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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Personnel Action Committee

Minutes for 02/18/16 Meeting

Starting time 6:00 pm

Committee members – William Onyski (present), Ralph Figy (Chair) present, Cindy Harris

Minutes accepted for 02-04-16 accepted.

Agenda Item #1

The Re-appointment of James V. Liptak, 515 Granville Road as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2019.

Voted 2-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Mr. Liptak has been a dedicated member of the Council on Aging Board of Directors since October 2012. He has served on the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors representing the City of Westfield and acting as Liason to that organization from the COA Board since October 2013. As a HVES Board member he is involved with policies and procedures with that agency that effect services for Westfield's older adults. For example, he serves on the HVES Nutrition Committee which directly impacts those who receive Home Delivered Meals in Westfield as well as those dining in the congregate meal programs at Washington House, East Mountain View Senior Housing and the Senior lunch program at South Middle School. He assists annually with the Senior Options event. Director Tina Gorman supports his reappointment and states Mr. Liptak is always willing to volunteer for special projects.

Agenda Item #2

The appointment of Susan Kingra, 11 Oakcrest Drive, as a member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2019, replacing a vacancy.

Voted 2-0 to keep in Committee:

Ms. Kingra was not able to attend this meeting as she was out of town. She will attend our next meeting on March 3, 2016.

Agenda Item #3

The appointment of Patricia Steele-Perkins, 67 Forest Glen Drive, as a member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2019; replacing a vacancy.

Voted 2-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Steele-Perkins was involved in selling real estate. She is a nurse and worked with her husband Dr. Jan Steele-Perkins. She was a member of the YMCA, worked with the Westfield Women's Club volunteer group, now serves on the Trust Fund Investment Oversight Committee of the Sarah Gillett Services for the Elderly, volunteers with the Red

Cross. She is a member of the Western Hampden Historical Society and a Trustee of the Westfield Athenaeum. Also involved with Grandmother's Garden, a master gardener. Brian Hoose (on the Off-street Parking Commission) spoke in favor of her stating she contributes significantly to bettering Westfield.

Agenda Item #4

The appointment of Jennifer L. Lee, 342 Southwick Road, Apt. C-5, as a member of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities for a term of to expire the first Monday of June 1, 2018: replacing Agma Sweeney.

Voted 2-0 to recommend that appointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Lee is committed to increasing access and community participation of people with disabilities. She is employed at Stravos Center for Independent Living, where she serves as the Systems Advocate, advocating for policy on both the state and federal level. She also communicates with community members regarding the effects of proposed legislation. She is a board member for the Disability Policy Consortium. She graduated in 2015 from Brandeis University with a BA in Health, Science, and Policy and American Studies. She projects in her future a MA in Disability Studies.

Agenda Item #5

The appointment of Gail Yarnesky, 138 Root Road (16 Williams Way), as a member of the Off-Street Parking Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2017: replacing Patricia Reynolds resigned.

Voted 2-0 to recommend the appointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Yarnesky worked at City Hall as the Mayor's Secretary for then acting Mayor Medeiros in 2007. In 2008 she left City employment to take the position of Customer Service Representative with Baystate Hospital where she worked until 2010. She then returned to City Hall and worked with Mayor Knapik, returning to her former duties, until September 2014 when she retired. She is very interested in being on this Commission. Brian Hoose (member of the Off-Street Parking Commission) spoke in favor of her and stated she helped him tremendously in the past, that she was very professional and had much knowledge on how the City works.

Meeting ending time 6:20 pm

Submitted by Cindy Harris, Chair
02/19/16