



Memorials & Dedications

February 22, 2017 – 7:02 PM - **Minutes**

City Hall, 133 William Street, Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber,
Room 213, Municipal Building

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS
DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2017
TIME: 7:02 P.M.
PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU, VICE-CHAIRMAN; DEBORA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Carney called the Committee on Memorials and Dedications Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Morad explaining her absence. The Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Gomes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting, that the land donated to the City by the Historical Society across the street from the Nathan and Mary “Polly” Johnson House located at 21 Seventh Street to be turned into a park honoring the Abolitionists in New Bedford for their important work (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref’d 11/22/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (1)

Lee Blake, President of the New Bedford Historical Society was present along with Paul Deare, Hank Mastey and Patricia Regan, gave an overview of the project. The Historical Society has purchased the lot across the street from the Polly Johnson House, 18 Seventh Street. They would like to turn the property over to the city to be designated as a park. The Society has been working with Patrick Sullivan of Planning and Community Development, Mary Rapoza of the Parks Department and WHALE towards the development of the park. An overview of the historical significance of those individuals who walked the area was explained to include, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, etc. They have received funding from the Demoulas Foundation, (Market Basket) as well as a \$40,000.00 US Conference of Mayors Grant. They hope to design a green space with historical kiosks. The Committee was told by the Mayor’s Office to get the support of the Committee first, and then the Administration would work towards acquiring the property.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council referral to the Mayor to accept the lot at 18 Seventh Street to be turned into a park honoring the abolitionists movement in New Bedford. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City of New Bedford recognize Herb Rego for dedication and commitment to the residents of the City, by naming the bathhouse on West Rodney French Boulevard the “Herb Rego Memorial Lifeguard Center.” (Ref’d 8/19/10, 5/23/16- table for 60 days & invite Former Mayor Tierney to meeting.) (2)

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To keep this matter on the table at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the new pocket park located on Acushnet Avenue and Nye Street be named after long-time Community leader, Activist and former Chairperson and Member of Neighborhoods United, Suzanne Braga, in recognition of her 25 years or more of service in fighting crime, establishment of crime watch groups and being the eyes and ears of the entire city (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications and the Mayor's Office.) (Ref'd 1/14/16) and a Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that as Acushnet Avenue is known as the International Marketplace, that the new pocket park at the corner of Acushnet Avenue and Nye Street be dedicated to and named in honor of all immigrants who have made New Bedford their home and have contribute to making New Bedford a better City overall (To be Referred to the Mayor and the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref'd 1/14/16) were received and placed on file by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (3, 4)

Councillors Gomes and Coelho explained that their individual motions were not to cause conflict between; them or the Council. Councillor Gomes believes there should be a park in memoriam of the immigrants that came to New Bedford and contributed to the success of New Bedford. He also feels that Suzanne Braga should also have a pocket park named after her, for her contributions to the City of New Bedford as the President of Neighborhoods United.

Councillor Coelho agreed both should receive their proper recognition. She now feels that the Ward Two Councillor Martins should be present. (Councillor Martins was here but had to leave the meeting earlier due to a previous commitment.) Perhaps a meeting with the Neighborhood Organizations that represent Riverside Park be a part of the process.

Councillor Abreu agreed that there is a place for both types of parks and he is happy to see the thought is to bring the items back to revisit in the form of future motions as suggested by Councillor Coelho.

Councillor Gomes believes the immigrant contribution to the city should receive larger recognition other than a pocket park. He has originally suggested a display of cultural flags at the Lighthouse Memorial at the octopus in the downtown area.

It was recommended that there be two new separate actions submitted to the Council.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on items 3 and 4. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Item number six (6) was taken out of order without objection.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Martins, Carney, Council President Gomes, Winterson, Rebeiro, Bousquet, Morad, Alves and Oliveira, requesting, that the City of New Bedford declare August 7th of each year as Purple Heart Day (Ref'd 4/23/15, 4/11/16-table) was removed from the table by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (6)

Chris Gomes, Veterans Agent was present and addressed the Committee. He stated that in 2015 the Mayor declared August 7th as Purple Heart Day, but that was it. It was back then he suggested the day be declared as Purple Heart day annually and the motion was made and sent to Committee.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to declare August 7 as Purple Heart Day, Annually. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, Alves, Carney, Bousquet, Coelho, Council President Lopes, Martins, Morad, Oliveira and Winterson, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications look into establishing a permanent memorial honoring the late Fernando Garcia, longtime community activist, philanthropist and businessman whose commitment to local education and to Bristol Community College made a

lasting impact on the Greater New Bedford area (Ref'd 06/12/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (5)

Councillor Gomes gave his rationale for the dedication and listed Mr. Garcia's longtime community activist, philanthropic and business contributions to the city. He at first thought of a sign on the street where he lived.

Councillor Coelho believes that perhaps something more is due to his legacy, perhaps a plaque on the old Cherry and Webb building where Bristol Community College is now and Fernando sat on their Board of Trustees. There is also a section of sidewalk that adjusts the main sidewalk in the area.

Councillor Gomes found all of these suggestions acceptable. It was suggested that the item be tabled and ideas for a proper dedication be brought to the Committee for further review.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chair's recommendation and take "No Further Action" on items seven (7) and eight (8). This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Duarte, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications meet for the purpose of discussing a suitable tribute to honor the late Thomas D. Lopes, former State Representative and owner/publisher of the Cape Verdean news; and further, that this tribute be located in the Ward Four area, the Cape Verdean section of the City. (Ref'd 09/27/12, 05/20/13 –tabled, 08/28/13 –tabled, letters) (7)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, provide this Councillor with a copy of the updated plans for the proposed work being done at the Public Park on East Rodney French Boulevard, and that CDM Smith, Inc. and DPI Commissioner Labelle provide this Councillor with the original Waterway application, and a copy of the CDM Smith, Inc. information that was provided to selected property owners on East Rodney French Boulevard, and please provide this Councillor with the criteria that was used to determine who would receive the certified information from CDM Smith, Inc. and a copy of the list of property owners who received the information; and further, requesting that all information be provided to this Councillor within five (5) business days. (Ref'd 04/09/15) (8)

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Gomes.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees