

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS
DATE: MAY 19, 2021
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L. C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); DEREK BAPTISTE, VICE CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); NAOMI CARNEY (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA (REMOTELY)

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR BRIAN GOMES

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Councillor Abreu called the Memorials & Dedications Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Gomes explaining his absence from this meeting. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Abreu and Council President Lopes, submitting information from Joseph Pacheco, Fort Rodman Marine Educational Association, Inc, regarding placing a memorial plaque or information board at the location of the former "Beetle Boat Yard" (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref'd 02/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; and Lima yes. (1)

Joseph Pacheco, President of the Low Tide Yacht Club, and the Fort Rodman Marine Educational Association was present (remotely) and gave an overview of the history of the Beetle Boat Yard and the Beetle Family. Through the request of Mrs. Leonora Carreiro, The Fort Rodman Marine Educational Association is requesting that the City place a plaque at the start of the Harbor Walk near the former Billy Wood's Wharf commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Beetle Boat legacy.

Councillor Lima expressed his support for this project. He suggested that CPA funds could be used for this purpose as it is historical. He would reach out to Mr. Pacheco to review the process. Councillors Baptiste and Carney both voiced their support of the project as well.

Councillor Abreu asked if there had been any discussion with Steve Silverstein creator of the Cisco project who owns the land. Mr. Pacheco said there had not been any

discussion that this would be just north of the property and would not be on private property.

Manny Silva of DPI was present (remotely) and stated that DPI supports this initiative. He would just want to know what the funding mechanism would be, and the design of the dedication would be; but the Administration is on board. Mr. Pacheco stated they had not yet investigated the cost factor and will investigate this; but that he will review the CPA requirements with Councillor Lima.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council go on record in support of erecting signage as it relates to the Beetle Boat history/location and to refer to the Mayor. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillor Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Baptiste, Abreu, Carney, Coelho, Dunn, Giesta, Gomes, Lima, Lopes, Markey and Morad, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meet with a Representative of the Mitchell Administration, the Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Jamie Ponte; and Parks Recreation and Beaches Director Mary Rapoza to discuss the feasibility of erecting an appropriate dedication in honor of New Bedford resident, Dr. Jibreel Khazan, a civil rights icon who is best known as a member of the Greensboro Four, a group of African American college students who on February 1, 1960, sat down at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Downtown Greensboro, North Carolina challenging the store's policy of denying service to non-white customers; the protest and the subsequent events were major milestones in the Civil Rights Movement; Dr. Khazan has been a resident of New Bedford for the past 50 years and raised his family here in New Bedford where he has worked with numerous organizations and been one of the most influential people in our Community (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorials & Dedications.) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes. (2)

Erik Andrade, Ross Grace, Jr., Charlie Perry, Jr., Amilton Tavares, Jr. were present (remotely) and spoke in support of the proposal to recognize New Bedford resident Dr. Jibreel Khazan, for his community and civic actions including being an original member of the Greensboro Four.

Erik Andrade gave a review and history of Dr. Khazan's contribution to the country and the City. Dr. Khazan, in his opinion is the most historical resident living in the City since June of 1965. Born in Greensboro, NC, he is best known for his participation in a sit-in movement at a Woolworth's in Greensboro, NC, to desegregate Woolworth's lunch counter policy. These actions inspired 250 similar demonstrations throughout 250 major cities in the United States. These aided in the passing of the Civil Rights Bill. He believes this dedication is much needed and deserved and should occur while Dr. Khazan is still with us.

Valovia Costa, of Parks & Recreation stated that the Park Board supports this initiative but that it should include Dr. Khazan in the process.

Ross Grace, Jr. spoke in favor of the initiative stating that Dr. Khazan shaped, not just the South, but all of America for equal rights through peaceful protest of human beings. Other historical figures in the City include Sgt. William H. Carney and Frederick Douglass. This is the right thing to do.

Charlie Perry, Jr. spoke in favor of this initiative, that Dr. Khazan was an important historical figure during the civil rights movement which laid the groundwork for women's rights, and so many other causes throughout history. He is a founding father of movement that people are still talking about now. He too believes his should happen while Dr. Khazan is still with us.

Amilton Tavares, spoke in favor, as well. The goal is to shed light on the best parts of New Bedford with the recognition. Perhaps a park or a statue in a prominent area of the City. It should be in an area where it will be seen. This is the proper salute to a gentleman who has advocated for all and their basic human rights.

Councillor Baptiste spoke in favor of this motion, that the motion speaks for itself. The he personally knows Dr. Khazan as do so many people. That Dr. Khazan is a living history book, a living legend. He is in favor of naming a park after Dr. Khazan and suggested the Westend Park as Dr. Khazan is a member of the West End Community. At the very least something needs to be named after him. He is more than sure that the finances can be raised to support the decided project. He suggested that a park be named after him and the statue be erected in a very visible place. A park brings joy to all who use it, as does Dr. Khazan, to all who have and are to come to know him.

Councillor Lima spoke in favor of the petition and told of his family's relationship with Dr. Khazan. He also supports that Dr. Khazan be an integral part of the decision honoring him. Perhaps a statue in front of the Library. He suggested that they investigate CPA funding as well.

Councillor Carney stated that she was 1000% in favor of this proposal. Dr. Khazan is an icon. She believes the downtown area would be a perfect place to recognize his efforts and history.

Manny Silva of DPI stated that the City stands ready to assist in any way that they can to see the project moves forward.

A discussion ensued on how to move forward on this proposal, it was decided they would ask the Park Department to investigate renaming a park in Dr. Khazan's honor. The committee would also look to invite a member of the Administration and continue to discuss what appropriate recognition (e.g. plaque or statue) should be placed.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council go on record in support of naming a park after Dr. Khazan and that this support and request be forwarded to the Park Board for consideration; and further, that Erik Andrade, Ross Grace, Jr, Charlie Perry, Jr. and Amilton Tavares be invited to attend the Park Board meeting as well. This

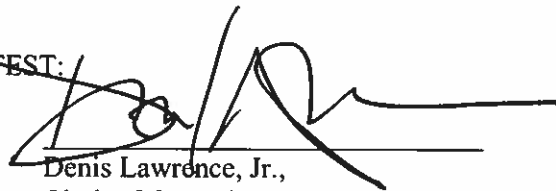
motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes.

On motion by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To table the main motion at this time. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes.

Councillor Lima made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Carney. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 4, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes and Lima, yes.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Lawrence, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees