

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

Voting members present: Chair Joanne Campbell, Councilor Joseph Demers, and Councilor Robert Toro

Non-Voting members present: President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor William Pappalardo, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Charles Viola, and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon

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Reading and approval of meeting minutes of February 13, 2024: Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of November 28, 2023; approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to suspend the City Council's rules to allow Mayor Concannon to address the committee in regard to the nominees; approved, 3-0. Mayor Concannon said there are four appointees for consideration by the committee tonight. He said he is very, very pleased with the quality of the candidates. He asked for the committee's due consideration this evening.

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Appointment of Mark E. Gaffney to the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority: Mayor Concannon said Mr. Gaffney is well known in the city of Woburn and with the City Council, of which he was formerly a member. He said Mr. Gaffney previously served on the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority. He said Mr. Gaffney has a wealth of experience. He said Mr. Gaffney is a solid guy. He said he is very proud to present Mr. Gaffney's nomination. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Gaffney to tell the committee why he wants to be a member of the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority. Mr. Gaffney said he learned how to play golf at Woburn Country Club. He said he has done every job at the country club. He said he also helped build the ski area at the country club in 1969. He said he was the club champion in 1981. He said he won the Daily Times Chronicle's youth tournament in 1969. He said he has been around golf for years and years. He said he wants to help the course flourish. He said he wants to help. Councilor Demers said the youth golf

program has always been a feature of the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority and asked how Mr. Gaffney will support the youth program. Mr. Gaffney said the golf pro at the country club has jurisdiction over the youth program. He said that is something to which he is very receptive. He said the country club has an affiliation with the PGA Junior Golf program. He said one of the big things is instruction of golf etiquette. He said there is quite a bit of etiquette in golf. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to suspend the City Council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address Mr. Gaffney's appointment. President Dillon said Mr. Gaffney's appointment gives him the rare opportunity to make a recommendation for someone who has been a mentor to him. President Dillon said he and Mr. Gaffney talk 2-3 times a week. He said Mr. Gaffney will do a great job on the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority. Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers that the appointment of Mr. Gaffney to the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Carolyn Peary to the Board of Trustees of the Woburn Public Library:

Mayor Concannon said he has gotten to know Ms. Peary in the past year or so while he has been on the campaign trail and at other events. He said Ms. Peary has expressed an interest in serving the community. He said Mr. Peary has a genuine interest in serving at the Woburn Public Library. He said he sought the input of WPL Director Hermayne Gordon for this appointment. He said former Mayor Scott Galvin also contemplated this appointment before he left office and he was generous enough to allow him to ultimately submit Ms. Peary's nomination to the council. He said he thinks Ms. Peary will do an awesome job. Chair Campbell asked Ms. Peary to tell the committee about herself and why she is interested in joining the Board of Trustees of the WPL. Ms. Peary said she is interested in helping the community. She said she has been a library patron for more than 60 years. She said she thinks the board is a good fit for her. Chair Campbell asked if Ms. Peary has any other interests. Ms. Peary said she is a member of the historical society. She said she loves to travel. She said she has always tried to volunteer. She said she is moving toward retirement and will have some extra time to spend on volunteer work. President Dillon said he is sure Ms. Peary will do a great job on the WPL Board of Trustees. He said he was the liaison to the WPL Board of Trustees in a previous term and he knows the board does a lot of great work. He said he always says the two greatest jewels in Woburn are the library and Horn Pond. He said he thinks Ms. Peary will be a good fit. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the nomination of Carolyn Peary to the Woburn Public Library's Board of Trustees "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of John Wetzel to the Woburn Commission on Disability: Mayor Concannon said he has gotten to know Mr. Wetzel over the past year. He said Mr. Wetzel's wife Jessie was elected to the School Committee last year. He said Mr. Wetzel wants to help the community. He said he would like the Commission on Disability to be a little more active and he thinks Mr. Wetzel will bring a lot of energy to the commission. He said Mr. Wetzel has proved to be a dedicated citizen. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Wetzel to tell the committee about himself and why he is interested in joining the Commission on Disability. Mr. Wetzel said he has lived in Woburn for only a short period of time. He said he was adopted after being born in Seoul, South Korea.

He said he moved to Detroit and grew up in Michigan. He said he served in the U.S. Army in Iraq. He said he specialized in counter intelligence. He said he then became a special agent with the Dept. of Defense. He said he is currently working with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. He said he has always thought of ways in which to best serve the community. He said his educational background is in hospitality. He said when people go to restaurants, it is not just to eat food but it also provides people with a sense that they are being provided for. He said people need to feel like they are being cared for. He said he is interested in aiding other people who need assistance. He said if someone breaks a bone, the fact that the bone heals means someone cared for that person. He said in a sense every person is only temporarily abled. He said when people start to age, they need more assistance. He said he wants President Dillon to say some day that the three things he is the proudest of in Woburn are Horn Pond, the public library and the city's compassion for those with disabilities. Councilor Toro said he is a former member of the Commission on Disability. He said he has gotten to know Mr. Wetzel over the past year and he thinks Mr. Wetzel will be a great fit on the commission. President Dillon firstly thanked Mr. Wetzel for his military service. He said the Commission on Disability does great work and has a terrific chairman in Timothy Donovan. He said he thinks Mr. Wetzel will be a great addition to the team. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the nomination of Mr. Wetzel to the Commission on Disability "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Richard A. Sawyer to the Woburn Commission on Disability: Mayor Concannon said he has known Mr. Sawyer for a long time. He said he thinks Mr. Sawyer is going to be a solid addition to the Commission on Disability. He said Mr. Sawyer is one of the best people he has ever met. He said Mr. Sawyer is one of the most caring and compassionate people he has ever met. He said he thinks Mr. Sawyer's presence will elevate the commission. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Sawyer to tell the committee about himself and why he wants to join the Commission on Disability. Mr. Sawyer said he has lived in Woburn for his entire life. He said he has benefitted from living in Woburn and he would like to contribute. He said he has a 27-year-old son named Michael who is disabled. He said Michael's disability was evident at an early age, and he and his wife Kathleen quickly learned Woburn is awesome from the standpoint of people who are caring. He said there was intervention on a number of levels starting with pre-school. He said Michael was included in sports programs. He said he and his wife decided long ago they could never leave Woburn because the community was so accommodating. He said hopefully as a member of the Commission on Disability he can help provide others in the community with the same experience that Michael has had. He said he was honored when Mayor Concannon asked him to join the Commission on Disability. He said he thinks he can bring a lot to the commission. Councilor Toro thanked Mr. Sawyer for making himself available to the Commission on Disability. He said he thinks Mr. Sawyer is going to be a great member of the commission. He said he would like to see Mr. Sawyer help define the role of a Commission on Disability member. Councilor Viola said he has known Mr. Sawyer for 10-12 years. He said he thinks Mr. Sawyer will be a great fit for the Commission on Disability. Councilor Ferullo said he has known Mr. Sawyer for a long time. He said he is excited to see Mr. Sawyer join the commission. President Dillon said he can see that Mr. Sawyer has passion. He said he thinks Mr. Sawyer will do a wonderful job. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said if there is anything the City Council can do to help the commission, Mr. Sawyer should contact the council members. Motion

made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers that the appointment of Mr. Sawyer to the Commission on Disability “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0. Councilor Toro thanked Mayor Concannon for making appointments to the city’s municipal boards a priority. He said there has been an emphasis on filling vacant seats and updating holdover terms. He said it is very important that these seats on boards and commissions are filled. He said every individual the mayor has nominated has been great. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to return to the regular order of business; approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to adjourn; all in favor, 3-0. Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees