



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

September 28, 2017

REPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS
COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Vice Chair	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman at Large	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	

Others present: Alderman Mark Niedergang, Alderman Katjana Ballantyne, Ellen Snyder - Personnel, George Proakis - OSPCD, Brad Rawson - OSPCD, Annie Connor - Legislative Liaison, Charles Sillari - Clerk of Committees.

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Heuston and adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Approval of the August 24, 2017 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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203462: Requesting the confirmation of John DeLuca as Director of Water & Sewer.

Mr. DeLuca discussed his background and the projects going on in his department. He spoke about the installation of a new water and sewer system. Chairman Heuston said that she is concerned about fire hydrants and wants to make sure that they are fixed. She went on to say that a major point is having the concerns of residents dealt with. Alderman Rossetti expressed her concern about Water Department personnel responding to messages and not resolving billing problems. Aldermen Ballantyne, Davis and Sullivan also related the concerns of their constituents.

Chairman Heuston's motion that the Director of Water and Sewer appear before the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters in six weeks to present a plan regarding vendor contracts, constituent communications and the day to day operation of the department, was approved.

RESULT:

APPROVED

203574: Requesting the appointment of Jordan A. Smith to the Design Review Committee.

Mr. Smith spoke about his qualifications and Alderman Davis inquired about the candidate's law practice and said that he is concerned about conflict of interest, adding that the board's role is to serve the public, not developers. Alderman Rossetti also expressed concern. Mr. Smith responded by saying that he works mostly in Boston, and that his practice would not create any conflicts.

RESULT:

APPROVED

203672: Requesting the reappointment of Robert Racicot to the Housing Authority.

Mr. Racicot spoke about his role consulting on construction projects. Alderman Niedergang requested to speak and asked Mr. Racicot about conflicts between tenants and the administration, and if he ever sides with tenants.

RESULT:

APPROVED

203673: Requesting the appointment of Victor A. Silva to the Condominium Review Board.

Mr. Silva explained why he is interested in this position and he acknowledged that Alderman Niedergang had some concerns.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204129: Requesting the appointment of Caitlin Hart to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Proakis spoke about the vacancies needing to be filled. He presented Ms. Hart's background.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204130: Requesting the appointment of Robin Kelly to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Kelly is a real estate agent and Alderman Rossetti expressed concern about conflict of interest.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204131: Requesting the appointment of Peter Kaplan as an Alternate Member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Proakis presented Mr. Kaplan's background and pointed out that the candidate lives in Cambridge. Mr. Proakis told the committee that this is a difficult position to fill. Members of the committee expressed concern over conflict of interest. Alderman Niedergang said that RCG recently purchased a property and that he has heard good things from residents.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

204132: Requesting the appointment of Dana LeWinter as an Alternate Member of the Historic Preservation Commission..

Ms. LeWinter spoke about her background.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204133: Requesting the appointment of Anthony Grisetto as an Alternate Member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Grisetto spoke about his background and said that he works with homeowners who renovate historic homes. He stated that there would be no conflict of interest.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204134: Requesting the appointment of Tyler Thompson as an Alternate Member of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Thompson spoke about his desire to serve on the HPC. Alderman Rossetti expressed her concern about conflict of interest.

RESULT:

APPROVED

204230: Requesting the appointment of Lena Webb to the Traffic Commission.

Mr. Rawson spoke about the need for this appointment and Alderman McWatters said that having a bicyclist perspective on the Traffic Commission is important.

RESULT:

APPROVED