

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JULY 1, 2019

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held on Monday, July 1, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman June M. Caron presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Tom Lopez

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Ken Gidge

Also, in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-At-Large Lori Wilshire

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amber Logue 20 Lock Street. I was the originator of the ordinance for the Animal Advisory Committee and the Dog Park. Would you like me to speak now or when it ...

Chairman Caron

This is the only time you can speak.

Ms. Logue Perfect.

Chairman Caron

Thank you.

Ms. Logue Thank you. So the way it came about is originally I had met with a friend who works for the CDC. There was a gentleman that gave a presentation around the formation of dog parks in the areas that were considered drug bins. What they did was they turned these unused parks into dog parks and over the course of time, they were able to see a turn-around in these parks in terms of the types of people that came in, the activity and then the surrounding community. That was about 3 years ago. Since then it has been mulling in the back of my head of why don't we have a public dog park here in Nashua? We do have a private dog park that we are aware of. It is approximately \$150.00 for your first dog and then you also pay for the DNA testing of the feces before it is allowed to enter the park. So that could be cost-prohibitive to many of our downtown residents. So I had always thought in the back of my mind, then as sure as many of you have seen, there was an infamous photo around the different boards that showed a fence that had piles or bags on it at one of our soccer fields that was animal waste. It really brought to fruition everyone's frustration with people just not picking up after that animal waste and kind of pointing fingers? Who is responsible, who is not, why they don't pick up, why they do?

So that was the key moment for me when I said, "OK somebody needs to take action on what this looks like". So I began my due diligence and research through DES, the City, what do we have, what don't we have? And I found the park or area I should say while walking my dog through Mine Falls. There is an unused area of land right behind Bagshaw to the left. It is a field people already let their dogs off-leash there. I thought that would be a pretty interesting place for a park. So fast-forward, I reached out to Alderman Brandon Laws who is on the Downtown Improvement Committee to speak with them to see

what their thoughts and opinions were around having a dog park there specifically. Unanimously they did say that we would support it as long as there was some kind of a body that would help to oversee it. As we all know that our City Employees are stretched pretty thin in the amount of work that they already have. So after that I also met with the Millyard Association who owns that plot of land and again had unanimous support that they would be in favor.

I then asked the Mayor to meet to discuss his thoughts and opinions around an Animal Advisory Committee as well as the Dog Park without knowing that we both had picked the same parcel of land. We both had picked the same parcel of land to move forward. Now he raised a great question and said, "Why do we need an Animal Advisory Committee"? Well the reason is for assisting ability purposes. If we have a private park that one person or one group of people are exciting about in supporting it, it is not sustainable in the long term. We also have the broader issue of other animal issues which is the feces, right? So the purpose that the Animal Advisory Committee would be formed is to help with citizen education around proper animal waste disposal through the DES, through the City Clerk Office, through Waterways, I've already spoken with many of who are very excited about and have already offered their materials that they have documented over the years to help get that campaign started.

Now it would not fall completely on the Animal Advisory Committee; we would reach out to different groups that have in the past helped to push out these campaigns like the Boy Scouts, have done it in the past; Girls Inc.; PAL and different organizations to make the sewer drains, storm drains because it is a major issue with people dumping their animal waste and ending up polluting our waterways, watershed and soil. So that would be the main focus on the Animal Advisory Committee is to help usher and guide that in throughout the City; through different organizations that were interested as well as overseeing a Dog Park if we do move forward and decide that yes this location, or any location would work what those rules are that people would, you know, the signage that would be important as well as the material, how we are using, hours of operation, that kind of thing. Any other animal issue that could occur over the future, as animal and dog ownership has risen 40% in the past 10 years; so it is a major issue, it could be an issue. If we don't take care of it now, I am afraid we are going to be in some deep doo. Thank you very much.

Chairman Caron

Thank you.

Sarah Woodard 9 Baker Street. I think that the dog park, I'm not a dog owner, but I do think that everything Amber said I completely agree with. But I also think there is a piece that hasn't been addressed yet; and that's that dog owners maybe need to be educated in some public way with signs or using the organizations that Amber mentioned about why it is important to even have their dog on a leash. I am fortunate enough about Greeley Park and I walk there all the time in the nice weather. The dog owners that I see there with their dogs off the leash have this belief that "Well my dog is friendly, so it is ok". But it really is not; it is not just about if your dog is friendly. It is about if your dog is going to take off and chase a squirrel and get lost or hit by a car or something. It is about if the person that your friendly dog approaches really wants to be approached by a dog. There are so many other factors into it so I think that needs to be included in this discussion of a Committee that is going to handle animal issues in the City. And that's all I really wanted to say. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS – There are none on the agenda, however, we received two after the agenda was prepared so I would move to accept them. One is from June Lemon writing in support of Nashua Dog Park and the other one is from Alderman-At-Large Mike O'Brien Senior in regards to the Nashua Rail Transit Committee.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ACCEPT COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED FROM JUNE LEMON REGARDING THE DOG PARK AND FROM ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE MICHAEL O'BRIEN REGARDING THE NASHUA RAIL TRANSIT COMMITTEE.

Chairman Caron

You heard the communications. All in favor?

MOTION CARRIEDINTERVIEWSBoard of Assessors

Paul R. Bergeron (New Appointment)

For an Indefinite Term at the Pleasure of the Mayor

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am here to present to you the nominal of Paul Bergeron for the open seat on the Board of Assessors. As you probably know the Board of Assessors is a three-member Board that decides issues pertaining to people's assessments. Probably most importantly abatement requests that take place during the year, during each year and other issues that come before them. I know you all are familiar with Mr. Bergeron who was City Clerk for 16 years, having retired in 2015. He is a member of course of the Legislature and he can tell you more about the work he's done to prepare to become a member of the Board of Assessors; but he has attended 1 educational course and is involved in another so that he is well-prepared to assume a role on the three-member Board of Assessors. Again, I know you are familiar with him, he did a great job as City Clerk, he is very able to deal with the public, very customer friendly and public oriented, very well organized and very well spoken. I know he will do a great job. With that, I give you, of course, Mr. Bergeron.

Chairman Caron

Thank you, Mayor. Mr. Bergeron would you please give us a little background. Not that we don't know.

Paul R. Bergeron Well as the Mayor said I served as your City Clerk for close to 16 years. I found very quickly once I retired that everybody wants a piece of your time. But I had a lot of fun and I am enjoying retirement thoroughly, but I do admit that I miss the professional interaction with the public and with my peers that I worked with in City Government. I would very much enjoy getting back into that type of situation where I have that kind of interaction with both the employees the public and also other professionals. In terms of the Board of Assessors itself, that wasn't on my radar I will confess. I was talking to the Mayor I think it was back in March, I won't say I was complaining about my 20% tax increase because I understood what the revaluation was all about. I also knew that the assessed value of my townhome actually was right on target, that's exactly where the price is, the townhomes were selling give or take a few thousand dollars either way.

The Mayor asked if I would be interested in serving on the Board if an opening occurred. I didn't commit that I would; I said I wanted to learn a little bit more about what the Assessor's did and get a little closer to what they are actually required to do from one meeting to the next. So I started attending the Board's meeting. I attended all or parts of almost every meeting in April, May and June except for one. I enrolled in the 3-day Workshop in Assessing State Statutes. I just about completed an on-line course with the International Association of Assessing Officials on Site Analysis. I've done a lot of reading, trying to back on it. Like all of you, I've been through the assessment process, the appraisal process on personal property or on commercial property that my family had ownership in. So I am familiar with the process from that direction as well.

In terms of serving on the Board, I think anyone that serves as an elected official or an appointed official does it because they have an interest in serving the community and a belief that they can contribute and help make their participation useful to the City. And that's really I guess what is motivating me as well.

Chairman Caron

Ok we will open up to Committee Members, do you have any questions?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Thank you for volunteering for this position. My question is, do you have any goals or any objectives I guess going into this position?

Mr. Bergeron I don't think so, I don't think it is necessarily the role of the Board of Assessors to have goals or objectives. The statutes say what our responsibilities are; we don't have management oversight of the Department. We are basically responsible for ruling and deciding upon the assessments that have been done by City Staff. If I have any goals or objectives it would simply be to have as good attendance as I can, to do my homework, be prepared and continue studying and developing myself professionally to do as good a job as I can on the Board.

Alderman Clemons

So the only other question, that's a perfect answer actually in my opinion. The only other thing I'll bring up is you know obviously you were a City Clerk, you are a State Representative now, so you wouldn't be, you wouldn't necessarily run away from open criticism or somebody being unfair, I guess.

Mr. Bergeron No I guess is the simple way to describe it. I mean that comes with the territory. Most of the members of the Board know that my family ran a clothing business in the City for close to 65 years and during the time that I worked for the business you understand that the customers are your business. They have needs and it is your responsibility to try and fill those needs and to answer their questions. I'd like to think that I carried that kind of culture into the City Clerk's office when I was City Clerk. You know the people coming to my counter aren't interrupting my job; they are my job. And I would view it the same way with the Board of Assessors. People that are appearing before us have needs, they have wants, they have questions and it is our job to listen and do the best we can to try to respond. People may not always get the answer that they wanted, but I think in fairness it is our responsibility to listen.

Alderman Clemons

Another perfect answer. The only reason that I bring it up is again I don't know the circumstances behind it, but I can guess, but we've had two other people who have withdrawn their nomination for this position. Obviously it is something that hopefully you are, and I think you are, because I've worked with you on the Board of Aldermen and things like that but I think it is worth noting that you are hopefully willing to accept this position for all its worth and move it forward, because it's been trying, trying to get somebody in there.

Mr. Bergeron I understand some of the history yes.

Alderman Lopez

I just want to say thank you for being willing to take this on. I know a lot of people look forward to their retirement and just imagine it is going to be "roll credits" and nothing else. But I think it is clear that your sense of public service and your commitment to the community is continuing to drive you even after the credits roll. I am excited to see you stepping forward because I think there has been clearly been a lot of public attention to the assessing process; much of it has been negative. Much of it has been somewhat driven by State requirements, but I think it is something that you particularly have a lot of experience with. I've always been impressed with how during your tenure as City Clerk you were able to take all the concerns that were being raised regarding say elections and your response wasn't to be negative or adversarial; it was to come prepared, it was to come up with best practices and it was to train people to

make sure that they were operating at the best mechanism possible. So, I think you are going to be a huge asset for the Board of Assessors, and I appreciate you stepping forward for it.

Mr. Bergeron Thank you Alderman

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you follow up, I'm dealing with the sun, I'm not being weird. I can move over a seat in a second. I just wanted to say thank you as well. Not only are you volunteering but you've clearly done extra work and homework and that's rare to see. Our volunteer boards are just that, so I appreciate you taking your time out to be prepared in a way we don't often see.

Mr. Bergeron Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Yes I'm not on this Board but I want to thank you also for stepping up and I'd also like to make some comments that over the past year, Representative Bergeron has been a help when it has come to educating myself on election law as well as City Clerk. We've had a lot of that up in the State House. So he does come prepared and he's very knowledgeable and I think he'd be a great asset.

Alderman Dowd

I've known Paul for probably 18 years and even shopped at the store he worked at years ago which was a great store. But I can't think of anybody that's more qualified to fill this position than Paul. He is a hard worker; he is good at what he does, and I know he will excel.

Alderman Wilshire

I agree with all, with everybody, but I don't have a question because I know who you are, I know your work ethic. I know you as a person, you are wonderful. Mayor Donchess, how did you luck out, that's my question.

Mayor Donchess

I got him on a weak moment.

Alderman Wilshire

Well done Mayor.

Chairman Caron

Well I too would like to thank you Mr. Bergeron. I've known you for a long time. We've worked together during election time when I was an employee. So I know that you'll bring a lot of strengths to that Assessing Board. I know the two gentlemen sitting on there will welcome you with open arms and I am sure we will get through whatever our issues are and we will move forward in the right direction.

Do we have any other questions? If not your nomination will come up later in the meeting and if approved, you will be invited to the next Board of Aldermen to be sworn in.

Downtown Improvements Committee

Edward Hayes (New Appointment)
Terra Salon
137 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: December 13, 2019

- Tabled 5/6/2019

Mayor, before you leave, you have someone that's been tabled for the third time. Do you know if we are going to put it on the agenda for August or will you have some other names for us?

Mayor Donchess

We will try to reach out to him again, but he hasn't responded.

Chairman Caron

Ok thank you.

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF PAUL R. BERGERON TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM AT THE PLEASURE OF THE MAYOR
MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Caron

Mr. Bergeron will be sworn in at the next Board of Aldermen's meeting to sit on the Board of Assessors.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS – None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-19-047

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderdwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

ESTABLISHING AN ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I'll be brief. I think Ms. Logue did a very good job in expressing all the reasons why this is a good idea. A downtown dog park will service many people, help many people and will be an attraction for downtown. So procedurally, the next step, assuming this passes would be to appoint the members and then formally approach the Millyard Association regarding the use of their land. But as Ms. Logue said, the Millyard Association votes by percentage of ownership of the property in the Millyard. The main players are the City, Clock Tower, Mr. Robert Caro, and Bagshaws is another fairly significant owner. All have expressed support for this so I think there would be no particular issues in getting this approved through the Millyard Association; that is the Dog Park itself. Then we would move forward to work with the Committee and set up the rules and make sure we have a dog park that is a credit to the City.

Chairman Caron

You would have four more nominations.

Mayor Donchess

Yes we will be able to find the people. So once it is established then I will make the nominations and I don't think we will have trouble finding people to serve. I am sure Ms. Logue would be glad to serve and I'm sure we can recruit some others.

Chairman Caron

Just in case the Mayor decides to leave, my question was who owns this property? So it is a combination, it is not under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department is it?

Mayor Donchess

Correct. It is owned by the Millyard Association and it really, because if its presence in a flood plain, cannot really be used for much of anything, even a parking lot would be very difficult to permit. But we've researched this through Deb Chisolm and Sarah Marchant and it seems that there is not an issue or environmental problem with establishing a dog park there as long as there are rules regarding how the dog waste is removed.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes so I think is a long time coming and I am excited to see this. I do have some questions myself. So maybe this is for you. I wanted to know who the Governing Body/Compliant Body would be if it is not City Land?

Mayor Donchess

Well I think we would ask that the Committee provide the oversight and I think that's what the Millyard Association is looking for. They want a group of people who are going to be responsible for enforcing the rules and all that.

Alderwoman Kelly

So if there is somebody who needs to be removed or somebody who needs to be ticketed, we would be putting in on the four-member Board and not, for example, Sarah Marchant's Department.

Mayor Donchess

And I think the Millyard Association, they want to see a Governing Body which this Board would be and yes, they would be responsible for enforcing the rules.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ok.

Alderman Lopez

Not so much questions as just comments. I know over the winter I put a lot of work into trying to get residents to help with snow removal and we ran a Golden Shovel Campaign. There was a Quiet Campaign which was called the Brown Shovel Campaign because there were some areas downtown that were like in severe distress. So it is definitely a need downtown; there are a lot of dogs that could use a place to exercise positively and play but there are also a lot of dog owners that could use a practical way of doing this if they might live in apartments or smaller houses. And then additionally, I know that Mine Falls Advisory Board has been doing a really good job over the years of doing this too; refilling poo stations, running different educational campaigns and doing their best, like their poo-diligence if you will.

So I think the model is very effective; I think the idea of engaging the community in an educational format is a form of crowd sourcing that I think is going to be very successful here. I think we can engage the passion that Nashua is showing for dogs in a positive way; in a way that benefits the community, in a very positive way.

Chairman Caron

So I am going to ask a question. So Mayor, this group, this Committee is being appointed and put in place by the Board of Aldermen from the City. But the land does not belong to the City; how can they oversee private property?

Mayor Donchess

We are tasking them first with a broader set of responsibilities than simply within the Dog Park. But with respect to the Dog Park, I think the Millyard Association will enter in some form an agreement with them to operate the Dog Park.

Alderwoman Kelly

I have two questions. My other question was around ownership, I am just wondering if there was a reason why we didn't consider City land?

Mayor Donchess

Well if you can identify City Land that could be available for the Dog Park in Downtown, you know, let us know. That could be an alternative.

Alderwoman Kelly

I have not looked into it; I don't have a dog. I was just putting it out there; it seems a little bit complicated to be governing a piece of private land. My other question is connected to what you were talking about, I don't have a dog, I am totally fine with giving them a place to exercise correctly. I worry about the people who are going to say this is going to be an increase in feces downtown. We already have an issue. So I

am just going to put it out there that I hope that this Committee will come up with some suggestions in tandem with putting this in to help improve that.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. So I am reading the text of the Ordinance and it broad in scope for certain, because it says "The Committee is going to advise the City regarding animal issues" and then "regarding the establishment of a Downtown and other dog parks". But I guess and maybe this, perhaps this is the conundrum, the Animal Control Officer is one of the members of the Committee. I guess the question is does the Committee have, because it is not spelled out in here, does the Committee have the authority to I guess establish the rules of that and the governing actions of the dog park or is that like something that once the park comes to fruition? And I would assume probably would come in the form of Legislation before this Board here that we would then have to put a separate Ordinance in for the rules? Or how would that work? Just getting into the real specifics, because if we want an independent Committee, I would think that we would want an arm's length from the Board of Aldermen in the sense that we would just let the Committee establish the rules and do what is best. Because I mean, getting in the weeds of how you are going to enforce different rules and things like that is not something I think that would be a good discussion to have at this level. So I think it's better to be had with a group of people that understand the issues and know about it and know the specifics. So I am wondering if the way that this Ordinance is reading right now, if this Committee would have that authority?

Mayor Donchess

Well if we were to find a Dog Park on public land, then of course the Board of Aldermen's role would be much greater because the Board of Aldermen would need to authorize the Dog Park to go forward, right? In this case, if the Millyard Association follows through and agrees to the Dog Park on the site that we have talked about, it is ultimately up to them to govern as the owner, to govern the dog park and as the discussions have been that they are looking for a group like this to engage, for lack of a better term, to oversee the Dog Park that would be on their property. Because they don't want to particularly get involved in the things that you mentioned either, but they are willing to turn the authority for the Dog Park over to a group such as this. So I think we are sort of kicking this off by establishing a Committee would seek to create a Dog Park and would advise us regarding other issues; maybe regarding whether cats can be picked up by an Animal Control Officer. We have a law suit on that; other issues pertaining to animals, so I think the Board of Aldermen would not get involved in that kind of rule-making and really this wouldn't come back to you, other than the as we've proposed it, the consideration and confirmation of the proposed members.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, yeah so I guess the way I understand your answer and correct me if I am wrong is that we would basically establish this. The goal is to get the first dog park, which I hope it is the first of many but the first one on that Millyard Property which is not owned by the City. So therefore any rules or regulations would be decided ultimately not by the Board of Aldermen but by the ownership of that land. And if we were to establish a park somewhere down the line, we could amend this ordinance to allow the advisory committee some expanded roles and rulemaking and things like that. Is that correct?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Alderman Clemons

Perfect, thank you.

Alderman Klee

Yes if it is ok I have a couple comments and something that I'd like to suggest about this. But first off, I think this Advisory Committee would be great and is much needed. And when we look at all those that would be on it, Animal Control Officer, Representative from the Humane Society, an Aldermen appointed as well as four community members. I would also like to add something that Ms. Logue had actually suggested or forgot to suggest and that would be somebody from the School Department. Because if we are looking to educate people, I think educating people from a young age and so on would not be a bad idea to add to this group. But putting that aside, this really is needed. All along Mine Falls I can tell you when I take my greyhound group and just my greyhounds in general, the amount of people that have their dogs just running free; we experience it also in Greeley Park but Mine Falls is really an awful place. You dodge little brown bombs every which way; I'm not saying that this will end that. But having a park right there, as part of the downtown area as well as part of Mine Falls I think is really a great asset.

But this is not just about that particular thing, this is really about putting an Advisory Committee together. I think that putting this group together with this group of people as well as people from the community is going to be an asset to the City. And then from that point on, they can determine and make recommendations, that area, Greeley Park, wherever. I'm not saying Greeley Park, I'm just saying in those, God Forbid, just coming up with ideas and so on. I just think it really would be an asset to the City and I see no harm in it. Ms. Logue has done an incredible amount of work and I can tell you from myself going on and visiting dog parks in all States from Georgia, to New York to every which way, the cities put them in. It is not just private organizations, but cities do put those in and they have groups of people that do that. Ms. Logue has done a lot of work as far as who has liability, what are rules, what the CDC recommends. She's done an amazing job and I'd love to see this go forward; I'd love to see her on the Board as well as others. And I think we will be better off for it. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

I think that it is a good idea to put this Committee together it seems like it is something that is required. But there are probably going to be a lot of questions that come up like is there any anticipation of City expense relative to the Dog Park. An example, a fence, believe it or not the City of Nashua does have a leash law so these dogs that are running loose are breaking the law technically. So if you had a Dog Park that was unbounded, A – you might lose dogs because they will run off and B – if you are going to contain it into a dog park it probably requires that it be fenced in. So the question that would come up and I don't need an answer tonight, but who would pay for the fence and any other expenses relative to the Dog Park. Is there going to be water there and if there is, how is it going to get there. So I think the Committee is a good idea to get those questions brought up, answered and brought forth. So just wanted to point that out.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I know it is not relative to tonight's issue of just establishing a Committee, but I have the same concern that Alderman Dowd did about is it going to be fenced in, how big is this piece of property, you know, those were some things I wanted to know. I'm not sure I can actually see where this piece of property is, it's near that new bridge?

Mayor Donchess

No. You know where the antenna is from WSMN.

Alderman Wilshire

No.

Mayor Donchess

Well as you go down Nimco, as you go down from Nimco, and you go down the hill, the first area of land is not Mine Falls Park, it's Millyard, it's a flat, like a field of grass of what a few acres I would say right?

Alderman Wilshire

Oh OK bigger than I thought.

Alderman Lopez

Really where everybody already has their dog playing.

Mayor Donchess

Now I assume there will be a fence, I mean it never really occurred to me that there wouldn't be. Those are some details that the Committee would have to work out. Most people assume I think that this is in Mine Falls Park but actually it is not.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I would just comment that while there are definitely some logistical issues that it would be better to let the Committee handle, there are precedents too like the construction and development of the Community Gardens along the Rail Trail were done by PAL and Great American Downtown. So there's examples of public/private partnerships like this in the other direction. So in this case, it's just actually a private entity allowing the City to have a group of volunteers organizing things. So there is a way and there is a mechanism for it. And it may even save the City money depending on how its managed because the City wouldn't have to necessarily do it themselves, it could do fund-raising. That's why the Advisory Boards make up at the moment and its mission includes education and community organizing because there are stakeholders in our community that would likely partner here, and they are the voices that we want to see involved in the organizing.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Just a comment, on the discussion here. I appreciate this, I think it's a great idea. I think the Advisory Committee especially is a really great idea. I will reiterate that I am nervous about how muddy it gets when it is a private land and where we are still involved from a City level and if something wrong with the Dog Park do people come to us to complain. Or is the Millyard? What if the Millyard decides that they don't want to have it in 2 years? It makes me uncomfortable; I'm ok with allowing the Advisory Committee to work that out. But I want to make sure that we have a solid answer before we put this dog park in.

Chairman Caron

Ok thank you. Mayor I have a question when you put this Committee together that we didn't think to put someone that owns that property, someone from one of their corporations to be part of this group?

Mayor Donchess

Well we could do that. I mean we came up with a list of people that seemed to make sense but certainly the list could be altered that could be added to it; or school department.

Chairman Caron

Ok and I have to agree with Alderwoman Kelly, my idea of this Committee was to do a lot of educating because we do have a lot more dogs in our City than we used to. Yes there is a leash law, there is also a poop law. So you know, how we get that information out to people is important and it is critical. I know that City Clerk does what they can, Animal Control.

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair I mean I think one thing maybe part of the thought process was that although we think that the Millyard Association will ultimately allow this, they have not formally granted permission. So maybe that's why they are not on the Committee. But we could put someone there, there is no problem if the Committee would like to alter the membership in some way. It's not cast in stone.

Chairman Caron

If they find a place that is private then they can come back and say then we need someone added to the list, I have no problem, I like the idea. But who would you appoint from the School Department to be involved in this as a Committee person, you know? Is there someone out there? So maybe we need to think about that, and we could certainly add that down the line. We are always thinking of new things, but we also have to be very cautious too so that the City isn't liable down the road. Someone decides that the City is liable even though it is a private / public sponsorship.

Alderman Clemons

Just on the part about the school and adding somebody from the School Committee. They control their own property, the school property and things like that so I don't know. It is an interesting discussion because it is, you know, there is City property, then there is private property and then there's School property right? So it might make sense to put somebody on there because the school department might have different rules as far as animals and things like that then say what the rules are say in a park.

Chairman Caron

Right it is something for discussion; it doesn't necessarily mean that we would hold up the Legislation unless the Committee felt that we should.

Alderman Klee

In comment to the putting someone from the school department on; I really embrace that idea, not just because of the education factor. I can tell you as a person who does walk their dogs around schools, such as Charlotte Ave. or Amherst Street or Pennichuck. People don't follow the rules; and I can tell you on Charlotte Ave they had a real issue with the brown bumps as they like to call them. It really is an issue and I've spoken to the school there and I've spoken to the principal there, I've spoken to janitorial, they try to keep up with it. That's why I thought putting something like that on the Advisory, not necessarily for a Dog Park or anything but an advisory so that they can, as you pointed out, they may have different rules and so on perhaps signage, perhaps ideas and so. That's why I felt, and really embraced the idea of putting someone from the School Department, not necessarily somebody from the School Board. But someone from the School Department, in general.

Alderman Wilshire

I'd just have to say I'm not a dog person but I like this idea a lot. I think this is a really good idea.

MOTION CARRIED

TABLED IN COMMITTEE**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-19-128
MOTION CARRIED****R-19-128**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt

EXTENDING AND ENLARGING THE NASHUA RAIL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

- Tabled 5/6/2019

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGEON THE QUESTIONChairman Caron

On your desks you should have a letter that Alderman O'Brien who was a sponsor of this Resolution provided for me today because he was not sure he was going to be here. But Alderman Dowd is also a sponsor and he is willing to give you some feedback as to your questions concerning the extension of this Committee.

Alderman Dowd

Yes the Committee has been doing yeoman's work at all levels in the State to try and move rail forward in the City. Two of the members from the Legislature, Betty Lasky and Representative Seidel want to stay on the Committee. We also have some of the current Legislators that would like to come on to the Committee. So we feel that the addition of a couple of additional people to the Committee will just help us to make our goals much more realistic. Everybody is working very hard to make this happen and we appreciate allowing the additional two members.

Chairman Caron

OK you heard the explanation as to the extended numbers for this particular committee, do we have any comments or questions?

MOTION CARRIEDDISCUSSION - NonePUBLIC COMMENT – NoneREMARKS BY THE ALDERMENAlderman Lopez

This Fourth of July at Riverside Barbeque there is a free concert for Veterans. Riverside Barbeque will also be donating a free basket of food to anybody who is a Veteran and while supplies last we have t-

shirts. So any Veterans who are interested in coming, it should be right around 1:00 when everything gets started. It is kind of an alternative way to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Chairman Caron

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Fourth of July. They will be honoring three members of Nashua High in the Hall of Fame on Thursday.

Alderman Lopez

I believe the Chair is herself an honoree. You are a past honoree I believe.

Chairman Caron

I am, yes. My picture is up front.

Alderman Kelly

Happy Fourth to everyone also just wanted to thank everyone who came out for pride this weekend. It was an incredible turn out, an incredible community even and I am so grateful for all the support we got from the City, so we had a lot of fun. We are looking forward to next year.

Alderman Wilshire

Also, to comment on Pride, I'd like to thank Alderman Kelly, Alderman Laws for the hard work they did on this. What a turn out! I was so impressed with the turnout this year it was awesome, well done.

Alderman Dowd

Just a notice to people that tomorrow is a Budget Meeting. We have a lot on the agenda, some very important items. Just wanted to make sure we brought that up.

Alderman Klee

Yes, thank you I just also wanted to comment on the Pride Parade. Walking down Main Street and seeing the people flanking on the sidelines and seeing mom hugs and dad hugs t-shirts and then the kid hugs t-shirts truly brought tears of joy to my, choking up, yeah. Thank you so much. The community did a great job and Alderman Kelly and Alderman Laws and everybody else that worked on it, you rock. Thank you.

Chairman Caron

It's a lot of work.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONSTO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:50 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Committee Clerk

From: June Lemen junelemen18@gmail.com
Subject: Writing in support of Nashua Dog Park
Date: Jul 1, 2019 at 4:37:35 PM
To: Caron, June junecaronward7@yahoo.com, Klee,
Patricia KleeP@nashuanh.gov

CAUTION: This email came from outside of the organization. Do not click links/open attachments if source is unknown.

To the Personnel Committee:

I am writing in support of opening a public dog park in Nashua.

I am a 21-year resident of Nashua and a lifelong dog lover. For the first ten years I lived in Nashua, I had a collie, and I walked my dog daily in Sargents Avenue Park, or on the street, or in other parks. But that collie was an older dog, more than content on a leash. After years of dog-lessness, we have a new puppy — just over a year and a half old — who requires a lot of exercise and play. So I am spending a great deal of time — I'd estimate between four and seven hours a week — at Benson's Dog Park in Hudson.

I go to Benson's because one of the best ways to train dogs in polite behavior is to have them interact with other dogs, as well as with humans. I cannot do that in Nashua. There is no free dog park in Nashua where I can take my dog off leash and let him run and play with other dogs.

I think a public dog park would be an asset to Nashua, not only for dog owners in Nashua, but if the dog park could be connected to one of Nashua's walking trails, to the public in general. This would really open up the trails for use. I see this at Benson's all the time: people meet at the dog park and end up going for walks with their dogs before and after dog play time in the park. And having more people on the trails makes them safer. One of the people I know fell on a trail at Benson's, but she was not worried, because she knew other dog walkers would be coming along to help. And they did.

Nashua has beautiful parks, but none of them is designated as a place for dogs to play. The dog park at Benson's is not fancy: it is basically a giant fenced-in yard, with a few big trees and some benches. But it is used by dozens of people and dogs every day. Happily.

I'd like to see Nashua have something similar.

Sincerely,

June Lemen
18 Manchester Street
Nashua NH 03064

Michael B. O'Brien Sr.
Alderman at Large
Nashua Rail Transit Committee

Alderman June Caron
Chairwoman Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee

Committee Members,

My apologies for not being able to attend your meeting this evening to introduce R-19-128, but my grandson's third birthday festivities have taken precedence, and have taken me out of town.

R-19-128 increases the size of the of the Nashua Rail Transit Committee by two additional members. This occurred when prior members of the committee, the Honorable Sen Betty Lasky and the Honorable Representative Carl Seidel did not seek reelection. They were replaced by two new members to the Legislature to the NRTC.

However, the expertise and commitment that both have shown has proven invaluable to the committee, and it was the wish of the committee that they are to remain on the committee in an appointed capacity.

It is my hope you agree with the Nashua Rail Transit Committee, and myself as sponsor of R-19-128 to approve addition of these most committed and worthwhile candidates, and allow them to continue with their goals, objectives and expertise, in providing commuter rail for Nashua and her citizens.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael B. O'Brien Sr.

Electronically signed 7/1/19