



Lowell City Council

Ad-Hoc Elect. Laws SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 30, 2018
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
465 School Street, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Nuon and C. Kennedy. (Absent – C. Leahy) Also present were C. Cirillo, C. Elliott and M. Samaras.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and sponsorship of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) and outlining the listening session of the meeting and report to the subcommittee. The meeting was fully interpreted in Khmer for the participants.

Motion to Recess to begin small group workshops then to provide report to subcommittee by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted at 6:40 PM.

Roll Call to continue meeting for reports of workgroups at 7:10 PM. 2 present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon open meeting to public with following people addressing the subcommittee from the working groups. Group 1 report was done through translator who noted need for more involvement with certain neighborhoods; more information by candidates; ward base elections; and interpreter services. C. Kennedy questioned why people were not voting. Group 2 report was given by Felicia Sullivan who noted there was a feeling of not being fully represented; lack of understanding of system; support of district and at large system; and more voter information. C. Kennedy outlined the City Manager form of Plan E government. Group 3 report was given by Jamison Quinn who noted an uneven turnout of voters; at large and district seating; information for changing vote places; proportional representation; committee involvement for changes; and council involvement with set committees. C. Kennedy commented on proportional representation and how it was done in Lowell. Mr. Quinn provided outline of proportional representation. C. Kennedy noted proportional representation



would better suit minorities. Group 4 report was given by Mary Tomrus who noted minorities were not voting due to belief that it was no useful; no knowledge is present about process and there is a need for more information; need for full community engagement with candidates; and capture youth involvement. Group 5 report was given by Jacqueline Cole who noted discussion regarding current system; more minority (non-white) candidates; possible term limits; district representation; and added voter awareness. Group 6 report was provided by Darcie Coleman who noted participation by Girl Scouts; passion of electorate; educational possibilities; increased language; and more community involvement. C. Kennedy noted the efforts of current council and the need for change and further noted enhancing educational possibilities regarding voting and civics in the City including Lowell High School instruction. C. Nuon recognized the presence of the Mayor who noted that education of these items should be done in Lowell school system. C. Noun recognized Dominic Ley from the Lowell School Committee. C. Cirillo commented on group effort for change and further engagement through Lowell Votes Organization as well as the use of student interns. C. Nuon noted recent motion to engage a Youth Commission in the City. Geoff Felman commented on the campaign process and reaching out to voters. C. Nuon recognized and thanked CMAA for their sponsorship.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
