



Appointments Committee – Board of Representatives

Annie M. Summerville, Chair John Boccuzzi, Vice Chair

Notice of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2010
Time: 6:45 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard

The Appointments Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Summerville, Vice Chair Boccuzzi and Committee Member Reps. Franzetti and Savage. Excused were Committee Member Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli and McGarry. Also present were Reps. Canady, McNeill, Merritt and Molgano.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
6:45 p.m.	<u>Board of Ethics</u>	COMMITTEE
1. A28.061	Paul R. Steed (R) 173 Farms Road Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 06/30/11	APPROVED 4-0-0

Mr. Steed stated that he told the Mayor he would be pleased to serve the City by joining a board or commission, and the Mayor selected the Board of Ethics. Mr. Steed was familiar with the ethics ordinance and is looking forward to serving.

6:55 p.m.	<u>Board of Ethics</u>	COMMITTEE
2. A28.068	Sheldon A. Levine (R) 29 Cricket Lane Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 06/30/11	APPROVED 4-0-0

Mr. Levine stated that his 45 years of experience in the education field has prepared him well for service on the Board of Ethics in that it involves fairness, judgment, a respect for confidentiality and determining right from wrong.

7:05 p.m.	<u>Economic Development Commission</u>	COMMITTEE
3. A28.062	Francis J. Browne, Esq. (R) 1700 Bedford Street #204 Stamford, CT 06905 Term Expires: 12/01/10	APPROVED 4-0-0

Mr. Browne, a former member of the Board of Representatives, stated that he has followed economic development issues in Stamford since the 1970s. He has a long history with Stamford, possesses both a law degree and an MBA and is familiar with *Main Street* issues in Stamford.

7:15 p.m.	<u>Patriotic & Special Events</u>		REJECTED WITHOUT PREJUDICE 4-0-0
4. A28.069	Ralph Battinelli (D) 24 Pepper Ridge Place Stamford, CT 06905 Term Expires: 12/01/11	Reappointment (Term Exp. 12/1/08)	

Chair Summerville reported that 1) Mr. Battinelli has not returned any of his paper work; 2) she was unable to make contact with Mr. Battinelli; and 3) there is a discrepancy between the party affiliation the Mayor's Office is reporting and that of the Registrar of Voter's Office. Rep. Molgano noted that the address listed, which was supplied by the Mayor's Office, is incorrect.

All committee members agreed that Chair Summerville had gone over and above all reasonable efforts to arrange an interview and voted unanimously to reject the nomination without prejudice. The Mayor will be notified that he can resubmit Mr. Battinelli's name in the future with the correct information.

7:25 p.m.	<u>Social Services Commission</u>		NO ACTION TAKEN
5. A28.070	Gloria Blick (R) 11 North Street #9G Stamford, CT 06902 Term Expires: 12/01/11	Reappointment (Term Exp. 12/1/05)	

Chair Summerville noted that the Mayor had asked to withdrawn Ms. Blick's nomination.

7:30 p.m.	<u>Social Services Commission</u>		COMMITTEE APPROVED 4-0-0
6. A28.063	Eva A. Maldonado (R) 639 Summer St., #15 Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 12/01/12	Repl. Teichman (Term Exp. 12/1/09)	

Ms. Maldonado stated that her work as a Stamford police officer prepared her well to serve on this commission in that she is familiar with the services offered in Stamford.

7:40 p.m.	<u>Tax Assessment Board of Appeals</u>		COMMITTEE APPROVED 4-0-0
7. A28.064	Shawn Costello (R) 57 Belltown Road Stamford, CT 06905 Term Expires: 12/01/12	Repl. Diamond (Term Exp. 12/1/09)	

Mr. Costello has an extensive background in banking and finance. He has resided in Stamford for 6 years. Vice Chair Boccuzzi questioned whether he felt 6 years was a long enough time span to judge tax assessment appeals. Mr. Costello replied that he was quite familiar with Stamford, and each appeal needs to be judged on its own merits. He further explained that it is not the job of the assessor to increase tax revenues through inflating the value of properties, but it is the job of the Board of Finance to do this through increasing mill rates.

7:50 p.m.	<u>URC</u>		NO ACTION TAKEN
8. A28.065	Christopher D. Meek (R) 20 Middle Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 12/01/13	Repl. Robins (Term Exp. 12/1/08)	

Chair Summerville informed the Committee that Mr. Meek was unable to attend the meeting this month, and he will be interviewed at the July meeting.

8:00 p.m.	<u>Zoning Board</u>		COMMITTEE APPROVED 4-0-0
9. A28.066	Barry S. Michelson (R) 111 Idlewood Drive Stamford, CT 06905 Term Expires: 12/01/12	Repl. Aivalis (Term Exp. 12/1/00)	

Mr. Michelson has a Master's Degree from NYU in urban planning and was the Planning Director for Fairfield for 11 years. He is very knowledgeable in the area of zoning, and has familiarized himself with projects and zoning activities throughout the country.

8:10 p.m.	<u>Zoning Board - Alternate</u>		HELD IN COMMITTEE 3-0-1
10. A28.067	Jeff Jonas (R) 77 Havemeyer Lane #4 Stamford, CT 06902 Term Expires: 12/01/14	Repl. Silver (Term Exp. 12/1/09)	

In response to a question as to why Mr. Jonas' wants to serve, he replied that he has seen the board in action, and it tends to focus primarily on density and traffic and places less emphasis on whether a project is a good fit for the neighborhood, how a neighborhood is impacted and impacts on police and fire access.

In response to a question regarding Mr. Jonas' opinion on the hospital expansion, he replied that he has mixed feelings about it, and added that the tactics used to get neighbors to sell were pretty bad. However, he believes the project will create jobs in the City, and the neighborhood can use some development. He also has some concerns about a high rise building in that location as it would appear to be spreading the downtown area. Overall, he said he was generally supportive of it.

Regarding the Havemeyer Lane project, he was opposed because it is a congested intersection. Also, the housing should be spread around the City, and most land use planners would agree with him on this.

Vice Chair Boccuzzi stated that he was upset that some of the neighbors were using as an argument against the project fears of potential criminality and/or vandalism, such as using private swimming pools without permission.

Rep. McNeil asked Mr. Jonas if he knew anyone that lived on Connecticut Avenue or Vidal Court, and Mr. Jonas replied that he did not. Rep. Cannady asked Mr. Jonas for his opinion on the 1-1 ordinance. Mr. Jonas stated that he fully supports the ordinance but does have concerns with this housing being located on Stillwater Avenue, which has over 1,000 units of similar housing. He believes it should be spread throughout the city.

During deliberations, committee members expressed reservations as to the extent of representation Mr. Jonas would provide to all of the residents of the West Side. Because several members were not in attendance, the Committee agreed to hold this item for one month by a vote of 3-0-1 (Reps. Summerville, Savage & Boccuzzi in favor; Rep. Franzetti abstaining).

8:20 p.m.	<u>Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate</u>		COMMITTEE
11. A28.071	Alfonso C. Sgritta (R)	Reappointment	APPROVED
	103 Midland Avenue	(Term Exp. 12/1/04)	4-0-0
	Stamford, CT 06906		
	Term Expires: 12/01/12		

Mr. Sgritta stated that he enjoys serving on the ZBA. As an alternate, he fills in for members who are unable to attend. He discussed the requirements for winning an appeal from the ZBA, summarizing them by saying that the property owner must experience a hardship – not a financial hardship, but a hardship associated with a particular property or condition.

8:30 p.m.	<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u>		COMMITTEE
12. A28.072	John A. Sedlak (R)	Reappointment	APPROVED
	83 Courtland Avenue	(Term Exp. 12/1/09)	4-0-0
	Stamford, CT 06902		
	Term Expires: 12/01/12		

The Committee members stated that they were quite familiar with Mr. Sedlak in that he has served on this Board for 43 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie M. Summerville, Chair