

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2013

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia; Co-chair Ayala; Council members: Baker, Banta, Brannelly, Brantley, Taylor-Moye

NON-COMMITTEE: Council members: dePara, Olson, Blunt
Council President McCarthy

CITY ATTORNEY: Mark Anastasi

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2013.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** CO-CHAIR AYALA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the agenda would be taken out of order.

86-12 Appointment of Charles McNeill (D) to the Harbor Commission.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the appointee wasn't present and there was a request to table the item until the next scheduled meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO TABLE**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

87-12 Appointment of Carrie Picardi (D) to the Harbor Commission.

The appointee approached the committee. Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Ms. Picardi to tell the committee about herself, why she would like to be chosen to serve on the committee and what she could bring to the table. She further reviewed the appointment process, noting that if the appointment was approved by the committee; the matter would then go before the full city council for a vote.

Council member Brannelly asked for an overview of what the Harbor Commission does.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia called for a 5-minute recess.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO RECESS**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The committee recessed at 6:11 pm.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO COME OUT OF RECESS**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The committee came out of recess at 6:14 pm.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia reconvened the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that she had paperwork for the Harbor Commission appointments and the Energy Commission. However, she said that the paperwork and background information for the Food Policy Council hasn't been submitted yet. She indicated that the committee would need to decide if they still wanted to hear from the Food Policy Council appointees that were present and review the paperwork later when it's received. In this case, the item would be tabled and the committee would take a final vote at the next meeting – *it was noted that the Mayor's office didn't submit the background information for the appointees.*

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked Council member Taylor-Moye and Council member Banta to provide some background information about the Harbor Commission.

Council member Taylor-Moye stated that the purpose of the Harbor Commission is to check areas in proximity to the harbor, to ensure that there isn't any trash. She said the commission often went out on the water to assess what was going on, noting that most harbor matters were handled by the Port Authority. She relayed that she gained a lot of experience about boating and the waterways, such as the harbor being monitored for potential terrorist threats.

Council member Banta stated that the Harbor Commission is a laid back commission. He relayed that it was great to be on the team. He explained that if anyone is looking to put any kind of obstruction on the water, the request goes through the commission to determine fees etc. He noted that the commission has three boats. He mentioned that Tony Palumbo is the Harbor Commissioner and Ed McCain is his assistant, noting that both are very knowledgeable about the harbor. He further mentioned that monitoring jet-skiers is important on the Black Rock Harbor. He said the commission meets at the airport for one hour every month.

City Attorney Anastasi added that the commission has a webpage on the city's website. He relayed that the Harbor Commission's job is to create a harbor master plan and their purpose is to provide advice and information and a long term strategic plan to develop properties along the harbor. He noted that mooring fees, rules on dockage are also maintained. He continued to say that the overall purpose is to ensure that they have a long term strategic vision to make sure that the harbor and waterways are functioning as they should. He commented that the work the commission does is taken seriously and they address all issues regarding the harbor that is critical to the long term success of the city.

Council member Brannelly asked the number of commissioners there were on the board. It was stated that the board consists of the chairman Peter Hollis and the harbor master Tony Palumbo. Erin stated that normally there are seven (7) commissioners seated on the Harbor Commission and there are currently two (2) vacancies. Attorney Anastasi mentioned that the term of some of the commissioners may be coming up. Council member Banta stated that there are currently six (6) commissioners and one (1) vacancy.

Council member Brannelly asked if the employees of the harbor master report to the Harbor Commission. Attorney Anastasi said yes. However, he said the harbor master also sits on the Port Authority Board and attends the meetings regularly.

The appointee, Ms. Picardi stated that she is a professor of psychiatry at Sacred Heart University. She is formerly from New Jersey and she currently lives in Black Rock. She stated that she is a member of the Fairweather Yacht Club and the Ash Creek Association, but she doesn't hold any office for either of those affiliations. She relayed that she is interested in working with different state holders to find out how residential needs are met, in terms of how the harbor is monitored for potential terrorist threats; as well as other matters that affect the harbor. She stated that her time is flexible and she will be available to attend meetings regularly.

Council member Brannelly commented that it's important to have people on the commission that have an interest in upcoming harbor projects; such as the Steel Point development. She expressed that overall, it's an exciting time for Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council member Brantley welcomed the appointee Carrie Picardi as a female coming forward to serve on the Harbor Commission and be a part of the harbor projects coming up.*

88-12 Appointment of Bruce Williams (D) to the Energy Improvement District.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia stated that this appointee was replacing Carl Horton for term through 2017.

The appointee Bruce Williams approached the committee and he thanked them for considering him for the appointment to the Energy Improvement District. He stated that he was one of the owner's of Captain's Cove Seaport. He said he was asked to be on the board by John an acquaintance of his, who thought he would be interested in serving on the commission. He said that his interest is due to Captain's Cove being in the middle of great opportunities. He relayed that he grew up in Black Rock, worked in the lobster business and then he went onto to work at Captain's Cove. He said that he has worked in the harbor in some capacity all his life.

Council member Taylor-Moye stated that she noticed Mr. Williams sat on other boards. She asked if he foresees any conflicts serving on those other boards, in terms of being able to attend the Energy Improvement District meetings. Mr. Williams said that his time was flexible and he would be able to attend meetings regularly.

Council member Brannelly asked for an overview of the purpose of the Energy Improvement District.

Erin stated that the Energy Improvement District consists of a core group of members that focus on the energy improvement district, which consists of the entire City of Bridgeport. She stated that any green or environmental business promotions that occur in the city are part of the Energy Improvement District. She noted that two (2) commissioners have left and there are currently four (4) members that serve on the commission. *City Attorney Anastasi read some information from the city's website that outlines the mission of the Energy Improvement District.*

Council member Baker asked if Mr. Williams had a lease with the city. Mr. Williams said the lease on Captain's Cove began in 1983 and will run through 2061. Council member Baker stated that he saw Mr. William's passion for the city and his commitment to Captain's Cove. He said he thought he would be an asset to serving on the board. Mr. Williams responded that if there was ever a conflict serving on the board, due to his position at Captain's Cove; he would have to recuse himself.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTINO PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER)**

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia announced that there were five (5) agenda items related to the Food Policy Council, but there was no background information for the appointees. She asked the committee how they wanted to proceed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

Council member Taylor-Moye stated that normally, the paperwork is reviewed and questions are asked by the committee members based upon that information. She emphasized that they needed to follow protocol.

After a brief discussion:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER WITHDREW THE MOTION TO TABLE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE WITHDREW THE MOTION TO SECOND**

Upon further discussion, Council member Brannelly commented that it was extraordinary that all the appointees were present tonight. She stated that she would like to hear about the purpose of the Food Policy Council and also hear from each appointee. She said they could then table the vote and if they aren't comfortable with what each appointee had to say, they could then ask additional questions when the background information is reviewed.

Council President McCarthy agreed that the appointees should be allowed to speak tonight. He stated that they may need to return anyway if there's any question in their paperwork.

Council member Taylor-Moye stated the items should be tabled, however; she said she wanted to hear from the appointees that were present. She agreed however, that they may have to return for questions after their background information is reviewed.

Council member Olson encouraged Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia to express her disappointment that the paperwork hadn't been submitted.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia polled the committee to find out if they would like to hear from the appointees. It was decided to allow the appointees to address the committee.

103-12 Appointment of Margot Reynolds (U) to the Food Policy Council.

Ms. Reynolds approached the committee. She stated that her party affiliation was unaffiliated. She relayed that she asked to serve on the Food Policy Council because she is employed at Wholesome Wave, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to improve food quality at local farmers markets in Bridgeport. She stated that incentives are given for food stamps and she works with (300) different sites across the country. And they use data to improve food policies and advance priorities.

Council member asked Ms. Reynolds if she would bring her background experience to the Food Policy Council. Ms. Reynolds said yes. She added that she would also bring other valuable initiatives.

104-12 Appointment of Esperina Baptiste (U) to the Food Policy Council.

Ms. Baptiste approached the committee. She stated that she has been the Executive Director at the YMCA for seven years. She mentioned that she has participated in a number of organizations in Bridgeport that deal with food through working with local farmers markets; primarily on the east end to assure that individuals have access to quality food.

Council member Brantley asked if Ms. Baptiste was there to represent the east end. Ms. Baptiste said she would act as a representative as a Bridgeport resident.

Council member Brantley asked if she would ensure that the east end residents have equal access to food. Ms. Baptiste said yes.

105-12 Appointment of Christine Stafstrom (D) to the Food Policy Council.

Christine Statstrom approached the committee. She stated that she has lived in Black Rock for five years. She stated that she holds an MBA degree. She expressed that as a parent of a 10-month old; she felt that it's important to provide food education access.

She relayed that she was recently involved with an organization named “Food Fight” which advocates education about food quality.

106-12 Appointment of Fred Kaskowitz (D) to the Food Policy Council.

Mr. Kaskowitz approached the committee. He stated that he was 57 years old and that he has been involved in the food related business since 1974. He stated that he is the executive chef for six different hotel companies throughout the country. He mentioned that he opened up the Holiday Inn, formerly the Hilton during 1973, so he is familiar with Bridgeport. He relayed that he will be able to offer a unique viewpoint to what’s required on the commission, number one being that he is a chef and he has owned a business on Wood Avenue since 1977. He said he is self-employed and he realizes the struggle of self-employed persons. He mentioned that he realizes the basis of getting young people fed well, especially when they come home from the hospital; so he thought it would be important to provide information to parents about proper nutrition. He said it will be a tremendous task for the council to take on the initiative. He emphasized the importance of starting good nutrition at a young age.

Council member Olson commented that Mr. Kaskowitz has catered for him on occasion and that he has a colony of loyal customers.

Council member Banta asked Mr. Kaskowitz if he puts out a newsletter or other information to advocate proper nutrition, in reference to Mr. Kaskowitz comment regarding the importance of proper nutrition when a young person gets out of the hospital.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked if there would be anyone doing outreach to get the word out to residents about the Food Policy Council. Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia replied that is the purpose of creating the Food Policy Council. Council member Taylor-Moye suggested holding a healthy food day in the community for families and individuals that aren’t aware of the benefits of healthy cooking, noting her past experience of unhealthy cooking until she gained some valuable information how to cook healthy.

107-12 Appointment of Audrey M. Barr (D) to the Food Policy Council.

Audrey Barr approached the committee. She stated that she is a lifelong Bridgeport resident and she grew up in P.T. Barnum. She mentioned that her mother was the founder of the P.T. Barnum Soup Kitchen. She said she was looking to ensure that the

Food Policy Council purpose will be to initiate good healthy food, noting that she understands the importance of healthy eating. She stated that she is a member of other organizations, such as the Eisenhower Senior Center and she relayed that she was introduced to healthier foods and vegetables that she normally wouldn't eat and how to prepare and cook them in a healthy manner with olive oil instead of vegetable oil to taste good. She went on to say that she graduated from Bassick High School and she worked at the phone company for twenty-one years, until she retired in 2010. She noted that she also attended Housatonic Community College.

She said that it's important that people not only have good food, but that they know how to cook it. For example, it's crucial that a diabetic is aware of healthy cooking. She shared that she learned you can take light cream cheese and use splenda to make a cheese cake, noting that there are alternative cooking ingredients that can be used that look and taste good. She said they need to be cognizant of what people want and need to eat.

Council President McCarthy commented that in his opinion, the Food Policy Council will be one of the best boards in Bridgeport, in terms of what they intend to accomplish.

Council member Brantley asked the number of people that should be on the Food Policy Council. Erin responded that there should be six (6) persons serving on the council and one (1) staff person.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia asked the representative from the Health Department to give some background information about the Food Policy Council.

Ms. Baptiste stated that through working with various coalitions, they began to see a serious issue in Bridgeport, particularly on the east end. She said they were able to map out health conditions that they found were due to improper nutrition. She relayed that current statistics show that if something isn't done to address the problem, children will begin to outlive their parents due to improper nutrition. She went on to say that they subsequently found that there weren't any healthy food options available in the city, so they eventually met with some of the council members to discuss the problem and a resolution was drafted by the co-sponsors.

Council member Brantley stated that she would like to see more grass roots organizations involved with the Food Policy Council. She said it will be necessary to get

the word out about the policy, noting that it's crucial that the policy works and is out in the neighborhood.

Council member Blunt stated that there was a process to setting up the Food Policy Council, however; there was an opportunity to apply to serve on the council. He said there will be sub-committees formed who will be involved from a community perspective.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO TABLE ITEMS 103-13; 104-12; 105-12; 106-12 AND 107-12 RELATED TO THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Erin stated the appointees could be sworn in and up and running on the Food Policy Council by August 2013; per Council member Brannelly's question of how soon the Food Policy Council would be in place.

**It was determined that the appointees would need to attend the next scheduled meeting to address any questions that may arise from review of their background information and paperwork.*

65-12 Proposed Workman's Compensation Stipulation with Wilmer Carde.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBR BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The committee entered into executive session at 7:40 pm.

Co-chair Vizzo-Paniccia noted that Council member Brannelly left the meeting at 7:56 pm.

The committee came out of executive session at 8:20 pm.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** CO-CHAIR AYALA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

****Let it be noted that the item was approved contingent upon the additional information that City Attorney Anastasi is required to submit to the committee at the next scheduled meeting.***

ADJOURNED

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services