



# ***Memorials & Dedications***

July 30, 2014 – 7:00 PM - **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber, Room 213, Municipal Building

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS**

**DATE: JULY 30, 2014**

**TIME: 7 P.M.**

**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; DANA REBEIRO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY; KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR LINDA MORAD**

**ALSO PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, BRIAN GOMES**

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Councillor Bousquet called the Committee on Memorials & Dedications Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Morad stating she would not be in attendance due to a personal family commitment. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Carney.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Morad requesting, on behalf of Normand Cabral, Commander-Howland Chapter Veterans Association, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications consider dedicating the electrical building located at Clasky Common Park in memory of the late Louis S. Whitlow, Jr., who for many years worked tirelessly and with great pride on the annual holiday decorations display at Clasky Common Park. (Ref'd 11/22/11, 5/22/12 – Letters, when we receive a response, send results to Mr. Haggerty, 3/11/14 – Remain in Committee) (1)

The Clerk read a Communication from Peter Boswell Chairman of the Park Board to Councillor Lopes, advising that at the November 2013 Park Board Meeting, the Park Board approved the placement of a plaque on the building in Clasky Common Park, in memory of the late Louis Whitlow.

Ken Blanchard was present on a different matter but informed the Committee that he believes that this has been moved already through the Park Board. Councillor Bousquet informed the Committee that we are here tonight to get Voc-Tech on board. He did try to reach Mr. Haggerty via email, since he is on summer break, but he did run into him at Wal-Mart. Mr. Haggerty told him whatever we need to let him know.

Councillor Bousquet asked Councillor Lopes to inform the Committee how he got the sign made for Loretta Bourque.

Councillor Lopes informed the Committee that he and Councillor Gomes had a sit down meeting with the gentleman who runs the woodworking shop. The City bought the material that Voc used to make the sign because we had no money.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send a letter to Thaddeus Haggerty, Construction & Drafting Coordinator asking they move forward with the construction of the sign for the Late Louis S. Whitlow. 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) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (2)

Ken Blanchard, Acting Commissioner of Facilities & Fleet Management, was present to address the Committee. Councillor Bousquet asked Commissioner Blanchard for his input on this matter. Commissioner Blanchard recommended that the first step taken should be to solicit a design that takes into consideration the fact that City Hall is an historic building, and then a location within City Hall be selected. There was discussion as to how to design it and where to place it. Commissioner Blanchard also suggested that the Committee ask Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, for her input on the design.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee ask Councillor Coelho to work with Preservation Planner Anne Louro and Voc-Tech Construction & Drafting Coordinator Thaddeus Haggerty in order to develop a potential design on how this “Wall of Remembrance” should be constructed and report back to this Committee within thirty (30) days of her findings. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Carney, 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 Mayor Mitchell along with whoever is responsible for the upkeep of the State Pier consider naming the parking lots along the State Pier which are presently lettered A, B, C, with “Whale” names, due to the fact that this is the “Whaling City” and we should be following that procedure even on the State Pier when naming these parking lots; and further requesting that the Terminal Building at the State Pier be renamed after the former Mayor, Edward Harrington (Ref’d 6/19/12, 3/20/13 – tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (3)

Councillor Gomes stated that he felt this would be a good idea, considering the city’s whaling history.

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send a letter to Captain Richard Cunio, State Pier Manager, thanking him for his help in forwarding our request to consider naming the State Pier parking lots with Whale names due to the fact New Bedford is the “Whaling City” and the request to rename the Terminal Building after former Mayor, Edward Harrington. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Saunders, Gonsalves, Alves, Martins, Dehner, Duarte, Gomes and Lopes, requesting to rename a portion of Shawmut Avenue, from Nash Road to the New Bedford Regional Airport to ARNOLD B. CAMARA AVENUE, in memory of Mr. Camara for his

contributions to the community. (Ref'd 7/18/10, 5/20/13 – tabled; clerk to look into how many parcels would be affected by this name change) (4)

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee send a letter to Mike Camara asking if his father was a veteran, if so, then he would be eligible to receive a special recognition without having to actually change the street name and people's addresses.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for thirty (30) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting on behalf of the Paul Ryan Vermette Family, that permission from the Committee on City Property be given to the Vermette Family to adopt the triangle located at Mill Street and Kempton Street, outside the Rite Aid Pharmacy, for the dedication to the late Paul Ryan Vermette; and further, that the Vermette Family would like to adopt and provide upkeep and maintenance, with all costs incurred by the Vermette Family, to the triangle located east of the Hess Gas Station; and further requesting, that the rotten trees be removed and replaced with four Cherry Blossom trees, along with a bench and a plaque in memory of the late Paul Ryan Vermette, due to his contributions to businesses and buildings that he built all around the triangle located at Mill and Kempton Streets; and further, that the Vermette Family is establishing a yearly scholarship to be given to a New Bedford High School student in memory of the late Paul Ryan Vermette (Ref'd 4/25/13, 3/11/14 - table) was removed from the table by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (5)

Councillor Gomes was present along with Mr. Vermette's youngest son David Vermette. Mr. Vermette explained the family's history with this area in question and stated that he and his family would like to incur all costs, including that of landscaping. They would take very good care of this area and would use bonded contractors to do any work and pay for everything themselves.

Councillor Bousquet raised the concern over liability, but again, Mr. Vermette stated that due to the workers all being bonded, the city would not have to worry about liability.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Memorials & Dedications send letters to Attorney David Gerwatowski, DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle and the City Solicitor's Office expressing this Committee's desire to move forward with this "adoption" by the Vermette Family and asking for their input and suggestions on how to best proceed in order to bring this to fruition; and that they respond within thirty (30) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chair's recommendation and take "No Further Action" on items six (6) through ten (10). This motion passed on a voice vote. Those items are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion of Councillors Pimental, Morad, Pina, Gonsalves and Coelho, requesting that the Committee on Memorials and Dedications look into the possibility of placing a Memorial in the City of New Bedford for the Women who served in the Armed Forces. (Ref'd 7/20/06, 5/28/08, 4/11/11, 5/9/11, 6/28/11, 5/22/12, 6/12/12, 2/20/13, 5/20/13 – tabled, invited not in attendance, 8/28/13 – tabled) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the City Council go on record in support of TREASURER JOSEPH M. "JIGGS" RAMOS, for his long-time dedication not only as

the City Treasurer, but as a leader of the Cape Verdean Community, his commitment to his many clients and New Bedford's community-at-large, and his devotion to friends, family as well as to his Country, which he served during World War II. (7)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Bousquet, on behalf of Mr. Raymond Patnaude, President of La Ligue des Franco-Americans of Greater New Bedford, requesting that the City Council's Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications explore the possibility of establishing a monument to memorialize Sacred Heart Church that was located on Summer Street, established in 1876, with 200 families which was the first, largest and fastest growing Franco-American Catholic Church in New Bedford; in 2000, the Diocese demolished the 126 year old Church which leaves a hole in the hearts of the French Community; and further, requesting that the City help celebrate an important part of our City's cultural past. (Ref'd 1/26/12) (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Lawrence, Oliveira, Council President Martins, Lopes, Gonsalves, Bousquet, Saunders and Duarte, submitting the request of several constituents, that a plaque in honor of the late Ward Six Councillor Leo R. Pimental, be placed by the Christmas Tree at Ashley Park, in remembrance of the work he did at Christmastime on behalf of the children in the area; and further, that inside the Ashley Park Community Center, that a framed picture of Councillor Pimental be hung along with a brief biography and description of his contribution to the people of Ward Six. (Ref'd 12/21/12) (9)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Gomes & Council President Duarte, requesting that the Department of Public Infrastructure replace the plaque which was stolen from Carney Academy property approximately three years ago, which commemorated the original site of the Bethel AME Church, the Church members have requested replacement several times in the past without success. (Ref'd 7/18/13, 8/28/13 – letter) (10)

Councillor Carney made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees