

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & DEDICATIONS
DATE: JUNE 29, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER,
ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI R. A. CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON;
WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; IAN ABREU

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS SHANE A. BURGO, VICE-CHAIR; BRIAN
GOMES

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Councillor Carney called the Memorials & Dedications Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read two Communications into the record, one from Councillor Burgo explaining the reason for his absence and the other from Councillor Gomes explaining the reason for his absence. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, The Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program application in memory of Derek Pimentel (Ref'd 03/28/19) (04/24/19-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote. (1)

The Clerk informed the Committee that the Office had received a phone call from Commissioner Ponte's Office that afternoon stating that Commissioner Ponte would be unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair recognized Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks Recreation and Beaches, who gave an overview of the application process for the Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program. She stated that the decision that the Memorials and Dedications Committee makes has to then go before the Park Board for final approval and at that point, her department works with family members on implementing the tree or bench.

Ms. Susan Pimentel, the Applicant, was present and stated that she would like the bench positioned in close proximity to a specific tree, located near the Senior Center at Buttonwood Park.

Mary Rapoza stated that she was aware of the tree Ms. Pimentel was referencing, and that the Friends of Buttonwood Park were looking to place additional benches in that area, so it should work out perfectly.

The Clerk read a letter into the record submitted by Councillor Pereira, stating his support of this item. The letter was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council and the Park Board APPROVAL of the Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program Application in memory of Derek Pimentel, with a request that the bench be placed in the family's preferred location of the North Side of the Senior Center at Buttonwood Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, The Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program application in memory of Alice Sherman (Ref'd 02/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote. (2)

Mr. Peter Sherman, the Applicant and son of the late Alice Sherman, was present, as well as his two sisters. They talked about how much their mother loved the City of New Bedford and how active she was in the community. They felt that a bench placed somewhere in the South End would be a fitting tribute, because their mother was especially fond of this part of the City.

Councillor Abreu asked Mary Rapoza what her thoughts were on an installation in the South End of the City. She stated that Hazelwood Park was in need of additional benches, particularly near the 'Bowling on the Green' area of the Park. The family agreed that this would be an appropriate way to honor their mother's memory.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council and the Park Board APPROVAL of the Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program Application in memory of Alice Sherman, with a request that the bench be placed in the family's preferred location at Hazelwood Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, The Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, submitting a Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program application in memory of Sarah D. Clark (Ref'd 05/12/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote. (3)

The Clerk read an email into the record submitted by Debra Lee of the Council on Aging. The email was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Ms. Pamela Amaral-Lema, Applicant and employee of the Council on Aging, was present and addressed the Committee. She talked about what a wonderful person Ms. Clark was, how she was loved by all who knew her, and how active she was at the Buttonwood Senior Center. She stated that in her obituary, in lieu of flowers her family asked that donations be made to the Buttonwood Senior Center, and that to date they have approximately \$900. They would like that money to be put toward a bench, preferably located near the Senior Center at Buttonwood, which Ms. Clark loved so dearly.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council and the Park Board APPROVAL of the Memorial Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program Application in memory of Sarah D. Clark, with a request that the bench be placed in close proximity to the Senior Center at Buttonwood Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Coelho, Lopes, Lima, Abreu, Carney, Giesta and Gomes, requesting that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications look into finding an appropriate location in the downtown area honoring Joe Jesus for the love and dedication he had for the City of New Bedford (Ref'd 03/28/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote. (4)

Councillor Carney stated that because Mr. Jesus loved the downtown area so much, it would be fitting to have a memorial of some sort in this particular area. However, without someone from DPI present, it would be difficult to identify an appropriate location.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a REPORT, Committee on Memorials & Dedications, recommending to the City Council to take **"NO FURTHER ACTION"** on a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Bousquet and Winterson, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications consider creating a pocket park or monument to honor and recognize the City's greatest track hero: the "Whaling City Wonder", French Canadian Leo E. Larrivee, who brought home New Bedford's First Olympic Medal - a Bronze for the third-place finish in the men's 3,000 Meter Team Race at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris (Ref'd 05/08/18) and a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Bousquet and Winterson, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications consider creating a pocket park or monument to honor and recognize the City's greatest track hero: the "Whaling City Wonder", French Canadian Leo E. Larrivee, who brought home New Bedford's First Olympic Medal - a Bronze for the third-place finish in the men's 3,000 Meter Team Race at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris (Ref'd 05/08/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a voice vote. (5, 5a)

Councillor Morad was present and addressed the Committee. She stated that it was herself and Councillor Lima who referred this item back to Committee when it had been placed on a Council agenda for No Further Action. She said that to her knowledge, Leo E. Larrivee was the only New Bedford resident in the City's history to bring home an Olympic Medal. She added that in 2024, it would be the 100th Anniversary of this accomplishment.

Councillor Morad went on to say that although Mr. Larrivee was a runner, she felt that a monument placed at one of the City's school track and field areas would not be seen by many people and that she preferred a location with higher visibility. She suggested a portion of the walkaround at Buttonwood Park.

Mary Rapoza stated that their department had received several requests for mile-markers at the walkaround that Councillor Morad referenced, and perhaps the memorial could be tied into that idea. Councillor Morad mentioned that she had spoken with the City's French-Canadian Group, and that they are willing to raise funds. Mary further added that the Friends of Buttonwood Park Group should be consulted before any final decision was made.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To send the City Council and the Park Board a positive recommendation for erecting a plaque or memorial honoring Leo E. Larrivee, with a request that it be placed at the walking path at Buttonwood Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading and follow the Chair's recommendation to take "No Further Action" and report out to the City Council items 6, 7, 8 and 9. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City of New Bedford recognize Herb Rego for his dedication and commitment to the residents of the City, by naming the bathhouse on West Rodney French Boulevard the "Herb Rego Memorial Lifeguard Center." (Ref'd 08/19/10) (09/08/15-tabled) (05/23/16- table for 60 days & invite Former Mayor Tierney to meeting) (02/22/17-remain on the table) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications meet with Personnel Director Vezina and a representative from the Mayor's office, for the purpose of discussing the creation of a token of appreciation for City workers when they pass away, as a form of acknowledgement thanking them for their services to the City of New Bedford and its people, said token could be a small City flag, a plaque, a Citation or something to be determined at a later date. (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref'd 09/08/16) (7)

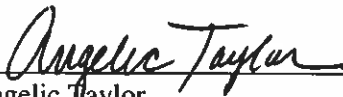
Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Council President Lopes, submitting a letter from the Committee to Honor the late Thomas Wayne Barao, New Bedford High School Basketball Player Class of 1968, regarding naming the basketball court at Ashley Park in Mr. Barao's honor. (To be Referred to the Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref'd 10/26/17) (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the new Public Safety building on Brock Avenue be named the "Sgt. Joseph Camara Public Safety Center" in honor of Staff Sgt. Joseph Camara, who dedicated his life to the Citizens of New Bedford as a Police Officer, and also served our Country in the United States Army National Guard, making the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life on September 01, 2003, when a landmine struck his Humvee outside of Baghdad, Iraq. (To be Referred to the Mayor and the Committee on Memorials and Dedications.) (Ref'd 06/13/19) (9)

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councillor Markey.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST:



Angelic Taylor
Administrative Coordinator
Clerk of Committees Office