

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

The roll call was taken with 3 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present:

Vice-Chairman Ben Clemons presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Derek Thibeault

Members not in Attendance: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman  
Alderman Tyler Gouveia

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Mayor Jim Donchess

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ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Lou Blaisdell

Mary Lou Blaisdell, 32 Webster Street, Nashua. I'm here tonight as a Trustee for the Nashua Center for the Arts. I just wanted to talk on the ordinance before you O-23-057. When we started working on the Art Center, we had titled our work and the Performing Arts Center. As you all know, we had an anonymous million dollar donor who had the rights to name the center and that individual chose to name it The Nashua Center for the Arts giving it basically the name back to Nashua. So if there is any questions on that Ordinance, I'm here. Rich Lannan, Chair of the Trustees, couldn't be here tonight but that's the basis for this Ordinance is so that the Ordinance overseeing the Board of Trustees the title of the Center is correct. Thank you.

Chairman Clemons

Thank you very much. Is there anybody else wishing to give public comment this evening? Seeing none, we'll move onto Communications.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

INTERVIEWS

Chairman Clemons

First we have the Ethics Review Committee. Mr. Mayor would you like to come up with your appointee Mr. Fisher?

Mayor Donchess

I will.

Ethics Review Committee

John Fisher (new appointment – alternate)  
21 Indiana Drive  
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: June 13, 2026

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am nominating for position as alternate on the Ethics Review Committee John Fisher who I believe you are probably familiar with. He has had a long career here in Nashua and has done many, many things

for the community. He worked for the Nashua Police Department for a long period of time and achieved the rank of Captain. Then though he went down to Carlisle and became the Chief of Police down there and recently began work as Chief of Police in Bedford, Massachusetts. So he has a lot of experience with certainly police work. But in addition to that, in the community he's done many things. He's been the varsity basketball coach at BG, also at Alvirne. I'm sure he could take me one on one even though I'm a little taller than him. He was on the Nashua Soup Kitchen Board of Directors for a long, long time. He's been on the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors. He served as an instructor in various capacities, various places regarding police work. He's on boards down in Massachusetts having to do with Homeland Security, and other things, and certainly with his background, and his experiences, knowledge of Nashua, he is a stellar nominee for the position that I'm asking him to serve for which is on the Ethics Committee.

But with that, I will turn it over to Chief Fisher and ask him to say a few things about himself and of his interest regarding the Ethics Committee.

#### John Fisher

Thank you, Mayor. Thank you all for having me here tonight. I think that I hope it's clear that I've had a good experience here in Nashua. It's been a great place to raise my family, to work, to live, and very importantly my life to serve. I'd be happy, pleased to serve in this role, and will do it to the best of my ability.

#### Chairman Clemons

Okay, thank you very much. I'm going to at this point open it up to questions or comments from the Committee or other members present. Would anybody like to speak? Alderman Lopez.

#### Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I'd just like to say it's great to see you again Chief Fisher. I've seen you in a number of roles particularly at the Soup Kitchen with all your work there. I think the Mayor picked a great candidate. I'm glad you're willing to take some time to serve and help us out in this capacity.

#### John Fisher

That's very kind of you Tom. Thank you.

#### Chairman Clemons

Any other questions or comments? I just want to as acting Chairman of the committee tonight, I want to thank you very much for putting your name forward and volunteering yet again to another thing in our City. We love our volunteers. It's what makes our City a great place to be and I just want to thank you very much for stepping forward. Thank you. We will take up your appointment later this evening.

So the next interview we have is for the Cultural Connections Committee and we have Lynne Boyer at 9 Northfield Road, Amherst, NH, with a term to expire September 30, 2024. And I will open it up to the Mayor.

#### Cultural Connections Committee

Lynne Boyer (new appointment)  
9 Northfield Road  
Amherst, NH 03031

Term to Expire: September 30, 2024

#### Mayor Donchess

All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms. Boyer I'm nominating her to the Cultural Connections Committee. She's been working at the Greater Nashua YMCA for about 20 years in various positions. Currently, her title is Executive Director of Youth Development where she oversees from the title you can tell many youth programs for young people. She's also had other positions at the YMCA, including Director of Community Impact and Social Responsibility. She has an education in the arts and has extensive knowledge given her experience with the young people of the City, and of all ethnic backgrounds, and economic backgrounds, and therefore brings a valuable perspective, I believe, will bring a valuable perspective to the Cultural Connections Committee. She's willing to serve us in this capacity and I greatly appreciate that. So with that I will turn it over to Ms. Boyer to say a little about

herself and her interest in the Committee.

Lynne Boyer

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Yes as he shared although I don't live in Nashua. I've worked for Nashua for over 20 years. I appreciate how diverse and artistic the community is. As a pillar in the community representing the Y, we appreciate that diversity and would like to bring that into the Y as well and be an advocate for those that cannot speak. So I'm just looking forward to serving in this role.

Chairman Clemons

Okay, thank you very much. Again, I'm going to open it up to questions/comments from the Committee. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Speaking for myself and not wanting to drag the Y into anything, we miss the Y downtown. It was a great presence when it located downtown but I recognize you had to expand to where you are now so that you can better serve the community in the way that you do.

The Cultural Connections Committee's purpose is to facilitate communication with the cultural communities and the city government. In the past, it's had youth-based programs. Do you see any opportunities to kind of rekindle those different programs? I'm not sure if you're familiar with the Youth Leadership Program that they used to do with a different programs that we associated with One Greater Nashua.

And then additionally, one cultural component hasn't fully been represented on the Committee. We haven't really found anybody to represent the deaf community. Do you have any ideas on how you might be able to pursue those things as a committee member?

Lynne Boyer

Sure, yes. So being a community organization, we have a lot of connections with other organizations so I can absolutely reach out to my contacts. Both for the youth development, we can reach out to Boys and Girls Club, all sorts of other organizations. The same with the deaf community. We can certainly reach out let them know and educate them on what the Cultural Connections Committee does and try and bring them to that table for sure.

Alderman Lopez

All right. Thank you for your answers and thank you for offering your time to serve in this capacity.

Chairman Clemons

Any other questions/comments from Committee members? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to echo what Alderman Lopez had said. When I was reading your bio about your connection with youth programs and so, I think it's a really good addition to the Cultural Connection. I'd like to see those youth-based programs kind of be brought to life again so it's nice to have a voice in that way. So thank you for stepping up.

Chairman Clemons

I will just say, again, thank you for volunteering for this position. Again, our volunteers are what makes Nashua great and I truly appreciate you coming forward so thank you.

Lynne Boyer

Thank you.

Chairman Clemons

All right. So that concludes the interviews.

Mayor Donchess

All right. Thank you Mr. Chair.

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE - None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT (ALTERNATE) TO THE ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE: JOHN FISHER WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 13, 2026**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTIN BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW AND RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE: LYNNE BOYER (NEW APPOINTMENT) WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; AND DONNA MARCEAU (RE-APPOINTMENT) WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AND TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: A. JOHN (JAY) MINKARAH WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTMEBER 11, 2026**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS – None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

**O-23-057**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**UPDATING THE ORDINANCE REGARDING THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am on the Board of Trustees for the Performing Arts Center or the Nashua Center for the Arts. This Ordinance actually does two things. One of the things that it does is it changes the Performing Arts Center name to "Nashua Center for the Arts" but there's also one reporting thing. As part of the original Ordinance, we said that there would be an annual meeting, meaning that there had to be at least one meeting a year would be the first Monday in February. However, the Committee has voted to meet once a quarter. The second month of that quarter on the second Friday of that month. So they're changing the reporting date from the first Monday in February to the second Friday in February to be consistent with their meeting schedule. Those are the only two changes to the original Ordinance that created this Board of Trustees.

Chairman Clemons

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

I was just going to point out the day change because it was brought up in Public Comment that this is essentially just

the change to accurately reflect the name of the Center for the Arts but that they also have their annual meeting on a different day. So Alderman Klee covered for me.

Chairman Clemons

Okay. Any further discussion or comments? I'll just state for the record, yeah this is a housekeeping measure. It doesn't do anything substantial to the Ordinance, or the way that it works, or anything like that. So I think it was articulated very well by the previous two speakers and I will support it.

**MOTION CARRIED**

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**O-22-031**

Endorsers: Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman Tyler Gouveia  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

**INCREASING THE VETERANS' OPTIONAL AND ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDITS**

- Re-tabled at 04/03/2022 meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Thibeault

One thing and they just left unfortunately but I just wanted to say did we say to let them know to come back to the Board of Aldermen for their swearing in?

Chairman Clemons

I did not but we will make sure Donna reaches out.

Alderman Thibeault

I just want to make sure they knew that. All right. Cool. Thank you.

Chairman Clemons

Any other general discussion?

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

So I have two remarks. The first is I invited Donna Marceau to come to speak before the Board. I have been trying with Alderman Kelly to try and invite some of the returning Committee members with particularly thorough knowledge of their committees to come and report so we get a more up-to-date what are we working on kind of presentation. It does kind of I guess affect the committee's view on what's going on in these different subcommittees if the people who are coming in who are new to the committee versus the ones who might have experience leadership and Donna as the Chair can fill us in on a lot of things they're working on. Particularly, she wanted to pass on because she had another engagement tonight and wasn't able to make it, she wanted to make sure I invited the public to the Multi-Cultural Festival this Sunday. So this Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm the Multi-Cultural Festival will be joining with the Farmer's Market outside the library. It's going to be a great event. They've been putting a lot of time and effort into planning it. The library is a great host under any circumstances so I definitely encourage everybody to come out and check out what they have.

The second thing is I wanted to plug Employment Connect which will also be at the library. This is a job fair event that will be next Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. It's from 9:00am to 1:00pm and it's an opportunity to meet employers

face to face and the idea is to promote that kind of human interaction for hiring rather than just applying online and hoping you answer your survey questions correctly. So Employment Connect. There's still time for employers to register if you're interested. Go to [involveimpact.org/employmentconnect](http://involveimpact.org/employmentconnect) and if you're looking for a job, come to the library from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Chairman Clemons

All right. Any other remarks by Alderman. Seeing none.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAUL TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:18 p.m.

Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Committee Clerk