

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes- 2nd meeting of this new committee term

March 21, 2018

Conference Room A City Hall

I.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Acting Chairman Cliff Lazenby.

II.

In attendance: Kathy Bergeron, Paul Mannle, Chase Hagaman, Rick Becksted, Kelly Weinstein, Cliff Lazenby. Joining by phone were Kathleen Boduch and Lawrence Cataldo. No absentees.

III.

Cliff noted that the agenda and copies of the last meeting's minutes were on the table. Chase made a motion to accept the minutes and Kelly seconded the motion.

IV.

Cliff started the discussion and clarified the direction of the group as stated by the Mayor, and stated the goal first and foremost is to establish the CNC bylaws.

Paul made a motion to adopt the bylaws from the last term.

Larry seconded the motion.

Paul distributed a copy of the preexisting bylaws on which he had highlighted in grey what was adopted last term/amends from 2006; he compared the two and highlighted the changes.

Cliff confirmed the Paul's intention was to keep/accept the copy with the greyed highlights and Paul confirmed.

Kathy Bergeron distributed a copy of bylaws in which she highlighted in red changes made to preexisting bylaws. She pointed out some deletions to make the bylaws more current to reflect new committee and processes.

Kathy made a motion to amend the preexisting bylaws with the new amended copy and Chase seconded the motion. Kathy Bergeron had emailed copies to both Kathleen and Larry, explained how she cleaned up the preexisting bylaws, with the most relevant changes to section III, to speak to the way we are formed currently so everyone is represented, she made the most significant changes in red; she took out III A #1 in order to be more transparent, most specifically that there will be no separate committee meetings unless the members are working on a special project.

Cliff clarified that if the CNC is meeting it will be published, recorded, in effort to be transparent.

Kathy Bergeron addressed section IIIB, that the secretary will be a voting member of the steering committee, which has been amended from preexisting bylaws.

Chase noted that under the current bylaws the Vice Chair serves as the Secretary, and clarified that Kathy's version clarifies that they should be separate roles, Kathy agreed, and also pointed out section B2B that the CNC steering committee sunsets with the current City Council and is not a 2 year term as previously stated.

Cliff stated the number of committee members depends on who the Mayor appoints; there are no limitations and the Mayor appointed 8 committee members to this term; the term of the steering committee members will sunset with the current City Council term.

Paul confirmed and agreed with taking out the 3 year term as stated in the preexisting bylaws.

Kathy Bergeron shortened section B3 to state we would meet a minimum of 4 times/year and clarified that sub-committees that meet for special projects do not need minutes, and made appropriate changes to reflect this.

Paul Mannle questioned the steering Committee selection process- specifically why do we have to change anything at all? He stated he felt the only change has been the designation of the title to a Mayor Blue Ribbon Committee, but other than that, why do we have to make these changes?

Kathy responded by addressing the need for transparency, Cliff followed by stating the direction the City Attorney clarified as the mission of the group, Kathy followed with stating our terms have changed, committee has changed and bylaws should reflect this.

Discussion followed with Cliff stating the Mayor appoints members, Paul questioned the need to amend/change existing bylaws. Cliff stated the City Attorney clarified that CNC needs current bylaws, Christy Cardoso spoke to give the history of the process of becoming a steering committee member- historically people who were appointed were present at meetings and expressed interest, and the Mayor then appointed the steering committee members.

Cliff clarified section III changes, Paul agreed to Kathy's changes.

Larry Cataldo made a procedural comment, stated he agreed with Kathy's changes, but found it hard to see and suggested that we get the original and cross out any changes, requested more time to compare both versions side by side.

Chase made a motion to amend the bylaws with Kathy's version.

Larry welcomes streamlining and appreciates Kathy's version, but votes NO and wants to see the exact changes from the preexisting version.

Paul noted he has a problem with making changes to HOW the steering committee gets elected; his motion is to accept Kathy's amendment, but specifically section III A he moves to motion with his version, replace Kathy Bergeron's B1 and B2 and replace with "original" section B1 and B2, but agrees to remove the 3 year term from B3.

Larry seconded the motion.

Chase noted that this change with the original bylaws would revert to having 6 committee members where we currently have 8. Paul wants the committee to elect its own steering committee members. Cliff stated that what has been recommended by the Mayor and City Attorney is what we have to follow; he opposed Paul's amendments.

Paul reiterated that the steering committee should vote on its members.

Chase questioned if Paul had certain issues with certain CNC members, Paul stated he did not.

Cliff brought the meeting back to order by stating we have 8 committee members, and we have to get back to the agenda and back to work.

Larry stated he wants independence from City Hall...he would prefer 6 members, the problem is the Mayor allowed for more...he wants to retain the original 6 members and doesn't want the 2 City Council members present...he is concerned about public image....he likes Kathy Bergeron's version and her changes made in red and agrees with the changes.

Kathy Bergeron stated she loves having 8 members, especially people who are invested and interested.

Kathleen supports Kathy's comments.

Paul questioned why we have to make changes.

Cliff stated he wants to set current bylaws and get the committee to elect a Chair and then move forward.

Vote to approve Paul Mannle's amendments to preexisting bylaws:

Rick Becksted- ABSTAIN

Paul Mannle- YES

Chase Hagaman- NO

Kelly Weinstein- NO

Kathy Bergeron- NO

Larry Cataldo-YES

Kathleen Boduch- NO

Cliff Lazenby- NO

1 abstain, 2 YES, 5 NO

Rick explained his reasoning for abstaining, and asked if we should review the changes to Kathy's amendments, stated it can be confusing because not all changes were highlighted in red; Kathy B addressed her intention to make major changes clear.

Chase asked if Kathy's version can be presented as a new version of the bylaws and not amendments.

Cliff stated Kathy's can be presented as new version rather than amended version.

Larry finds it confusing and that we are rushing ahead and wants to annotate preexisting bylaws; Cliff encouraged the committee to move forward.

Paul wanted to clarify that the bylaws are for CNC Steering Committee members, does not agree with the changes proposed, and feels that City Council members should not be voting members.

Kelly suggested that we move forward with Kathy B's version of the bylaws, and if steering committee members would like to submit an amendment in the future for consideration can do so. Kelly would like the City Council members to be viewed as citizens/residents and not just "City Council members", and if members of committee have concerns about presence of Council members than an amendment to limit/restrict who can be a steering committee member will have to be proposed at a later date.

Cliff suggested Kathy withdraw her amended bylaws and proposed they be submitted as new bylaws.

Paul suggested we adopt 2016 bylaws as new bylaws.

John Wykoff spoke to section III of the existing bylaws and liked Kathy's version, specifically to encourage people to be involved and not scared of the process as stated in preexisting bylaws, felt Kathy's are more current and makes sense.

Vote to approve 2016 bylaws as new bylaws as proposed by Paul Mannle:

Rick Becksted-NO

Paul Mannle- YES

Chase Hagaman- NO

Kelly Weinstein- NO

Kathy Bergeron- NO

Larry Cataldo- YES

Kathleen Boduch- NO

Cliff Lazenby- NO

2 YES; 6 NO

Kathy Bergeron makes a motion to adopt her bylaws for current term, Kathleen Boduch seconds.

Rick agreed with Kelly's comments and encouraged amendments at a later date, Paul wanted change word "attendance" to "membership", discussion followed; word attendance to remain; clarification to language for acting Secretary, everyone in agreement to clarify line.

Vote to accept Kathy's version of bylaws for current term:

Rick Becksted- YES

Paul Mannle- NO

Chase Hagaman- YES

Kelly Weinstein- YES

Kathy Bergeron- YES

Larry Cataldo- YES

Kathleen Boduch- YES

Cliff Lazenby- YES

1 NO; 7 YES, motion passes to accept bylaws for 2018 CNC term.

V.

Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Chase nominates Kathy Bergeron as Chair, Kathleen Boduch seconds.

Paul "Call to question", Kelly asks for clarification, it means to end the discussion, Larry 2nds the call to question.

Vote to end debate and elect Kathy Bergeron as Chair:

Rick Becksted- YES

Paul Mandle- YES

Chase Hagaman- YES

Kelly Weinstein- YES

Kathy Bergeron- YES

Kathleen Boduch- YES

Larry Cataldo- YES

Cliff Lazenby- YES

Unanimous YES to vote Kathy Bergeron as Chair of CNC for 2018 term.

Rick Becksted nominates Paul Mandle as Vice Chair.

Kathy Bergeron nominates Chase Hagaman as Vice Chair.

Rick speaks to his nomination; Paul knows the people...engaged in civil service....engaged and involved in neighborhoods...knows the neighborhoods, is well sought after...

Kathy speaks to her nomination; appreciates Chases involvement...his run for City Council...new people bring fresh perspective....he's good with people...will bring new energy and experience to CNC.

Chase spoke to his nomination; passionate about residents and CNC...day job is grassroots organization and wants to help facilitate and advocate for specific issues....wants to help reflect opinions of residents...wants to be continuously involved in citywide issues...

Paul spoke to his nomination; appreciates Chase....says he is not a politician, wants to lay all cards on the table....committee has done great things....wants the CNC to strive and achieve for all neighborhoods and not pick and choose like in the past....he will get out and listen to the people...

Paul Mannle declines the nomination and states he thinks Chase is perfect for the role.

Cliff states he has learned a lot from Paul and commends him for his involvement.

Paul then rescinds his resignation.

Call to vote for Vice Chair:

Rick Becksted- Paul

Paul Mannle- Paul

Chase Hagaman- Chase

Kelly Weinstein- Chase

Kathy Bergeron- Chase

Kathleen Boduch- Chase

Larry Cataldo- Paul

Cliff Lazenby- Chase

3 Paul; 5 Chase

Chase Hagaman elected as Vice Chair.

Cliff states he is no longer acting Chair, and Kathy Bergeron takes role at 8:18pm.

V. A.

Kathy Bergeron distributes tentative meeting dates for 2018-2019 and makes a motion to accept schedule, all were in favor.

Chase is unable to attend 4-18-18 after date was changed.

VI. B.

Christy Cardoso speaks about Atlantic Heights neighborhood- recent meeting with Maine DOT, rehabilitation project for 95 bridge, will be a 2-3 year project, concrete work and railings...added breakdown lane to accommodate merging traffic...there s a park that existed under the bridge that has been closed due to safety concerns/also heard the lease expired with the state, residents asking about possibility of reopening park if safety concerns are addressed with the project, NH DOT is open to dialogue....residents want City Council and staff support park development.

Rick is aware of potential and supports it; Cristy also commented they will have to look into sound barrier with increased lanes

John Wykoff speaks about Creek Organization/Christian Shore

2 issues:

- 1.) School safety with bridge closure, got Herald involved, bridge safety was addressed....city doing a nice job keeping sidewalks clear with added distance for walkers to school...
- 2.) Concerned about amount of units being added to neighborhood ~120 at The Clipper; project by Hannafords moving forward...concerned about traffic on Bartlett Street in particular....cannot be used as the main connector any more...need a comprehensive look at traffic pattern....Rick stated the Cate street connector is likely

Larry Cataldo left the meeting at 8:40pm

Esther Kennedy spoke to the bylaws for CNC and recommends we adopt language to reflect proper email usage...wants to be sure that CNC is preserved....wants a procedure or policy in place about email distribution.

Christy Cardoso addressed the concern and gave history of context- thought she was being an open conduit to disseminate information, and felt she was responding to a request, but realized that it was a mistake and would not distribute information like that again

Esther Kennedy stated the CNC is not a political action committee, but rather one that serves to take information from neighborhoods and pass along to City Council.

Kathy Bergeron agrees we are an open committee where we will share that information and will make a policy/procedure and we can amend and/or add to the bylaws.

Cliff announced Echo Ave meeting for following evening at 6:30.

Paul Mannle made motion to adjourn and Kathy B seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.