



Lowell City Council

Ad-Hoc Elect. Laws SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: June 4, 2018
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Wang School
365 West Meadow Road, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call (6:50 PM) were C. Nuon and C. Kennedy. (Absent – C. Leahy) Also present were C. Cirillo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and sponsorship of the Pawtucketville Citizen's Council. The meeting was interpreted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon noted that sub groups would not be used at this meeting and that the subcommittee would hear directly from participants. C. Kennedy noted subcommittee was here to listen to issues and commented on current election system in Worcester.

C. Nuon open meeting to public with following people addressing the subcommittee. Alan Saba questioned use of Worcester system in Lowell. C. Kennedy described how that system would operate in Lowell. Deb Forgione commented on increasing voter registration and voter involvement; noted that district representation would not be beneficial to the City; and noted that the key is understanding needs of the neighborhood as well as knowing neighbors and to increase those who go to the polls. Mary Lou White noted support of current system and districts would divide City; and further commented that in order to be represented you need to vote. C. Nuon noted that there would be a use of data to review issues. Peter Saati questioned district representation; noted district wards allow neighborhood representation; and noted the need to reach out to voters. C. Kennedy commented on Worcester system of government and that minority candidates from that system were elected at large. Richard Howe, Jr. commented on Plan E; commented on voting system and how some elections get more involvement than others and that most important form of representation is local representation. Jamison Quinn



commented on the Lowell election system; district representation; and proportional representation. C. Kennedy commented on drafting the voting districts and education students at Lowell High School regarding the election system and voting requirements. C. Cirillo agreed with the educational approach and noted that information would spread throughout the City. Mike Normand noted that Saturday voting would get more people to the polls. Denise Brito noted the need for interpreters; the need to get more youth involved; and the preference for district representation. Kathy Nutter noted the need to vote on line and to have Saturday voting. C. Kennedy commented on past election experience and the issue is that there are not a lot of voters or candidates. C. Kennedy commented on the candidate forums that are run by organizations and not the City. C. Cirillo noted the efforts of the "Lowell Vote" group. Ms. Gregory compared system to Lawrence and noted transportation should be made available to voters. C. Kennedy noted Lawrence system was different as they have a strong mayor and noted the need to engage Latino community. Pastor Gregnor noted that voters need education and for the City to open door for them. C. Cirillo noted the importance of candidate debates and forums. Mr. Quinn interpreted for resident notice language barriers present. C. Nuon recognized the Pawtucketville Citizen's Council for their sponsorship.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
