only claim to fame there is I seem to talk about poo all the time. Seems to be my favorite subject.

Chairwoman Kelly

Did I ever get to your Alderman Dowd or did we go back and forth with Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Dowd

No you got to me but if I remember this Committee, I'd move the question.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE  
MOTION CARRIED**

**O-22-017**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Derek Thibeault

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

## **ESTABLISHING A HOUSING TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

### **MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

#### ON THE QUESTION

##### Chairwoman Kelly

We have Director Cummings and Director Sullivan joining us in the horseshoe. Let's start off by giving us some background on the piece of legislation please.

##### Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Yes, absolutely thank you Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director. I do just want to say from cows, to boa constrictors, to the arts. That's a range this evening. I just want to add some variety to that.

In all seriousness, thank you for having this evening. My name is Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director. I'm here this evening to speak briefly to 0-22-17, which is a piece of legislation to specifically establish a Housing Trust Fund Committee for the City of Nashua and it's only to establish the Committee. I'll get into a little more about that in a few minutes. But first by way of background for the newer members of the Board, the Housing Trust Fund was initially re-established in 2021 as part of a piece of legislation and seed funded with \$30,000. That after an initial establishment decades before under Mayor Donchess' prior terms with the City of Nashua. This is an Expendable Trust Fund by nature and in fact the Mayor as indicated is the agent to expend under the Trust Fund. The intent of the fund was broad in nature but generally intended to support the implementation activities of a few different planning efforts that had been done by the City, including the 2020 Housing Study, the Imagine Nashua Master Plan, and subsequent inclusionary zoning work that's been done by the City amongst the execution of other plans as well.

Generally those activities were bounded by the fact that they might include efforts to support low and moderate income housing efforts to actually support first time home buyer programs, to support the preservation of affordable housing units generally, amongst a variety of other activities. But I want to, again, reinforce this evening that the actual activities of the Housing Trust Fund are not a piece of this legislation. They'll subsequently be decided under the deliberation of this Committee. So we won't get into specifics of what the programs will look like this evening.

From a funding perspective, the trust was set up under an initial appropriation of \$30,000. That was actually the compounded appropriation of a \$10,000 payment that's made annually by Clock Tower Place to the City of Nashua under a 1998 agreement. Again, it's a \$10,000 contribution that will continue into the future. In addition to that, the intent at that time and contemplation at that time was that the fund would continue to be replenished via payments from the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, and the payments in lieu that happened for units within that, as well as the contemplated allocation to the fund that we're talking about more generally that being the ARPA dollars and a range of around \$10 million potentially being contributed to that fund, which we're very excited about and I know will result in further conversation with the Board moving forward.

The first step is really the creation of this committee. This committee is intended to specifically provide recommendations to the Mayor in his role as agent to expend in how the program should be administered, what specific projects might be undertaken under the purview of the fund, and really to create the guidelines, and provide public outreach and education about how the fund is being used while also providing general support to housing issues currently going on in the City. In addition to making recommendations on how the fund will be used, as I mentioned before, the three sort of critical activities

that the committee would undertake in its infancy would be created the trust fund guidelines, creating the scoring criteria that some members of the public raised at the initial public comment session, and setting eligibility parameters for how investments would be made at certain income levels where as part of certain projects that may have unique characteristics as well.

The committee will support a variety of other housing issues as I mentioned a few minutes ago and also make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen in the context of inclusionary zoning and other zoning policies that may need to be modified in the future. So while this is dedicated to the Housing Trust Fund, we do look at this very much so as a group of housing subject matter experts that will advise the Mayor and Board more generally, including staff as well.

Specifically within the legislation that is before you this evening the committee is constituted with seven members and I'll just quickly review what those are for the benefit of the public and certainly members of the Committee. One is a representative for the Board of Aldermen and this is for a two year term. I point that out because the remainder of the folks included here are really intended to be a three year term. The second is a representative or member of a low income community. We'll get into specifics of what that is as we set the guidelines for the actual program. The third is a licensed NH attorney as we do expect there will be some legal matters that will need support in the committee's regular business, and that also leads to the fourth member which is a finance professional who has specific experience related to housing lending and the programs associated with housing lending. The fifth is a representative of the Housing Advocacy Community. That's not intended to be a specific organization. This would be, again, an appointment at the pleasure of the Mayor from the community more generally. We have a few folks in the room this evening that have been tremendously supportive of both this legislation and precedent housing legislation. We look to those folks to provide some expertise and assistance to the work of this committee. And then finally a bit unusual but not and I'll explain why in just a second. We are suggesting that two staff members actually serve as voting members of the committee specifically because of the technical nature of this committee's work. We have suggested through this legislation that the City's Economic Development Director, and myself the Community Development Division Director, or our successors whoever those might or designees, would serve as members six and seven on the proposed committee structure.

As I mentioned before, the terms of these members would be three years with exception of the aldermanic representative, which would be a two-year term. In the initiation of the committee's work if formed, these would be staggered such that we don't have a wholesale change happening in a few years. So we'd start with a staggered set of terms. As I mentioned just a moment ago, these appointments would be made by the Mayor. So they would not be returning to the Board of Aldermen for confirmation but the appointments by the Mayor specifically to the committee.

Then finally, I wanted to point out something it's a bit awkward but I want to explain it. It is that within the legislation, the Community Development Division Director is proposed to be the Chair of the Committee. What was contemplated there as is contemplated in our TIF committee and in our Revolving Loan Fund Committee is that the Chair would serve as a really a passive and facilitating Chair only. Really being less of an active member in the conversations that happen at the committee level and even some of the votes that happen at the committee level. So the intent is to provide that administrative support facilitation to the committee and its work and therefore we recommended a staff person serve as the Chair with the Economic Development Director serving as the Vice Chair in that person's absence.

Again I expect there may be questions from the Committee this evening about the specific activities that are contemplated within the Housing Trust Fund as it's been set up. We're excited about those too, but I'm not sure I'll be prepared to answer any questions because it's really going to be the work of this Committee that will lay the foundation and groundwork for decisions that will be made in the future. That said, I'm happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have. I expect I may have missed something that Director Cummings may want to comment on or perhaps not but thank you for your consideration this evening.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. So you said it would not come back to the Board of Aldermen for us to confirm appointments by the Mayor and all?

Chairwoman Kelly

No they would.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, they would still.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

That's correct. I misspoke. These will be Mayoral appointments.

Alderman Thibeault

We would confirm them?

Chairwoman Kelly

Correct.

Alderman Thibeault

So I mean I look at this and think this is a great idea. I'm all for the committee. I think we have a housing problem here in Nashua. I'm afraid in a couple years the bubble is going to burst because I hear it in south Nashua. I hear that rent has gone up so much and they have really no other place to go so they have to stay there. I've been asked questions about what can I do to go against my landlord and there really is nothing. So I think a committee for this is great. I think affordable housing is to what Reverend Newhall said earlier, affordable is different to everybody. Is it a young couple that are just starting out, is it someone that's homeless? What does affordable mean to you is all different so I'm all for this and I'll support it.

Chairman Kelly

Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Yes thank you Madam Chair. Through you to Director Sullivan. I just had a quick question about something you said when you were describing the membership. I'm just curious if you envisioned the role of the Chair and Vice Chair more as facilitators why not make them non-voting members then?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

It's a very appropriate question and one that we certainly had some debate about internally. Despite the fact that I do very much view them as being in a facilitation role, I do think that both the Economic Director and the Community Development Director in their subject matter expertise are qualified to make

recommendations. As a result, we did recommend them as voting members. So I don't want to devalue that expertise by saying that it's facilitating only. I mean to say that during the committee's deliberations, they'll serve in that function but I do think they are positioned well to actually make recommendations.

Alderman Comeau

Excellent, thank you.

Chairman Kelly

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

So I'm reading the legislation right now. For the Mayoral appointments, it does say that "will be appointed by the Mayor" and there's a period after that. So I mean I would think that it would be our best practice to say in each one of those it's appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen. So actually I'm going to make a Motion to amend that I believe it's items under 1245, 1245a, #2, 3, 4 and 5 that we add each one of those "and will be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen" and so that is my motion.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND THAT ITEMS UNDER 1245, 1245A, #2, 3, 4 AND 5 ADDING AFTER EACH ONE OF THOSE "AND WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN"**

Chairman Kelly

Motion is to amend subject to...

Alderman Clemons

Yes so will be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation of the Board of Alderman.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Any questions? Discussion?

Alderman Clemons

So if I could speak to that. So basically what this does is it puts us in lining with our current practices where especially where this Committee so anyone that got appointed would come and go through this process that we have here and it would follow that regular process, which is our standard practice for most of these.

Chairman Kelly

Okay. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I was going to ask Directors Cummings and Sullivan if they had any objections, but I also heard Director Cummings just state the corrections, so do you have any concerns about us confirming members of the committee?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

I'll go first. No problems whatsoever. In fact, I thought that that language had already been included so I welcome the addition.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you and I absolutely agree with what you just said. When I was looking - and I'm just talking to amendments - I don't know if you can do more than one amendment at a time. The question I have is once you make an amendment, can you make another amendment or do you have to do it all at once?

Chairwoman Kelly

You can further amend, yes.

Alderman Klee

I do have a question about the aldermanic person so I can wait as a separate amendment. I just want to make sure that once I know in the State House we can only amend once.

Alderman Dowd

Parliamentary you can make two on a motion.

Chairman Kelly

Two on a motion. I feel like during barriers you further amended several times.

Alderman Thibeault

We disposed of most of our amendments and then took...

Alderman Klee

Circled back.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons knowing that perhaps we only have two motions to amend, would you like to hold your Motion to Amend to get the full discussion?

Alderman Clemons

Well I think we should take each amendment as they go.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd is saying that is not parliamentary.

Alderman Clemons

No, that's.

Alderman Dowd

You can pass an amendment and then bring up another one. You just can't have an amended amendment.

Chairwoman Kelly

An amended amendment is what you're saying is incorrect. Okay, thank you.

Alderman Klee

And my comment doesn't amend the amendment.

Chairwoman Kelly

You're not amending the amendment. Let's just vote on this one, okay great. Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

I was just going to say that when Alderman Clemons was talking I pulled up some of the NRO's and that's the exact language that's on most of the committee, so I would support that motion if I had a vote, which I don't.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. The Motion is to Amend.

**MOTION CARRIED**Chairwoman Kelly

Okay so we have before us an amended O-22-017. Let's continue with discussions for recommendation of final passage. I'm going with Committee members first Alderman Klee. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

To Directors Cummings or Alderman Sullivan – I don't want to down review that. Director Sullivan so affordable housing isn't used anywhere on this. Is that term inaccurate?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

Yes. The basic answer is that this Committee and the funds intended to include allocations that may go beyond the scope of affordable housing. That's intended to be flexible and speaks to also some of the public comments that we heard the beginning of this evening. You'll see that there is specific contemplation within some of the whereas here. Projects where providing affordable housing is complicated by other site components or other economic factors. So ultimately, this Committee may be considering within its guidelines projects that are not strictly affordable housing.

Alderman Lopez

I think that's important to understand. I think that's important to understand because I think a lot of people in the community are looking at this with very tunnel vision. This is a silver bullet for low income housing and it's been very consistently presented that there is a component of that and there's a component of what affordable housing is which might include low income housing. You're taking an

environmental holistic approach. This isn't specifically just going to approach that one issue.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

I think that that's a very accurate description. What I would suggest is I do believe that the affordability aspect is going to play an oversized role. I think it's going to be a significant portion of the work but what we know is twofold. One - we really want this Committee to generate the guidelines, and to generate the programs that come out of it, and that will be a discussion that is held by the group, and I'm sure brought before you on various occasions to discuss.

The second element of this is we will be following all the planning work that has been done. We have a housing plan that was done that articulates certain recommendations. We would be looking at that type of document to help steer us in the course of direction as we start to fill out the programs. So one example, and Director Sullivan mentioned it, from time to time this group could be the group to steward a home ownership type program to help with home ownership. It wouldn't necessarily be a strict affordability component to that type of programming, but a housing trust fund would be an appropriate place for this community look to be the place where the resources were available to fund such a program. So I wanted to kind of further add some additional details to that. Thank you Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons is that a follow up?

Alderman Clemons

Yes. I wanted to speak to the legislation in general. I wanted to say that I think it's good legislation. The trust fund was good legislation and I think it's very similar, although completely different, but very similar in approach to the Downtown Improvement Committee where you have a significant fund. This one is going to be much more significant, but you have an advisory committee that oversees the funds and oversees what projects and things like that that can be done for it. I think that's very important. I think the make-up of the committee too I think is very well done. So I certainly am going to support it.

To the previous conversation about the affordability aspect, I think leaving it open to be as broad as possible I think is the right way to go. I think about my own past experience here on the Board of Aldermen and I think about the Cotton Mill Square Project, which was not strictly an affordable housing project but it was a 50/50 if you will project that 50% of that project was income based housing and the other 50% was market rate. In order to get that done, the City has to put up some like a tax freeze. I think there was some money that had to be put up for that project in order for it to move forward. So did it strictly go to affordable housing? No but half of that building is affordable housing now. So we have to be open. We have to be flexible. We have to be willing to work and I think with developers who are coming forward and are saying well I can do this, but the City is going to have to put up a little bit. I think having that understanding, I think, and having that flexibility to be able to do this, I think, is very important. I appreciate that approach and I think that's the right approach.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you again Madam Chairwoman. The comment that I had and not being a voting member on this Committee it is just kind of my putting it out there. The aldermanic membership, the aldermanic liaison to this where the Human Affairs Committee was and you are quite instrumental in the Housing Trust Fund and so on. Would it not behoove us to perhaps make it the - and we've done it for other committees - make it specifically the Chair of the Human Affairs Committee or even a member of the

Human Affairs Committee because much like Community Development and so on, it would have that aspect of it. I see that Director Cummings is wiggling in his chair there so he wants to comment.

Chairwoman Kelly

Director Cummings?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Thank you Madam Chair. I make it a policy not to get in the middle of Board of Aldermen business. So whatever the pleasure of this body is in terms of whether you want it to be the President, or the Chair of some sort of committee, whatever the pleasure of the body is I do want a member of the Board of Aldermen to be an active participant similar to the Downtown Improvement Committee or the Business Industrial Development Authority. We have liaisons and we would like that.

Alderman Klee

And the only reason why I brought that up was I think the member from the Human Affairs Committee kind of has that expertise and the knowledge of, for instance a trust fund, the need within the community, and so on. I think the Human Affairs Committee deals a lot with it. That's why I thought that they would be more beneficial than to maybe put somebody from Committee on Infrastructure, which that may too again, this is the pleasure of that committee member and I just wanted to add something that is related to what Alderman Clemons had brought up before. I like the broad definition of affordable housing and so on. Our inclusionary zoning and perhaps one of the two Directors sitting over there looking this way can - that I think helps with adding to that trust fund as well as to ensure we do have affordable housing within all new large developments. Am I correct on that?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

Yes, you're absolutely correct. Having that ordinance in place was a tremendous step forward that will not only create affordable housing units but will in some cases actually contribute dollars and cents to this very fund. So you're absolute right that was a critical component in implementation as well.

Alderman Klee

So, again, just to the Human Affairs, I just think it lends the expertise to this particular group but it's your decision as to whether or not you would want to make that amendment.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I would leave it more general as opposed to appointing somebody from a particular committee. The only reason that I say that is because you don't know in the future what expertise might come our way on this Board and what committee they may or may not serve on. So if we have somebody on this Board that is a housing guru but they're not on the Human Affairs Committee, we might be kicking ourselves by restricting ourselves to that. So I'm just saying I think we leave it every other appointment or most of them up to the discretion of the President of the Board. We elect the President of the Board amongst ourselves to make those hard decisions, and to consult with the Vice President, and other members, and I think that's how we should leave it.

Alderman Klee

Good point.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Since I am Chair of the Committee of Human Affairs, I definitely wouldn't feel comfortable making a motion that the Chair be inserted into this. I would be more supportive of somebody from Human Affairs liaising with it if there was the sense that there is likely to be a lot of cooperative grant funding or approval and it would be helpful for someone to come and do that. I also know that Director Sullivan and Director Cummings are frequent flyers at Human Affairs so we could just as easily do that. I think Alderman Clemons makes a good point that at the end of the day, it's probably better to let the President make those kinds of determinations. I have a lot of experience in housing myself but I wasn't even always on Human Affairs.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

I agree with Alderman Clemons.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. The Committee is no hands up. I have a number of questions. So I think I'll start with the specific structure and how you came about with it. Did you look at other cities and how they structured their Housing Trust Fund to inform your decisions on who would be on this?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

We did. We certainly looked at best practice in other communities but we also had some engagement with the housing advocacy community as well and some of our subject matter experts working in the City. In addition to RKG who was the City's housing consultant on the Housing Study in the inclusionary zoning work, we tapped into all those resources and expertise groups to come up with this strategy. Obviously the seven is the perfect effective group number, so we happened to land on that but we felt it was critical to bring in particularly sort of this lived experience representative as well who is a member of a low income community. Also felt it important to sort of have that advocacy role serving with the group as well. So it was sort of the perfect balance I think of technical experts and also those who have experienced this type of issue directly and ultimately this is where we landed.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Question two. Thank you. There are a couple of members that I had question marks around and one was the lawyer. I know you said there would be some things coming forward, but generally we have counsel in City Hall so sort of wondering do we need that.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

I think we do and specifically Madam Chair I believe that an attorney with dedicated experience to putting together these types of affordable housing projects is what we are looking to. Certainly Corporation Counsel has a breath of expertise and very general expertise, but this is really somebody who is dedicated to real estate law. The language may not specifically say that, but that's who we'd be

looking for as an appointment. These are very complex deals when it comes to the larger projects, not so much so with some of these homeownership programs that we're talking about. We do anticipate that the Housing Trust Fund will contribute significant dollars to large complex deals like the Cotton Mill Project and those simply require a different level of the legal expertise that we don't necessarily feel that Corporation Counsel have the capacity to provide all their expertise to this. They will certainly play a role though when and if we have projects targeted and selected.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

And if I may Madam Chair. Similar points with why we want the finance individual.

Chairwoman Kelly

The finance I got. That made a lot of sense.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Sometimes these are very unique deals. You need to have someone with some understanding of both debt and equity and how it comes together in terms of how these projects are put together.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. I completely understand that. My next question was around housing subject matter experts, which you said. I was surprised we didn't have someone who was in like building materials, or development, or architecture, or some of those things that can weigh on what an affordable housing unit might look like, what the materials are like, what kind of things people are doing in the industry?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

I have an answer and I'm going to contradict the answer I just gave. I actually think we have access to some of those folks right now that may be able to, particularly within the Community Development Department, may be able to lend their expertise to this as sort of again a non-voting but subject matter expert that may be pulled in to certain conversations. So I think we have some of those folks even on the City's existing team, but there were contemplations of those very areas of expertise. I'll let Director Cummings comment.

Chairwoman Kelly

If I could actually before you answer, had you considered the new Carrie Schena as a potential non-voting member? So much information in that.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

We did consider that and frankly we had even gone so far as to suggest that rather than the Planning Department, the Urban Programs Department be the dedicated staff to this committee. Ultimately, we landed on not necessarily recommending that but certainly I think that the new Carrie Schena, if you will as you put it Madam Chair, they will play an active role I believe in providing expertise and testimony to this committee when and if formed.

Chairwoman Kelly

Director Cummings, did you have a comment?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

The only thing I was going to add on Madam Chair is so this committee is going to be developing programming for housing very specifically and it wouldn't want it to be confused to subvert our other process that we have in place. We have a site plan process. We have you know the zoning process. We have a building process and so this group of people are going to be really focused narrowly on developing housing policy, housing programming, and making sure we are trying to achieve our housing goals.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay great. So my next question is I'm interested in - I don't want to make it so narrow that it will be hard for you guys to get the committee members, but I feel that it's important that these people are Nashua residents wherever possible because not to say we are particularly different than lots of places, but I think our specific housing concerns and knowing that as a lived experience will be really important to the committee. So what are your thoughts on that?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

I'll go first Madam Chair. I completely agree with you. I think in my mind it would be a non-starter. We would definitely have every ambition to try to have not only a Nashua person but someone who's very familiar with the market for those reasons. It's not necessarily codified here in the Ordinance. I think it would be understood. With that being said, the finance professional, the attorney, its volunteerism. If that person happened to live outside of Nashua but they understood the Nashua market, I think that's one we would want to make sure that we took into consideration. That is why we wouldn't want it to be too narrowly tied.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

I would just say if we had equally qualified individuals, certainly we would prefer to have the one with direct Nashua experience and that context be the appointee but we have contemplated something more broad in the event we don't have someone positioned well to serve in that role.

Chairwoman Kelly

So would you be open to adding Nashua residents whenever possible?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

Yes, I would say so. I see no reason why not.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, great. So my last piece is around two staff members running. This I know you guys are very qualified. I trust you guys. I've learned a ton from you. I do worry about if staff members are running this and the community is coming to the conversation are they going to feel as though they're going have equal voice in these conversations?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

It's not uncommon for staff to run committees. I'd like to believe that as professional staff here to the City we often times play a facilitator role and we have to act in a way where we not only support, we encourage all voices to be heard when they come around the table. That doesn't mean that we don't act in our role sometimes Chairing committees. I am Chair of the TIF (Tax Increment Finance Committee). I'm Chair of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Those are two just off the top of my head and essentially as Director Sullivan commented, it's really more about the organizational aspects of it, the logistical coordination, it's the technical assistance that you can provide, and then ultimately you're trying

to develop consensus. You're really trying to help bring about what the group consensus is so you can then implement it. By having that leadership role, you're able to more fully and better execute for the City.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

I would just add before I say what I'm going to say that I'm not meaning to imply that any of the folks here are not sensitive, objective, or inclusive, but the intent was to have staff members be the Chair and Vice-Chair of this was to ensure those three values were protected within the process. If there was a sensitivity, that there was clear direction, and objectivity, and to ensure that we were being very sensitive to the varying and diverse needs of the folks that were on the committee. I think there are other ways that the leadership could be contemplated. I'll be quite honest about that but we felt ultimately that serving as Chair and Vice-Chair was the most effective way to accomplish those objectives.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, thank you. I just have a logistical question and I don't know if maybe one of the were tenured Aldermen would have the answer. We are going to approve – say we approve the \$10 million. It goes off. Are you guys still required to bring it back to us if you say okay we're going to put \$5,000 in such and such project? Does it still work that way?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

If I may. It's through a contract. So it would be a separate piece of legislation that would be part of some sort of agreement, which again is a contract or if it was a very specific program that had financial terms to it and it was a contract, then it would definitely would go through Finance Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

That was my one other big piece. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. You brought up a very good point Madam Chair. I would support making sure that the resident is a Nashua like absolutely 100% Nashua resident. So if you look at #2 which is one member shall be a resident of a low income neighborhood, a low income community resident, and I think it's implied there, but I would certainly add "of the City of Nashua" to that. I think I would caution though doing even saying something along the lines of "whenever possible" for the other positions. The only reason that I say that is because if you have two qualified candidates and the better person is from Manchester and we really want to go with the guy from Manchester or the woman from Manchester, I wouldn't want there to be somebody to interrupt the language as saying well we have to go with because you have two qualified candidates even though one is more than the other. So I guess from that point of view, I would not be supportive of that but certainly for the resident I think we should make that very, very clear.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I think that's a valid point and that was actually one of the places that I (inaudible) specifically. I guess my concern is like advocacy group. Is someone who might be a member of an advocacy group in Concord or Berlin going to really understand what's going on here? I defer to the Mayor and the committee. I'm sure they'll do their hardest to bring people who know the region but I just wanted to make sure it was put out and discussed because we have a lot of very unique housing concerns in the City and they're complicated. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

So first I would support Alderman Clemons' amendment if he chooses to make it. But I want to get a little bit more background information. In terms of this City's makeup, this is a very awkward question to those Directors but do you either of you live in Nashua?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

No.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

No.

Alderman Lopez

So for me that concretizes that at least one person should really be an aldermanic liaison. Should definitely be a Nashua resident.

Second, both appointees as Chair and Vice-Chair are absolute but earlier in the legislation, it mentions membership as being the Director or their designee. So what happens if you guys designate somebody but then you have to show up anyway?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

The short answer is that it's the Director or their designee. So that designee action would not be singular for a meeting obviously. It would be something that would have more term to it and something that I think ultimately would have to approve by the Mayor if there is to be a designee at all. It would not be a sort of filling in as need be kind of arrangement Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

What I was thinking more was you can't have a designee because you're named as Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Should we add "or designee"?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

You certainly could. I don't think it's...

Alderman Lopez

In 1246, it literally just identifies you as Chair persons instead of saying "or their respective designees".

Chairwoman Kelly

If I could, I'm going to go ahead and make it an amendment unless there's more discussion. Okay. So I'm going to move to amend #1245(a. 2.) after the word "a" in the first line, insert the word Nashua. So it will be read "one member shall be a Nashua resident of a low income neighborhood". I think the further Amendment here is under 1246 "the Community Development Division Director or Designee shall serve as Chairperson with the Economic Development Director or Designee as Vice-Chair person". That is the Amendment. Alderman Comeau?

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND #1245(A. 2.) AFTER THE WORD "A" IN THE FIRST LINE, INSERT THE WORD "NASHUA" BEFORE RESIDENT ("ONE MEMBER SHALL BE A NASHUA RESIDENT OF A LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD"); AND UNDER 1246 "THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR 'OR DESIGNEE' SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON WITH**

**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR 'OR DESIGNEE' AS VICE-CHAIR PERSON"**ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. I just had a quick question through you to either of the Directors. Since we started talking about this a. 2., I'm wondering if you can explain to me what is the difference between a resident of a low income neighborhood and a low income community resident?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

Specifically what was contemplated with the low income community meant sort of a contained development area whereas within a low income neighborhood, it's more of a nebulous terminology that's not actually bounded strictly. So that was the intent of that language. It may not be that clear in the language necessarily but that was the contemplation there Alderman Comeau.

Alderman Comeau

Quick follow-up Madam Chair. The third part of that same item where it says, "or an elected representative of a low income neighborhood". Do I take that to mean that somebody like my colleague from Ward 4 could serve in that role as an elected representative of a low income neighborhood?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

I would not say that Alderman Lopez himself as an Alderman could serve but the community could essentially could come together, or a structured community, or association, or the like could come together to appoint someone. I do not believe the way the legislation is written today that a member of the Board of Aldermen could serve in that specific position. It would have to be more of an adhoc community that would ultimately appoint this person.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm not sure that that's clear. I read it the exact same way. Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

Since we are amending and we can go two deep only, could we add "for the purposes of joining the committee to elected"?

Chairwoman Kelly

I would also argue that it doesn't need to be there. The scenario that you just laid out, it seems fairly unlikely. We're not saying it's a State Rep. I would strike it if we think it's too confusing. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I would agree with striking it because ultimately it's going to be the Mayor that's going to be making appointment. You're giving him a list of qualifications that he must meet, meaning that it's a Nashua resident of a low income neighborhood or, I assume, a Nashua resident of a low income

community resident. But to say an elected means that a whole other body gets together, makes the appointment, and what if the Mayor says no. Exactly. So I think to Alderman Comeau's point, probably just saying maybe "a Nashua resident of a low income neighborhood or low income community" if you wanted to put both of those as the descriptors. But to add on the other body of that text, it kind of gives the implication that a community can come together and say we want this person and the Mayor goes nah. I think it would kind of leave it up to a lot of...

Chairwoman Kelly

I agree. Alderman Dowd?

Alderman Dowd

For the benefit and sanity of the transcriber, can you articulate the current pending amendment?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yes. The current pending amendment is to change a. 2. "to one member shall be a Nashua resident of a low income neighborhood or low income community resident".

The current conversation is to then pull off or will be appointed by the representative. I'm sorry "or an elected official of a low income neighborhood organization".

And then under 1246 Chairperson Bylaws, we would like to add "or designee" after the Community Development Division Director and Economic Development Director.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND #1245(A. 2.) AFTER THE WORD "A" IN THE FIRST LINE, INSERT THE WORD "NASHUA" BEFORE RESIDENT ("ONE MEMBER SHALL BE A NASHUA RESIDENT OF A LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD OR LOW INCOME COMMUNITY RESIDENT AND WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN"); AND UNDER 1246 "THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR 'OR DESIGNEE' SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR 'OR DESIGNEE' AS VICE-CHAIR PERSON"**

Alderman Dowd

Thank you and I say that because I don't think...

Chairwoman Kelly

I don't know if I was more clearer and I may not have been. If it's the pleasure of this Board, I would like to strike "an elected representative of a low income neighborhood organization".

Alderman Dowd

Yeah I say that because Donna has about 10 inches of transcription and the easier we make it for her the better.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah and I did get a little messy, so that's fair. She works hard. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Just again for clarification as Alderman Dowd pointed out, you're saying "one member shall be a Nashua of a low income neighborhood or a low income community". So you're going to put the word "or" in there and then strike out from the word "or an elected official organization" to the word "organization" leaving in "will be appointed by the Mayor".

Chairwoman Kelly

Correct. So the fully amended #2 would say "one member shall be a Nashua resident of a low income neighborhood or low income community resident and will be appointed by the Mayor".

Alderman Dowd

Subject to the Board of Alderman.

Chairwoman Kelly

Oh that's right. "subject to approval by the Board of Aldermen". Thank you. Okay. Is everyone clear on the amendment?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

1246.

Alderman Lopez

So I think we're like tiered now.

Alderman Clemons

No it's all one motion.

Chairwoman Kelly

Everyone understands the amendment? All those in favor?

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

That amendment carries. Okay. Any additional conversations? Thoughts? Okay so then we would like to move for recommended final passage of the amended O-22-017.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED  
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you very much for being here and walking us through it. This is a really important Trust Fund, and the committee, and I'm really eternally grateful for all the work. I know it's going to be really important to the development of the City.

**O-22-018**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

## **AMENDING ALDERMANIC JOINT COMMITTEES**

### **MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

#### ON THE QUESTION

##### Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Madam Chair. I hate to use the term, but basically it's a house cleaning type of bill. It's very friendly. Exactly what's pretty much happening now is going to happen after this. This will just codify it. If you look back to the history of the City of Nashua, somebody decided to change the name. I hate it when we went from Nashua Fire Dept. to Fire Rescue because I suspect we never rescued anybody before? But somebody felt a lot better in changing the stationery. So anyways the thing is, this is what happened. The committee of what was formerly known as "Lands and Buildings" became the "Committee of Infrastructure". That being said, that means there's a lot of buildings and a lot of groups.

As Rick Dowd is Chairman of the Building Joint Special Committee with the School Department, and they're very busy renovating, and building brand new schools, and the like and everything. But what about the other City properties? That comes down to police stations, fire stations, and other different types of venues. Now over the years somehow somebody didn't do their diligence and it got slipped away from the Infrastructure Committee. This basically keeps where the power should be and where the purse strings actually are. The purse strings come from the Board of Aldermen so therefore, we need to have representation from the Board of Aldermen. Let's say for example to work for the Police Department if they wanted to renovate their particular structure or something like that. So again, it's basically what's doing now is just codifying it and hopefully it doesn't need any amendment and you pass it. I feel this is friendly. Thank you.

##### Alderman Dowd

Okay, just a couple points. He's correct that when we got into the DPW building, we sat down between Alderman O'Brien and myself, Lisa Fauteux, and Director Cummings. We structured the building of the DPW building the Committee is similar to but not exact to what the Joint Special is. I say that because the Joint Special is set up by the State and it's a ten member committee - five from the Board of Aldermen, five from the Board of Education. The spending authority completely lies within the Joint Special. We have a \$120 plus million dollar project and the spending is approved and spent out of the Joint Special. This is not quite like that because the Committee recommends the changes and ultimately the money is spent through the Finance Committee. The building decisions are made similar with PCOs and PCCOs which respect the change orders and anyway.

So that part of the process is working the same. The interface with the construction manager which is Harvey and the architect is the same pretty much as the Joint Special. It's just that the spending is a little different. I reviewed this legislation that was written by Attorney Leonard and it's right on. I think it's perfect. I don't say too often in legislation. I think this one nails it and so whenever we build a fire station, or we're building a police station - we may be building some of those in the foreseeable future, and this the DPW building. It's the Infrastructure Committee and whether it's the Board of Fire Commissioners, Police Commissioners, or the DPW. It's working out very well with the DPW building so that's what we tried to codify in this legislation. As I said again, Attorney Leonard did a great job putting this together.

##### Alderman O'Brien

Madam Chair if I may. I agree 100% with Alderman Dowd. You've got to realize the City is growing and there'll be other projects in the future. So this is, again, noteworthy to do this at this particular time when future develop does occur.

Alderman Dowd

Basically we just didn't want to keep reinventing the wheel.

Alderman O'Brien

Exactly.

Chairwoman Kelly

Questions for Committee? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I support the legislation. I think it just clarifies what we need to do in the future and to codify a good practice. I think it's something I will support.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anyone else? The motion on the floor is to recommend final passage.

## **MOTION CARRIED**

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

## REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I just wanted to thank everybody for coming out for the interviews tonight. A very impressive group of people and I think it's worth our time to listen to them and be able to ask some questions.

The other thing I wanted to mention, I wasn't going to mention it but I saw him pop on and pop off of the Zoom earlier. Scott McCullough and maybe Alderman Lopez might want to say something about this as well as the Best Buddies walk is coming up. I saw Scotty on their and I just want to say the parade on Memorial Day was fantastic. Scotty was on the sidelines and probably the best part of the parade was when he came and gave me a giant hug out of the blue and he said "finally we get to meet". I thought that was awesome and I want to say "shout out" to him. I know he jumped on and off and had his hand up for a brief few seconds and didn't want to hang around but that's okay. I just wanted to say that was a great moment and the Best Buddies walk is this weekend and I think people can still donate and obviously I'll let Alderman Lopez talk about that. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So the Best Buddies walk is on Saturday morning. If anybody would like to donate, I recommend focusing on Scott's fundraiser just to keep all the bookkeeping simple. I will be attending and if anybody

would like to give me a ride that would be great. Also I just wanted to express appreciation for Alderman Klee who she and her husband are going through some pretty significant medical challenges and they're still trying to support the community. So I just wanted to express gratitude and respect for that.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much Alderman Lopez. Yes, I will be there at the Best Buddies walk. I'm not sure about my husband but he is going to try.

I did want to thank everybody that came out for the interviews. We had an amazing group of people. I was so proud that a couple of them were from Ward 3. As always, so proud of my Ward.

I also want to announce, and I've been putting this out as much as I can, there is going to be clean-up at the Salem Street Tot Lot. It really needs a lot of TLC. The Public Works has dropped off bags for me. They dropped off some heavy duty gloves for those that are going to need something like that. I will be providing the non-latex gloves as well as bottled water. The weather looks a little iffy on Sunday so I have no rains dates right now. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we at least have that window from 9:00 a.m. to 12. I did put on Facebook an event type thing that does have a map of how you can get to the Salem Street Tot Lot. It's not quite as easy as it looks. It's on Salem Street next to Tolles in between Whitney and Locke. If anybody has any questions, send me an email and I will send you the little GIS map that will help you find it. If we get enough people, we will also do a little more in the surrounding area. The Nashua Police Department is going to do their best also to be sending people so that the community understands that the police aren't just there to parole and to sometimes make life uncomfortable as they feel. Our police, especially Officer Howe, is part of that community. He may not live there, but he is very dedicated to that community as are some of the other Nashua Police. I spoke at the Crime Watch meeting about some of the issues that are happening there. They're going to do their very best to be there. I'm so proud to have our Nashua PD there. I'd love to have more community, not just those that live there, but beyond those borders of French Hill to come out and to help. It speaks volumes to the people that live there. Thank you for letting me speak.

Chairwoman Kelly

Do you ever sleep?

Alderman Klee

As they say "when I die".

Chairwoman Kelly

And by that I mean I appreciate your dedication.

Alderman Klee

When I die, yes. It will be a long nap then.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. My colleagues from Ward 3 and 8 took the words out of my mouth. I wanted to thank those that came out tonight to interview. I think in this age of social media it's easy to think that everybody just hates you, and everything that you do, and complains about the job that we do. So it's nice to know that there is people in the community that want to go that next step beyond just recognizing that something is wrong and taking those steps to get involved and be part of the solution instead of the alternative. So I just wanted to thank them for getting involved and being part of the team.

Chairwoman Kelly

I am going to end by just a note on the Housing Trust Fund. Thank everyone for passing it and also really giving some attention to that. Because it is such an important issue that we're facing in Nashua and this Committee will be instrumental in helping us move along what we want to see in our City and how we want to use the funds that we allocate as a Board. So I was really excited to see that happen.

Anyone else?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:50 p.m.

Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Committee Clerk