



Committee on Community Resources and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Garrick Perry

Vice-Chair: Councilor Marissa Elkins

Councilor Alex Jarrett

Councilor Rachel Maiore

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call.** At 5:32 p.m. Acting Chair Marissa Elkins called the meeting to order. Present were Councilors Marissa Elkins; Alex Jarrett, Rachel Maiore and Garrick Perry. Also present was Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
2. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**
Councilor Elkins announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.
3. **Election of Chair/Vice Chair**
Councilor Elkins invited anyone interested in serving as chair or vice chair to make their interest in serving known.

Councilor Perry said he would be interested in stepping up to serve as either chair or vice chair, and Councilor Elkins said she also is game for either position.

Councilor Maiore said she had the honor of chairing another committee and so is happy to see interest on the part of new councilors and would support that. Councilor Jarrett agreed, saying he is already chair of Legislative Matters, so he would be happy to serve if called upon but would also be happy to step back and build leadership capacity among new councilors.

Councilor Elkins nominated Councilor Perry as chair. Councilor Maiore seconded.

There being no further nominations, she invited Councilor Perry to make a statement if he so chose.

Councilor Perry said he is interested in chairing this committee because, unlike some of the other council committees, this one is definitely in his wheelhouse having spent the past 20 years pretty much growing up downtown. He's a transplant to the area, but for the past 20 years, he has worked, lived and entertained in Northampton and focused especially on building community. He prides himself on offering spaces for people of all walks of life to come together, and he sees this committee in particular as being very important

for the future of Northampton. Especially after going through this pandemic, he thinks they really need to come back to their community roots and start building a base for everyone, so he would be honored and pleased to use his skills community-building to help chair this community.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Perry assumed the position of chair.

Vice Chair

Councilor Maiore nominated Councilor Elkins. Councilor Jarrett seconded.

Councilor Perry invited Councilor Elkins to speak to her nomination.

This is a committee of particular interest to her as a small business owner downtown, Councilor Elkins represented. The committee involves work in some interesting areas related to downtown Florence and Northampton such as arts, culture and business, so she is excited to be on it and to take the lead whenever Councilor Perry is away.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

4. Public Comment

There being no public comment, Councilor Perry moved on to the next agenda item.

5. Updates and Announcements from Committee Members

Councilor Jarrett said he is looking forward both to items referred to the committee and to discussions they generate themselves. He mentioned his awareness that the pending 'form-based code' is one topic likely to be referred to them and suggested the possibility of also brainstorming at a future meeting under 'New Business' about what other community conversations they might want to initiate independently.

Councilor Perry seconded this proposal, voicing his opinion that this committee is one of the most important to the community in general. There are a lot of potential subjects before them, whether it be the form-based code or expanding outdoor dining and other community activities such as 'Summer on Strong,' he agreed.

6. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2021

Councilor Jarrett moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

7. Set Meeting Schedule for 2022 - 2023

Typically, these meetings are the third Mondays at 5 p.m., but 5:30 p.m. works for her, Councilor Maiore said. Others agreed. There are three months with conflicts with holidays: Presidents' Day in February, Patriot's Day in April and Juneteenth in June, Councilor Jarrett pointed out. He said he didn't know if the fourth Monday in those months worked for folks. They will need to find a different date on holidays.

Councilor Elkins mentioned that a number of committees take a month off in the summer. She asked if there was any reason this couldn't be in June to accommodate the Juneteenth holiday, and other members said that was fine with them.

Members discussed that skipping a meeting in July and meeting in August instead made the most sense.

Councilor Elkins moved to adopt a schedule of the third Monday at 5:30 p.m. and to deal with holidays as they come up (on a case-by-case basis). Councilor Jarrett seconded.

Since the very next meeting falls on Presidents' Day, members agreed to meet on the fourth Monday in February (February 28th). They also confirmed their intention not to meet in June. The DPW tour is the morning of the 28th, it was noted.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

8. Items Referred to Committee
None.

9. New Business
None.

10. Adjourn. Councilor Elkins moved to adjourn; Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Prepared By:
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