



Appointments Committee – Board of Representatives

Annie M. Summerville, Chair John Boccuzzi, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard

The Appointments Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Summerville and Vice Chair Boccuzzi and all Committee Member Reps. Caterbone, Cerasoli, Franzetti, McGarry and Savage. Also present were Carolyn Young, Linda Cannady, Shella Merritt and Valerie McNeil.

Vice Chair Boccuzzi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. A28.065 7:00 p.m.	<u>URC</u> Christopher D. Meek (R) 20 Middle Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 12/01/13	COMMITTEE APPROVED 6-0-1

Mr. Meek stated he

- has lived in Stamford for 9 years.
- has been interviewed by the RTC and the Mayor.
- believes he can assist Stamford in growing to the next level. At one time Stamford had the 2nd highest number of Fortune 500 companies; today it has around the 7th.
- serves on the Yerwood Center Board of Directors and is involved with St. Luke's Lifeworks.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the appointment was approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Chair Summerville abstained as she was not present for the interview).

2. A28.067 7:15 p.m.	<u>Zoning Board - Alternate</u> Jeff Jonas (R) 77 Havemeyer Lane #4 Stamford, CT 06902 Term Expires: 12/01/14	Repl. Silver (Term Exp. 12/1/09) COMMITTEE APPROVED 6-0-1
---	---	--

Mr. Jonas opened by saying that he will do his best to represent the entire city, he feels it is very important that the Zoning Board listen to and speak with members of the public. He is committed to personally visiting each project that the Zoning Board will consider, with a particular emphasis on whether the project fits within the neighborhood. He added that he has good analytical skills that would benefit the Board.

In response to Vice Chair Boccuzzi's question, Mr. Jonas stated that he had no involvement with the Zoning Board until the Havemeyer Lane project. Rep. Franzetti stated that he has no problem with someone objecting to a project if they live in the project's neighborhood (as was the case with Mr. Jonas). Mr. Jonas responded that if he were on the Zoning Board during the deliberations for the Havemeyer Lane project, he would have recused himself.

Mr. Jonas discussed the 1-1 ordinance, stated he is in agreement with it, and agrees there is a shortage of affordable housing in Stamford. He has not worked with any of the tenant associations but has worked with Vin Tufo of Charter Oak. Mr. Jonas has visited the South End projects and is in favor of them. He is concerned that the existing infrastructure may not be able to support the traffic from the entire plan. Mr. Jonas was familiar with the arguments for and against the abandonment of Henry Street.

During deliberations, Mr. Boccuzzi stated that Mr. Jonas had called him to inquire as to why his appointment had been held. Mr. Boccuzzi advised him that he had the impression Mr. Jonas was interested in the Zoning Board because he had some sort of agenda. After this conversation and after Mr. Jonas' second interview this evening, he is now comfortable that this is not the case. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Mr. Jonas was approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Rep. Summerville abstaining).

3. A28.073	<u>Planning Board - Alternate</u>		COMMITTEE
7:30 p.m.	Zbigniew Naumocicz (R)	Rep. Curtis	APPROVED
	70 Barrett Ave.	(Term Exp. 12/1/8)	6-1-0
	Stamford, CT 06905		
	Term Expires: 12/01/11		

Mr. Naumocicz resided in Stamford after college, moved to Ridgefield, and then returned to raise his family in Stamford. He was referred to the RTC by Al Koproski and has not met with the Mayor. He is an analyst with RBS involved in designing optimization strategies (algorithms, etc.) logistics, etc. around acquisitions and other business endeavors.

Mr. Naumocicz admitted that he was not well-versed in the responsibilities of the Planning Board, was not aware of its budgetary responsibilities and was not completely familiar with the various Stamford neighborhoods (e.g., not aware that Stamford Hospital was located in the West Side neighborhood).

Chair Summerville stated that the prestigious Planning Board does work that greatly impacts all of Stamford's citizens and that appointees should have an extensive knowledge of the work of the Board, a strong knowledge of the Board's

past works as well as a good understanding of its responsibilities. She added that she is going to suggest to the Mayor that he meet Mr. Naumocicz. Mr. Naumocicz replied that he is eager to learn, is ready for the challenges and is a hard worker.

Rep. Cerasoli stated that while Mr. Naumocicz's resume was impressive, he had not read the material provided to him on the responsibilities of the Planning Board. Chair Summerville felt that Mr. Naumocicz is very impressive, has an excellent resume and would perhaps be a more appropriate fit with a commission that requires a lot of technical work, such as the EPB.

Rep. Caterbone asked if Mr. Naumocicz's analytical abilities could be used in an area such as Planning, and Mr. Naumocicz replied that he believed that his skills would be valuable to this Board.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion to approve Mr. Naumocicz for appointment to the Planning Board as an alternate was approved by a vote of 6-1-0 (Chair Summerville in opposition).

4. A28.074 7:40 p.m.	<u>Harbor Commission</u> Stuart Sobel (R) 16 Mill Stone Circle Stamford, CT 06903 Term Expires: 08/02/12	Rep. Weiss (Term Exp. 8/2/10)	COMMITTEE APPROVED 7-0-0
---	--	----------------------------------	---

Mr. Sobel stated he

- had not been interviewed by the Mayor and was referred to the RTC Interview Committee by Jack Halpert.
- has not attended any Harbor Commission meetings.
- has been a boat owner for 30 years and a business owner since 1956.
- he is semi-retired and now has the time to devote to civic engagement.

Mr. Sobel stated he is in agreement with Rep. Franzetti's concerns that the Harbor Commission not grow into a heavily-taxing entity that would negatively impact business operations in and residential use of the Harbor. He is in favor of increased police presence in the Harbor.

Committee members were impressed with Mr. Sobel's life story, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved his appointment by a vote of 7-0-0.

5. A28.069 7:50 p.m.	<u>Patriotic & Special Events Commission</u> Ralph Battinelli (R) 24 Pepper Ridge Place Stamford, CT 06905 Term Expires: 12/01/11	Reappointment (Term Exp. 12/1/08)	HELD IN COMMITTEE 7-0-0
-------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--

Mr. Battinelli informed the Committee that

- 1) He has enjoyed being on the Commission for the past 15 years, and he especially values the work he does for the veterans.
- 2) He worked with his father informally for the Commission for the past 35-37 years.
- 3) He was not interviewed by the RTC or the Mayor.
- 4) The Commission does not care about Republican/Democratic issues.
- 5) He was never notified by either mail or telephone of tonight's meeting and is only in attendance because he "heard that he was supposed to be here through the grapevine."
- 6) He moved a few months ago, and when he was made aware of the issue about his stated party affiliation versus the Registrar of Voter's records, he changed his affiliation to Republican (he added that he had changed it to Democratic when Mayor Malloy took office).
- 7) He never received any paper work; in fact, people have been coming up to him and informing him that he had been "thrown off" the Commission.

Clerk Summerville stated that she has extensive proof of the Office's attempts to contact him, including sending a minimum of three letters. She has spoken to his mother, and asked her to have Ralph return the call; she has spoken with Republican members of the Board and she has had numerous voice and email exchanges with Lynn Arnow in the Mayor's Office. Vice Chair Boccuzzi added that he spoke to Mr. Battinelli's father, Pat. Chair Summerville stated that she went above and beyond what she has ever done for any candidate in order to contact him.

Rep. Franzetti stated that he was uncomfortable with the interview. The Committee members, who vote whether or not to allow Mr. Battinelli to serve on the Commission, were being very respectful and Mr. Battinelli's attitude was obnoxious.

Committee members agreed that the work he does with the Commission is exemplary, that Mr. Battinelli's family is well-known to members of the Committee and well-respected in town. Mr. Battinelli apologized for his attitude, stating that he regretted his demeanor before the Committee and that he is eager to continue his work on the Commission.

During deliberations, Chair Summerville stated that we had not received any paper work from Mr. Battinelli. The office provided him with the paperwork yesterday, he was asked to bring it with him, and he failed to do so. She felt that he feels he simply doesn't have to follow the rules of the Committee, and the other Committee members agreed with her assessment.

Clerk Summerville advised that the Board Office would telephone him tomorrow and make arrangements for him to come to the office and complete the paper work. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to hold this appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Summerville, Chair