



Lowell City Council

Ad-Hoc Elect. Laws SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: July 25, 2018
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Butler School
1140 Gorham Street, Lowell, MA.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Nuon, C. Leahy and C. Kennedy. Also present was C. Cirillo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and sponsorship of the Sacred Heart Neighborhood Improvement Group.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon outlined purpose of meeting and thanked the organization for hosting the matter. Carol McCarthy commented on ward representation and how it would benefit this neighborhood. C. Leahy commented on different forms of representation and the fact that board members must be responsive no matter which type of representation there is. Several residents addressed the body discussing different forms of representation and outlined their concerns with having information about government and how it can serve them from street repairs or any other service provided. The residents favored some changes toward a form of ward representation but realized that if there is an issue in their neighborhood they must bring attention to it as well. C. Leahy noted the need of citizens to be involved and that is part of their responsibility as well. C. Nuon noted the responsibility of the Council and indicated that citizens and businesses should have accountability as well. C. Cirillo noted the need for community engagement and more diverse representation in the City. C. Leahy noted a bit of a philosophy change in manner of government. C. Nuon noted they were gathering information regarding issue and had not dealt with the mechanics of any changes. C. Kennedy commented on a prior movement generated by him for a representative form of government that included the Council as well as the School Committee. C. Kennedy suggested that any move should be well thought out as there could be some negative effects due to change and once there is a change it is not an easy process to undo. Jamison Quinn commented on the Lowell election



system; district representation; and proportional representation. Mr. Quinn outlined the proportional representation process and the software needed to calculate. C. Kennedy noted Cambridge used that form of government and that it was in existence years back in the City. C. Leahy noted it was important to keep your elected officials informed and that they are competitive with each other in terms of helping constituents. C. Kennedy noted that concentrating on one councilor would be more effective than requesting of the group as the request may fall through cracks. Ms. McCarthy commented on Saturday voting. C. Kennedy noted the effectiveness of neighborhood groups in the City and that there is a subcommittee dedicated to them. C. Cirillo outlined practice of Neighborhoods SC.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
