



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, VETERANS, CULTURE, AND RECREATION

Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

Meeting Minutes

Monday June 15, 2015

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

1. **Members present/absent:** Councilors LaBarge, Sciarra and Klein were present. (Councilor Klein arrived at 4:07 pm.)
2. **Meeting Called to Order:** Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.
3. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting:** Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.
4. **Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2015:** Councilor Sciarra motioned to approve the minutes; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Klein).
5. **Public Comment-None**
6. **4:05 p.m. – Mark Guglielmo, Director of Operations, Young @ Heart Chorus presented information about the Chorus.**

Young @ Heart started as a sing-along at the Walter Salvo House in 1982. Currently the group has rehearsals Monday and Thursday for two hours in their new location in Florence. It is an "arts" organization, not a social service organization. Their core mission is to make great art (music) with people who are not artists. Bob Cilman, former Northampton Arts Council Executive Director, is the Director for the Chorus.

Performers pay for part of any trip that the group may take. The group must generate interest about its mission and its performances. Salaries for staff need to be done by fund raising. Taking out an advertisement in Young @ Heart flyers is one form of fund raising that is done. The group does apply for private foundation grants; the chorus does have a high success rate at getting grants.

There are many behind the scenes activities that need to be done by staff in order for a performance to take place. Printing of programs, advertising, printing of music, travel arrangements, etc. are all of the tasks that need to be done in order for a show to be put on.

The group recently decided to work with prison inmates. About 15 people expressed in interest in participating, but most were pretty nervous about appearing in public. The end result was an outdoor concert on prison grounds, as well as a video production of the event. At the end of the performance, the entire inmate population gave a standing ovation. After the performance, more inmates expressed an interest in participating; about 60 inmates showed up the next time the Y@H Chorus sought participants.

7. **5:00 p.m. – Beau Flahive, Director of Choral Activities, Northampton High School**

Student Participants: John Dibartolo (Senior), Lexi Farrington (Senior), Gabe Feldman-Schwartz (Senior), Luke Haas (Junior), Ursa Heidinger (Senior), Nathaniel Jones (Senior), Jordan Kuhr (Junior), David Plotkin (Senior), Jasper Price-Slade (Sophomore), Emily Woodland (Junior)

Ms. Flahive started 15 years ago with one class of 17 students. The program continued to grow over the year. Over 180 students participate now; Ms. Flahive's position also grew to 0.83 and is now considered full time. For fundraising, the group does a recording each year. They also go to NYC each year and have fund raising events to pay for the trip.

A few of the students come from music families; David Plotkin has a band outside of the Northamptones; a few of the students came from Hilltown cooperative school which promoted the arts, especially music.

The presentation done for the committee was done through music. The Northamptones has a totally acoustic sound, including vocal percussion. Students study vocal techniques and are taught the differences between chest voice and head voice. The "Northamptones" record a CD every year. Some of the students have expressed an interest in pursuing a music career after high school.

8. City Councilor Marianne LaBarge spoke about the agenda for the Month of July 2015.

Councilor LaBarge has coordinated a visit from Debra J'Anthony, Exec. Dir., Academy of Music along with Tom Douglas from Thomas Douglas Architects, Inc. and Terry Masterson, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Northampton. The guests will be talking about the capital improvement projects at the Academy of Music. Jane Banks Program Dir. @ Grace House, a residential treatment program for mothers in early recovery located in Northampton, is also scheduled for July. Nancy Gonzalez has also been invited. Nancy is the SRO Program Coordinator at the Center for Human Development.

October – Town Farms & CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture) will be contacted to see if they are able to come.

9. NEW BUSINESS – Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed-NONE

10. ADJOURN-At 5:43 pm Councilor Klein moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Sciarra seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2015 (there is no meeting in August).

Respectfully submitted by:

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