

Citywide Neighborhood Committee
Zoom Meeting August 26, 2020, 5:00 pm

Committee Attendees:

Larry Cataldo, Lori Soloway, Mark Syracuse, and Dave Cosgrove. Both Beth Margeson and Paul Mannle were unable to attend.

City Staff:

Peter Stith, Planning Department coordinated Zoom

Members of the public present:

Kathy Bergeron and Christy Cardosa (both former CNC chairs), Joan Hamblet and Andrew Bagley

Discussion Items:

The meeting began at 5:02 pm.

Summary: the meeting agenda consists of: discussions on proposed changes to the bylaws; hear updates on the Ward 3 Forum and National Night Out; and address any urgent neighborhood issues if any.

1. Proposed 2018 Bylaw Changes

Larry Cataldo gave an introduction, and discussed the major change to the vision statement which was . . . “Advocate for the greater good of the City and the neighborhoods as a whole as well as (removing the words “instead of”) individual neighborhoods and their respective issues.” . . . He then opened the discussion to the committee and meeting participants.

Both former CNC chairs, Kathy Bergeron and Christy Cardosa spoke against the change saying that this committee should not favor any particular neighborhood. Lori did not understand the reasoning for the changes and preferred to keep the bylaws as is. Both Dave Cosgrove and Mark Syracuse thought the changes made sense. Dave wanted to be sure that as a CNC committee person, he could advocate for any neighborhood and not necessarily those in Ward 3. Larry assured the committee that members could advocate for any neighborhood in Portsmouth.

Dave made the motion to accept the proposed changes; Mark seconded the motion. The vote was called with three in favor of the changes and one abstained. The motion carried. Larry also noted that, although less official, Paul Mannle and Beth Margeson emailed that both were in favor of the proposed changes.

2. Ward Three Zoom Forum

Lori Soloway reported that the forum would be held on Wednesday, September 30 at 6 pm. She contacted the City Clerk’s office and confirmed that Mayor Rick Becksted, Assistant Mayor Jim Splaine, PPD Chief Robert Merner, PFD Chief Todd Germain, PW Director Peter Rice, Planning Director Juliet Walker and City Manager Karen Conard would attend. Lori will work with Larry and Mark on a press release and other announcements. Larry determined from Kathy Bergeron that the forum announce-

ments should begin in early September.

3. National Night Out (NNO)

Larry Cataldo informed the committee that he contacted Chief Merner beginning in last July, and since had several conversations. In addition, he sent two emails to the chief inviting his designees to contact him or at least attend the zoom meeting. Larry received no further responses. Next, Lori Soloway sent an email today reminding Captain Newport and Detective Jones (community Relations) of the zoom meeting. Neither attended. Since PPD has the role of coordinating the NNO activities, the CNC will wait for their intentions for October 6th.

4. Neighborhood Issues

Mark Syracuse mentioned a problem at the Dondero School with trash left on the ground by students in the neighborhood. Apparently, there are no outside trash receptacles. Christy Cardoso recommended that someone should organize a community cleanup to take care of this problem. Mark thought this was a good idea and will pass it along.

The meeting concluded at 5:52 pm.

Submitted by Larry Cataldo, Transitional Chair of the Citywide Neighborhood Committee

