

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS**  
**DATE: JUNE 27, 2017**  
**TIME: 7:07 P.M.**  
**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER,**  
**ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

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

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO; LINDA MORAD**

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Councillor Carney called the Memorials & Dedications Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. Communications from Councillors Coelho and Morad were read into the record explaining their absences from tonight's meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Carney and Abreu, on behalf of Arthur Garty, Steven Peters, Lee Vulgaris, and Dennis Maniatis, members of the Greek Veterans Memorial Committee, requesting that the City designate an area in Clasky Common Park on the west corner of Pearl and Pleasant Streets to place a Veteran's Memorial monument honoring the Greek American War Veterans (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorial and Dedications, Board of Park Commissioners; and that the Greek Veterans Committee, Christopher Gomes Veterans Agent, and Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches be invited to said meeting.) (Ref'd 11/10/16) (11/30/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (1)

Mr. Arthur Carty of the Greek Veterans Memorial Committee explained that he came to realize that of all the memorials saluting veterans and their heritages, that the city did not have one that honored those of the Greek heritage. He approached his church and a Committee was formed, where it was found over 200 men and women of Greek decent served in the military in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. While driving around the city Mr. Garty thought the west side corner of the Common Park, near Pearl and Pleasant Streets would be appropriate. It would mirror that of the Lebanese Memorial that is on the opposite side of the Park.

Dennis Maniatis of the Greek Veterans Memorial Committee said they were surprised to find out how many local Greeks had served in the armed forces and that they felt it appropriate to erect such a memorial. Unfortunately, most of those that have served have passed, but their families are still around. They are ready to meet with Rex Monuments to develop a mock up of the memorial but wanted to get the okay to go ahead with it from the Committee.

Councillor Abreu suggested the size would be dictated by the Park Board and that this Committee move to meet with the Park Board.

Christina Connolly of the Mayor's Office said the Mayor would support this initiative and suggested they meet with Anne Louro to see if there were any historical size restrictions as well, they said they would.

Councillor Gomes asked about flag poles and Mr. Garty said they would like to have two of them and they would be lit by solar panel lights. One would be the American Flag and the other the Greek Flag.

Chris Gomes, Veteran's Agent welcomed the idea and said that this is a way of ensuring a lasting reminder of the local Greek community's contribution to the armed forces.

Councillor Gomes suggested that the city could help with in kind services including brick work as they have done in the past. Christina Connolly said this would not be an issue.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVING the placing of a Greek Military Service Monument at the West Side Corner of Clasky Common Park, at the corner of Pearl and Pleasant Streets, and that this initiative be sent on to the Park Board for approval, and to DPI Commissioner Zeb Arruda for assistance, as well as the Mayor's Office. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter to keep it in Committee so they can monitor the progress of the project. 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 6/12/14) (2/22/17-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (2)

Councillor Gomes informed the Committee of the need for an appropriate memorial and fondly recalled all of the support and kindness given by Mr. Garcia to any organization that may have needed it, along with his love for New Bedford and Bristol Community College.

Christina Connolly of the Mayor's Office stated the Mayor's Office was in agreement of such a memorial. They would be looking to place a plaque on the sidewalk that jets out from the Bristol Community College (Old Cherry & Webb building) to perhaps another appropriate downtown area. She will discuss this with the Mayor and once a location is agreed upon she will return to the Committee with an update.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVING the placing of a plaque in honor of a permanent memorial to honor 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, and that it be erected in the area of Bristol Community College, downtown (the old Cherry & Webb building); and further that this be forwarded to the Mayor's office for further consideration to work towards completing the dedication. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter in order to monitor the progress of the memorial. 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 City Council go on record in support of sending a letter to Congressman William Keating and the National Park Service, requesting that the Federal Government designate Ft. Taber Park as a National Veterans Memorial Park (Ref'd 9/23/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (3)

The Clerk explained the letter sent to Congressman Keating's address was returned undeliverable. Councillor Abreu explained the Congressman's Office was now in the DeMello International Building on Union Street.

It was suggested that this item be tabled to invite a representative from Congressman Keating's Office, John D'Angelo of Senator Warren's office in Boston and the New Bedford National Parks Superintendent Meghan Kish.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter 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 Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meet with the Administration for the purpose of discussing a suitable site for a Memorial honoring the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, for his 47 Years of Service of Dedication and Representation to our Country, Commonwealth and our City while serving in the United States Senate, seeing that Senator Kennedy's ties to the City of New Bedford were infused by his many actions to help this City and its Citizens and the people who were dedicated to and supported the Senator; further, in this Councillor's opinion, a suitable location for a dedication would be the completion of the hurricane dike walkway reflecting the late Senator's love for the City, and for the ocean; further that this recommendation be forwarded to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications to work with the Army Corps of Engineers; and further requesting that, if the hurricane dike walkway is not feasible, then the Committee, along with the Administration, look for another location to memorialize the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Ref'd 9/10/09; 5/22/12-tabled, letters mailed; 5/20/13-tabled until we get federal approval confirmation to build this memorial in the Whaling National Historic Park; 9/15/14 - tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (4)

Councillor Gomes explained his desire to give the Senator his proper recognition for all he did for New Bedford. He told the Committee that the Historic National Park

would have never happened had it not been for Senator Edward Kennedy; everyone around the table agreed.

Christina Connolly of the Mayor's Office stated the Mayor supported this initiative and it was their hope to have the National Park Visitors Center named after the Senator. They started the process with the assistance of Park Superintendent Megan Kish, but everything has been put on hold since the election of President Trump. To rename the building they would need approval from two positions above Ms. Kish and those positions remain empty as this point in time. This would be the Regional and Federal Director. They are hoping the positions will be filled by the fall and they would attempt to fast track the issue.

It was decided that the next time this issue is discussed that Ms. Kish should be invited to attend.

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

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Gonsalves, Duarte, Bousquet, Lopes, and Oliveira, requesting, that the City Council move to establish a "Wall of Remembrance" at City Hall in honor of deceased City activists who throughout their lives made an attempt to better the lives of their fellow Citizens and improve the quality of life in New Bedford, that their efforts and the work they did be recognized and honored. (Ref'd 1/12/12; 7/30/14 – letter, tabled) (5)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Gonsalves, Duarte, Bousquet, Lopes, and Oliveira, requesting that the City Council move to establish a "Wall of Remembrance" at City Hall in honor of deceased City activists who throughout their lives made an attempt to better the lives of their fellow Citizens and improve the quality of life in New Bedford, that their efforts and the work they did be recognized and honored. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees