



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell

Councilor Maureen T. Carney

Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell

MEETING AGENDA

Date: August 18, 2016

Time: as Announced during the City Council Meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers

212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

2. Public Comment

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

A. Approve minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of June 28, 2016

Documents:

[CityServicesMinutes_June_28_2016.pdf](#)

4. Items Referred to Committee

A. 16.124 Appointment of Linda Desmond as Director of Senior Services - Referred on July 14, 2016

Documents:

[16.124_Appointment_Senior_Services_Desmond.pdf](#)

B. Approve Minutes of the June 28, 2016 Meeting

Documents:

5. New Business

6. Adjourn

Prepared By:

P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
413.587.1210; ppowers@northamptonma.gov



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell

MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 28, 2016

Time: 4:00 p.m.

**Location: City Council Chambers
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts**

Note: This meeting takes the place of the July 4, 2016 meeting when city offices are closed.

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call: At 4:00 p.m. Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. Present were Councilors Bidwell, Carney, O'Donnell and LaBarge. No other City Councilors were present.
2. Public Comment : None
3. Approve Minutes of June 7, 2016: Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Bidwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.
4. Presentation: Mayor Narkewicz to report on implementation plans regarding the 2015 Parking Study

Mayor Narkewicz gave an update on the Walker parking Study that was completed in 2015. There were several recommendations that came out of that study and the Mayor gave the committee a summary of the plans.

One recommendation was to improve the signage, including way-finding and parking to help visitors become familiar with the City's resources. The Mayor notes that some of the City's signage is dated and does not reflect updates or improvements that have been done over time. In the FY2017 Capital Improvement Plan, there are a number of projects, including one in which the City plans to hire a way-finding signage consultant. Favermann Design is a firm that has been hired to support this initiative. Locally they have worked with Amherst and Greenfield, but have also worked on projects in Ipswich, Winchester, and Brookline. A team consisting of city

staff and community members will work with the design firm to develop recommendations for signage. Mayor Narkewicz showed examples of work done for other communities, including Ipswich. The objective will be to develop sign ideas for both attractions and amenities.

Another recommendation in the Walker report concerned upgrades in technology, and more specifically technology upgrades in the Parking Garage. The City has moved to a pay-by-credit-card system in the Parking Garage and the Mayor reports that this has been working well. People are using the credit card functionality; approx. 50% of the parking garage customers are using this feature.

There is also a plan to upgrade parking kiosks in the downtown area. The City is in the final stages of the procurement process to upgrade the kiosks with credit card capability. There are approx. twenty-five on the streets and in parking lots. The Walker report also included a recommendation for upgrades to regulatory requirements; the Mayor plans to implement the regulatory changes when the upgraded kiosks go on-line. Ordinance changes may come as quickly as August 2016 for referral to the appropriate City Council committees. Plans for Main Street, Gothic Street, and Masonic Street Lot will come first. Moving from one-hour to two-hour meters is planned. The metered lot at Masonic Street and Armory Street will increase to three-hours. There has been some internal discussions with several key departments about shifting the time restrictions from 6 pm to 8pm on Main Street only. The concern is whether this adjustment for Main Street only will cause confusion, and whether the benefit would outweigh this concern. The Walker report also includes recommendations to change long term parking pricing in the garage; however, this will be looked at in the future.

Another key piece of the study was to explore new parking opportunities in the City, both municipal parking and the possibility of private/public agreements or partnerships. A number of private lots were called out in the Walker Study that had potential for increased utilization. One area is the Verizon lot which is adjacent to the Masonic Street lot; talks are on-going and could lead to lease agreements between the City and this private company. Tighe & Bond is evaluating the Round House Lot for potential opportunity to increase parking capacity. The firm is reviewing the physical layout and considering alternative layouts. This will be important as the Pulaski Park expansion may impact some parking in this location.

The Walker report also suggested that the City begin to look at a new long-term parking facility. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that discussions are in the beginning stages; right now the focus is on coordinating the implementation of the new technology with the regulatory changes and new signage. There is funding in the capital project budget for both the design phase of the signage project and the implementation phase as well.

The Mayor reports that the contract for the Parking Department's hand-held devices ends in September, so there is a great opportunity to make sure that the newest technology syncs up with the current devices and is compatible with all of the planned changes.

The Walker report mentioned new technology that the City could bring on-line; other options besides the ticket-in-window method support ticketless methods, including a license plate system and a pay-by-space method.

Councilor O'Donnell asked whether there was a plan to re-stripe the Masonic Street Lot; Mayor Narkewicz indicated that there were mocked-up versions of combined lot plans between the Verizon, TD Bank and the City Lots that modified the flow of traffic in those lots. When talks started, the Christian Science building was up for sale; the building has been sold and there is a construction fence around the lot. If the City was able to secure extra real estate in this general area, then the City could look at re-striping the lot accordingly. If access to Cracker Barrel Alley is closed off, flow of traffic in that lot will need to be optimized.

The Walker report also includes a summary of time usage. The report notes that the Round House Lot is full to capacity during the day, but is not used as much during the evening. With the planned changes, the Mayor hopes that parking in the City will be more user friendly.

Mayor Narkewicz noted that several smart phone applications are being looked at to improve the overall customer experience, including some that have the ability to sync up with the kiosks. The Walker report included a recommendation to have a college student design an “app” specific to Northampton; Brian Foote is looking at implementing an Arts & Culture app as well. The Mayor noted that having an app that could integrate with the City’s parking system is preferable.

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Councilor LaBarge asked whether the City was having difficulty collecting money due to the switch over to credit cards. Mayor Narkewicz indicates that he is not aware of any problems in this area; most transactions are low in dollar amount and most are about \$1.00 or less.

Councilor Bidwell asked if there were any further talks about use of outlying private lots, say whenever there is a show at the Calvin Theater. He also asked about worker parking. Mayor Narkewicz stated that in part the issues are related to signage; people don’t know where additional parking is located. Regarding the worker parking, the Walker report mentioned a specific parking problem for the former Marinello Beauty Academy. That business has since closed. There are also opportunities to educate workers about parking and asking them not to park in prime parking spots.

Councilor O’Donnell noted that the Center for the Arts has pretty substantial parking. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that they are one of the private organizations that the City has talked to about use of the spaces. The building is still under construction, and the Mayor is aware that the organization is already renting spaces to “Click Work Space”. This is an example where the City didn’t have to get involved in establishing a relationship for shared parking spaces. Councilor O’Donnell noted that the Center for the Arts lot has the inverse problem of the Round House lot where it is filled during the day, but empty at night.

Councilor O’Donnell asked the Mayor if he had any thoughts about parking solutions for residential streets. The Mayor indicated that would be a discussion for the future. Parking in the Hawley Street vicinity may need to be reviewed once the independent living facilities are completed and the parking needs are better understood.

Councilor Bidwell asked if there was any progress regarding the complaints about parking lot located near the Union Station restaurant. As he understands the situation, rights to the lot revert to the business at 6 p.m.; however, the lot is often full at that time. Mayor Narkewicz indicates that the signage is clear and there have been discussions with the business owners. He believes that the “ball is in their court” to look at a possible solution to that problem. The agreement that is in place pre-dates the current mayor and current business owners. The Mayor points out that the City does not have the right to tow people once the lot reverts to the private owner. The Mayor notes that the kiosk issues tickets only up until 6 pm. The lease in place will run for many more years; the City received that lease as compensation for capital improvements that the City did on the lot. There will also need to be further discussions about Amtrak platform improvements. An expansion of the current platform is planned; this will provide another opportunity to look again at some of those issues concerning this lot.

Councilor Bidwell asked the Mayor how far into the future the possibility of an additional parking garage might be explored. The Mayor indicated that there is not a lot of ready funding for these types of projects right now, however, there may be funding available through Mass Works in the future. A parking garage would be a multi-year process, especially if there was land acquisition involved. Future parking needs may be tied into new residential developments that are planned for downtown, however, the Mayor points out that there are active programs to promote the use of public transportation, bikeways and walkways. This may free up capacity for out-of-town visitors. Regarding the cross-town bus that is available, there was great excitement about it in the beginning; however, ridership has not been strong. ZipCars are available in the area and the City is part of a larger Bike Share program.

5. **Items Referred to Committee:** The committee discussed appointments that were referred to the committee on June 2, 2016 by the City Council. Councilor O'Donnell moved to return the appointments back to the full City Council with positive recommendations for all; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

16.113 Appointments to Committees - Referred to committee on June 2, 2016

Re-Appointments to the Board of Registrars: Charles Klepacki of 26 Ferry Avenue and Janet Larson of 982 Florence Road, Florence

Councilor Carney reviewed the materials for Mr. Klepacki and Ms. Larson; both individuals are up for re-appointment to the board of Registrars. Both are keenly interested in continuing to participate on this committee and gave solid reasons for why they should continue as members.

Re-Appointment to the Central Business Architecture Committee: Bruce Kriviskey of 23 Ice Pond Drive, Florence

Councilor O'Donnell spoke to Mr. Krivesky about his reappointment to the Central Business Architecture Committee. Mr. Krivesky has extensive experience in Fairfax, Virginia area as an architect and historic preservation planner. He is extremely experienced and well qualified to serve on this committee.

Re-Appointment to the Disability Commission: Hannah Coyle of 3 Hampton Avenue

Councilor LaBarge notes that Ms. Coyle would like to continue to participate on the Disability Commission. She would like to continue to be a voice for other members of the community who may have a disability, and continue to find ways that allow access to various amenities and venues for all members of the community.

Appointment to the Disability Commission: Judith Kimberly of 659 Park Hill Road, Florence

Councilor LaBarge notes that Ms. Kimberly would like to be more involved in the City and believes that this is the right committee where she can offer her skills and expertise. She has been highly involved in the disability community both professionally and personally; professionally she has been a program director for Stavros Center for Independent Living and is a former board

member of Independent Living Resources, Inc. She has also worked in the medical field as a registered therapist and has a working knowledge of the ADA requirements.

Appointment to the Housing Partnership: Greta Hagen of 16 Market Street, #2C

Councilor Bidwell spoke to Ms. Hagen about her appointment; Ms. Hagen is Assistant Director of Development for Safe Passage in Northampton. She would bring to this committee her sensitivity to housing needs for that population. She is also concerned about worker housing. Working in a non-profit industry, sometimes it is difficult to make ends meet if you don't make a decent salary.

Re-Appointment to the Housing Partnership: Gordon Shaw of 582 Haydenville Road, Leeds

Councilor Bidwell has been unable to reach Mr. Shaw to discuss his appointment. Mr. Shaw is currently the Chair of the Housing Partnership Committee; he is highly regarded in this capacity.

6. Update regarding Upcoming Dept. Presentations - Changes? Topics?

8/1/2016 (both Parks & Rec & Veterans Services are unable to present) – meeting to be cancelled; the next meeting will take place during the August 18, 2016 City Council Meeting to discuss any appointments referred on July 14.

8/29/2016 (Building Commissioner)

10/3/2016 (Forbes Library & Lilly Library) – the committee decided that since the Forbes Library presented at a recent Budget Hearing, it would not be necessary for them to present again in October.

11/7/2016 (Senior Services)

12/5/2016 (Information Technology)

Committee members will forward topics that they would like presented to the City Council Admin Assistant.

7. New Business: None

8. Adjourn: At 4:47 p.m. Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Prepared By:
P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
413.587.1210; ppowers@northamptonma.gov



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 6, 2016

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor David J. Narkewicz

SUBJECT: Appointment of Director of Senior Services

I am appointing Linda Desmond to the position of Director of Senior Services. Mrs. Desmond is a Northampton native and long-time city resident with a 40-year background in elder and social services. She recently returned to Florence after living and working in Ireland for 10 years. Mrs. Desmond represented Ward 5 on the Northampton City Council for 5 years and served on the Northampton Council on Aging for 17 years. A copy of her extensive resume is attached.

I am submitting this appointment to the City Council in accordance with § 2-10 of the Northampton Charter.

cc: City Clerk, Wendy Mazza

Linda Desmond
50 Middle Street
Florence, Massachusetts
01062

Summary

A distinguished leader with proven success in program development, community organizing, advocacy, coalition building, intergenerational programming, and grant writing. Significant leadership experience in addressing human services issues and resource acquisition. Skilled in all aspects of supervisory and staff management. Ability to work effectively with private and public sectors and diverse populations. Has committed four decades of service to actively improving the lives of older people living in both Ireland and the United States.

Education and Certifications

University of Connecticut School of Social Work West Hartford, CT

- Masters of Social Work, Concentration in Social Work Administration

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- Bachelor of Science, Concentration in Community Service
- Graduate Certification, Gerontology: University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Hartford, CT

Professional Accomplishments

- As the CEO of Care Local, a Dublin, Ireland based charity, I started a new initiative called the Plate Pals Programme, which was awarded the Vodafone World of Difference award. Through this volunteer based pilot, trained volunteers are assisting in nursing homes during meal time. Presently, according to research, more than 20% of the most vulnerable older people living in residential settings are malnourished. This new project addresses this critical issue.
- As Chairperson of the Docklands Senior Provider Council in partnership with other committee NGOs, older Docklands residents, the National College of Ireland, and major businesses, developed the first annual Docklands Book Sale. Twenty thousand books were collected, and all proceeds were distributed to older people's critical services in the Docklands area of Dublin. The book sale continues to generate €15,000 annually.
- As the Head of Empowerment and Regional Development for Age Action Ireland, I designed and developed the Getting Started Programme. Since its inception more than 4000 Irish older people have been trained in using computers and over 400 volunteers have been recruited and trained to assume a tutorial leadership role in Getting Started. It has been recognized as a program of E-inclusion Excellence by the Department of An Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) Information Society Policy Unit.
- Through the resources provided by an EU Interreg grant, I began a Positive Aging Cross Border Program. This project focused on three streams of service from a cross border perspective - Advocacy, Education, and Health/Social Activities. More than 1000 older people participated from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- As Co-Chairperson of the National Advocacy Programme Alliance, in partnership with a number of older people's organizations and the Health Service Executive (HSE), I assisted in

Linda Desmond

the development of a National volunteer residential advocacy initiative, which was based on the US Ombudsman Program. Produced a video that won the EU Inter-generational Solidarity Award. As Vice President of Community Investment for United Way of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, established four new programs and brought an additional \$165,000 in revenue to the United Way of Hampshire County.

Professional Employment History

March 2012 to July 2015

Crosscare **Dublin, Ireland**

Crosscare North Dublin Regional Program Director

- Successfully merged Care Local, of which I was the CEO as detailed below, with one of the largest charities in Ireland.
- Represented Crosscare on two World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities regional committees.
- Developed a new older men's initiative called the League targeting one hundred economically and socially vulnerable men in Dublin.
- Coordinated an international educational visit with prominent Irish women representing older people's programs in Ireland with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and other Massachusetts Area Agencies on Aging.
- Hired, managed, trained, and supported 16 staff and interns and one hundred and fifty volunteers in Crosscare's Befriending Program, Plate Pals, Appointment Companions, and the League.
- Produced an award winning inter-generational video that emphasizes inter-generational solidarity.
- Organized all fund raising events.
- Continued the expansion of the Vodafone World of Difference award-winning program, Plate Pals, to three major hospitals in Dublin and ten nursing homes.
- Developed a new community initiative called Crosscare Connections, which created a "village" model of volunteer support for the oldest and most vulnerable Dublin people in partnership with individual parishes, Crosscare, and other public sector organizations.
- Facilitated four monthly Carer Support Groups.
- Managed Crosscare's satellite building/office in Finglas.

January 2009 – March 2012

Care Local **Dublin, Ireland**

Chief Executive Officer

- Responsible for all areas of management of Care Local, including strategic planning, financial monitoring, effective delivery of service, grants management and evaluation under the direction of the Board of Directors.
- Developed and implemented a strategy to maintain and expand Care Local's volunteer base of 150 volunteers by creating new program initiatives, including: Plate Pals, the Homecoming Programme, Neighbourhood Support Groups, and the Drummelee Older Men's Drop-in Centre.
- Designed new programs based on defined community needs and research and secured funding for the new initiatives.
- As a Dublin based NGO, liaised with other community partners, NGOs, and businesses to further strengthen and expand the organization.

Linda Desmond

- Organized all fund raising events.
- Was responsible for the hiring, supervision, support and training of all staff.
- Designed a new agency branding scheme which included planning a strategy for higher community visibility and a stronger, more recognizable profile.

August 2006 – December 2008

Age Action Ireland
Dublin, Ireland

Head of Empowerment and Regional Development

- Was responsible for the planning, organization, funding, and evaluation of all development activities within Age Action Ireland, the largest national aging program in Ireland.
- Supervised and supported the team, which was comprised of staff for regional development and advocacy located in the West of Ireland, South East, and North Dublin. It also included the development and management of the Positive Aging Cross Border Programme, and supervision of the Career Support Programme, University of 3rd Age, and the newly developed Getting Started Programme.
- Planned, implemented, and evaluated the strategic plan for the Development Team over a three-year cycle with high priority in expanding the Development Programme to all regions of the country.
- Devised innovative programs and attracted funding for them.
- Liaised with a wide range of other bodies at regional, national, and international levels with particular regard to greater cross-border co-operation.
- Participated in INTERREG, an international group whose responsibility is to share projects that reflect best practices in social programming through EU member countries. In this capacity I contributed to EU publications and presented at a National Aging Conference in Chicago.
- Contributed to the overall work of Age Action Ireland as a member of the Senior Management Team.

June 2005 – June 2006

United Way of Hampshire County
Northampton, MA., USA

Vice President of Community Investment

- Responsible for the planning, development, management, and implementation of strategies to achieve the community building work of the United Way of Hampshire County, Massachusetts.
- Inspired and supported volunteer teams to understand and address the community's most pressing needs.
- Provided oversight and development of the Kimball W. Howes Volunteer Action Center, Success by Six initiative, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, and the effective delivery of the United Way's First Call for Help.
- Additionally responsible for the agency grant administration, including all areas of management of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and its Local Board, outcome based evaluation, and needs assessments.

The V.P. was also responsible for working in consort with the President of the United Way in lobbying and advocating on behalf of the community with government officials and foundation personnel.

Linda Desmond

1987 – June 2005

**Hampshire Community Action Commission
Northampton, MA., USA**

Director, Senior Volunteer Programs of Hampshire and Franklin Counties

- Directed two high-impact elder community volunteer programs comprising a 650 person membership.
- Supervised management staff and unionized line staff (performance reviews, disciplinary action, and team building).
- Oversaw volunteer recruitment, retention, and recognition.
- Managed annual budget of \$500,000 (expanded under my leadership from original \$35,000 base) and performed successful grant writing.
- Provided public speaking, and customized workshop facilitation on effective volunteer management and community organizing, instituted performance measurement and accountability systems.

Other Areas of Employment pre-1987 include:

- Nutrition Program Director for older people's dining centers and home delivered meals; responsibility of distributing over 1000 meals a day to older people in a 2,000 square mile radius.
- Supportive Services Coordinator which planned activities for older people participating in the Highland Valley Nutrition Program.
- Case manager for older people providing a multi-level support system which allowed older people the dignity of remaining in their own homes.
- Have held numerous leadership roles on committees providing support, services, and advocacy for older people on the local, regional, national, and international levels

Linda Desmond

- As member of the University of Massachusetts Community Service Learning Advisory Board assisted academic personnel and interns in designing a graduate track for both the Master's and Doctorate degrees in Community Service Learning.
- As a committee member of Treehouse, Inc., assisted in all areas of planning and development of this award-winning inter-generational, planned community for older citizens and foster families in Easthampton, Massachusetts.
- Developed an inter-generational literacy program utilizing 100 senior volunteers who served in 28 school systems, three after school programs, and three homeless shelters in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.
- Through successful grant writing, generated over \$2,000,000 in new revenues for program expansion and new program development from private and public sources (Department of An Taoiseach, Corporation for National and Community Service, Mass. Service Alliance, Verizon, Office of Refugees and Immigrants, Orchard Foundation, Mass. Dept. of Public Health, and the Guinness Foundation).
- Developed a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in the Republic of Ireland and organized a "Conference on Older Volunteering" at Dublin Castle where keynote speaker President Mary McAleese recognized my civic engagement of older people.
- Served as elected official on the Northampton, Massachusetts City Council for 5 years.
- Invited by the Lithuanian government to present a workshop in Lithuania on older volunteering sponsored by Transparency International.
- Organized the Cambodian Elder Task force for Khmer elders experiencing poverty and isolation within Hampshire County. Through the efforts of this committee, Cambodian elders were assisted with home visits, the naturalization process, and assimilation into the greater community elder network.
- Through the Mass. Department of Public Health and in partnership with eight area Councils on Aging, created the Osteoporosis Exercise Program. Based on a senior peer leadership model, this free program serves 100+ seniors weekly and continues to grow.
- Over a ten year period, raised \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds and rental income to convert Florence Grammar School, an abandoned school building, into a multi-purpose community center.
- Presented an Environmental Program that I initiated called Project Radon at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington. Working in partnership with Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI), the Massachusetts Department of Health, and the Massachusetts RSVP Programs, thousands of Massachusetts homes were tested for Radon gas through the efforts of an inter-generational volunteer force..



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Councilor LaBarge asked whether the City was having difficulty collecting money due to the switch over to credit cards. Mayor Narkewicz indicates that he is not aware of any problems in this area; most transactions are low in dollar amount and most are about \$1.00 or less.

Councilor Bidwell asked if there were any further talks about use of outlying private lots, say whenever there is a show at the Calvin Theater. He also asked about worker parking. Mayor Narkewicz stated that in part the issues are related to signage; people don’t know where additional parking is located. Regarding the worker parking, the Walker report mentioned a specific parking problem for the former Marinello Beauty Academy. That business has since closed. There are also opportunities to educate workers about parking and asking them not to park in prime parking spots.

Councilor O’Donnell noted that the Center for the Arts has pretty substantial parking. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that they are one of the private organizations that the City has talked to about use of the spaces. The building is still under construction, and the Mayor is aware that the organization is already renting spaces to “Click Work Space”. This is an example where the City didn’t have to get involved in establishing a relationship for shared parking spaces. Councilor O’Donnell noted that the Center for the Arts lot has the inverse problem of the Round House lot where it is filled during the day, but empty at night.

Councilor O’Donnell asked the Mayor if he had any thoughts about parking solutions for residential streets. The Mayor indicated that would be a discussion for the future. Parking in the Hawley Street vicinity may need to be reviewed once the independent living facilities are developed and the parking needs are better understood.

Councilor Bidwell asked if there was any progress regarding the complaints about parking lot located near the Union Station restaurant. As he understands the situation, rights to the lot revert to the business at 6 p.m.; however, the lot is often full at that time. Mayor Narkewicz indicates that the signage is clear and there have been discussions with the business owners. He believes that the “ball is in their court” to look at a possible solution to that problem. The agreement that is in place pre-dates the current mayor and current business owners. The Mayor points out that the City does not have the right to tow people once the lot reverts to the private owner. The Mayor notes that the kiosk issues tickets only up until 6 pm. The lease in place will run for many more years; the City received that lease as compensation for capital improvements that the City did on the lot. There will also need to be further discussions about Amtrak platform improvements. An expansion of the current platform is planned; this will provide another opportunity to look again at some of those issues concerning this lot.

Councilor Bidwell asked the Mayor how far into the future the possibility of an additional parking garage might be explored. The Mayor indicated that there is not a lot of ready funding for these types of projects right now, however, there may be funding available through Mass Works in the future. A parking garage would be a multi-year process, especially if there was land acquisition involved. Future parking needs may be tied into new residential developments that are planned for downtown, however, the Mayor points out that there are active programs to promote the use of public transportation, bikeways and walkways. This may free up capacity for out-of-town visitors. Regarding the cross-town bus that is available, there was great excitement about it in the beginning; however, ridership has not been strong. ZipCars are available in the area and the City is part of a larger Bike Share program.

5. **Items Referred to Committee:** The committee discussed appointments that were referred to the committee on June 2, 2016 by the City Council. Councilor O'Donnell moved to return the appointments back to the full City Council with positive recommendations for all; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

16.113 Appointments to Committees - Referred to committee on June 2, 2016

Re-Appointments to the Board of Registrars: Charles Klepacki of 26 Ferry Avenue and Janet Larson of 982 Florence Road, Florence

Councilor Carney reviewed the materials for Mr. Klepacki and Ms. Larson; both individuals are up for re-appointment to the board of Registrars. Both are keenly interested in continuing to participate on this committee and gave solid reasons for why they should continue as members.

Re-Appointment to the Central Business Architecture Committee: Bruce Kriviskey of 23 Ice Pond Drive, Florence

Councilor O'Donnell spoke to Mr. Krivesky about his reappointment to the Central Business Architecture Committee. Mr. Krivesky has extensive experience in Fairfax, Virginia area as an architect and historic preservation planner. He is extremely experienced and well qualified to serve on this committee.

Re-Appointment to the Disability Commission: Hannah Coyle of 3 Hampton Avenue

Councilor LaBarge notes that Ms. Coyle would like to continue to participate on the Disability Commission. She would like to continue to be a voice for other members of the community who may have a disability, and continue to find ways that allow access to various amenities and venues for all members of the community.

Appointment to the Disability Commission: Judith Kimberly of 659 Park Hill Road, Florence

Councilor LaBarge notes that Ms. Kimberly would like to be more involved in the City and believes that this is the right committee where she can offer her skills and expertise. She has been highly involved in the disability community both professionally and personally; professionally she has been a program director for Stavros Center for Independent Living and is a former board member of Independent Living Resources, Inc. She has also worked in the medical field as a registered therapist and has a working knowledge of the ADA requirements.

Appointment to the Housing Partnership: Greta Hagen of 16 Market Street, #2C

Councilor Bidwell spoke to Ms. Hagen about her appointment; Ms. Hagen is Assistant Director of Development for Safe Passage in Northampton. She would bring to this committee her sensitivity to housing needs for that population. She is also concerned about worker housing. Working in a non-profit industry, sometimes it is difficult to make ends meet if you don't make a decent salary.

Re-Appointment to the Housing Partnership: Gordon Shaw of 582 Haydenville Road, Leeds

Councilor Bidwell has been unable to reach Mr. Shaw to discuss his appointment. Mr. Shaw is currently the Chair of the Housing Partnership Committee; he is highly regarded in this capacity.

6. Update regarding Upcoming Dept. Presentations - Changes? Topics?

8/1/2016 (both Parks & Rec & Veterans Services are unable to present) – meeting to be cancelled; the next meeting will take place during the August 18, 2016 City Council Meeting to discuss any appointments referred on July 14.

8/29/2016 (Building Commissioner)

10/3/2016 (Forbes Library & Lilly Library) – the committee decided that since the Forbes Library presented at a recent Budget Hearing, it would not be necessary for them to present again in October.

11/7/2016 (Senior Services)

12/5/2016 (Information Technology)

Committee members will forward topics that they would like presented to the City Council Admin Assistant.

7. New Business: None

8. Adjourn: At 4:47 p.m. Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Prepared By:
P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
413.587.1210; ppowers@northamptonma.gov