



# CITY COUNCIL

## Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, May 2, 2022  
Meeting Report

**Attendance:** M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, J. Cepeda-Freytiz (in person), W. Butler (electronically)

**Others Attending:** M. Smith, B. Rivera (in person), I. Litvinov, D. Martinez, BCTV (electronically)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz.

### I. Interviews

- **David McCoy – Appointment to the Recreation Commission**

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz greeted Mr. McCoy and asked him to share his thoughts on what the role of the director of the Commission is and what improvements may be made. Mr. McCoy stated that first and foremost, he views the Commission as a Reading entity and as a Reading entity, it is the Commission's responsibility to ensure that the youth are afforded quality help; be it educationally, academically or otherwise. He stated that he doesn't feel that any activities or improvements in those realms have taken place. He stated that he is aware of the facilities around the City that are just not being utilized and our youth are out there just doing their own thing without the mentoring and assistance that the Commission should be providing. He stated that he would actually like to know what responsibilities the Recreation Commission has in place to serve the youth in our community.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if he had served on this Commission in the past in the capacity of School Board representative to which Mr. McCoy concurred. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she still serves on this Commission as well as Ms. Melissa Ventura and Mr. Butler serves as an alternate. Mr. McCoy questioned what encouragement or mentoring is being provided by the Commission as he believes the Olivet's and other organizations can't speak to what the Commission is being responsible for as a Reading entity. Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz agreed with Mr. McCoy stating there is a definite need for more progressive thinkers and doers to be able to step in and find a way to mentor and reach our youth; especially those between the ages of 13 and 16 which are most vulnerable as they're not sure where they fit in, making them very impressionable. She stated that she is aware of some organizations stepping

in and assisting in response to the uptick in youth violence which includes gun violence. Mr. McCoy concurred with Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz's statement adding that there are organizations receiving funding such as BCAP that are not certain on how to utilize that funding. He is aware of a subcommittee within BCAP that is tasked with figuring out how best to serve the youth with the funding being provided. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she is in agreement with Mr. McCoy in that the Commission needs to coordinate with the other entities so that this can be a collaborative and effective effort on all fronts. Mr. McCoy stated that Mr. Chris Winters is on board to assist in whatever manner he is called on to do so; he just needs to be informed of the Commission's strategy or need in assisting.

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz stated that the Commission needs to get the input of the youth to effectively target interests that will keep the youth interested and not prone to following negative paths. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this is already occurring as the Commission has implemented focus groups which are comprised of youths sharing what most interests them. Surprisingly, these focus groups have shared that many youth enjoy outdoor-type settings such as being out in wooded areas; perhaps in great part, due to the Hunger Games movie. She stated that they voiced interest in Lacrosse as well. Mr. McCoy stated that the youth is a very vulnerable group and so it is important how we address them in speaking positively to them with acknowledgment of what interests them most and applying that whenever possible.

Mr. Butler stated that he believes parent involvement is a necessary component when it comes to our youth and he questioned Mr. McCoy how he would incorporate parents into his purpose. Mr. McCoy stated that it is a very delicate situation involving parents as some parents feel extremely protective and guarded about their privacy. He notices that when a parent initiates contact first, it opens up the lines of communication and assists in the mentoring process of the youth at hand. He stated that it is better to target the needs of the youth first so as to acquire trust. Then if the parent and/or parents reach out, their involvement means they are willing to hear out suggestions brought forward regarding their child.

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz noted the importance of Mr. Butler's question and asked if there are any recreation-type groups that involve parents of the youth. Mr. McCoy stated that he is not aware of any groups like that and that perhaps it is something to consider as parents are a very integral part of our youth and some are single parents who need as much assistance as is available to them. There was a brief discussion on how the pandemic affected the youth and how cultural differences affect parents' involvement.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz is very pleased and eager to have him on the Commission with all his vitality and ambitions toward his involvement on the Commission. There was a brief conversation regarding meetings and how often the Commission meets which Mr. McCoy stated he would not have issues attending.

Ms. Cepeda-Freytiz thanked Mr. McCoy for his interest in serving on the Commission and looks forward to his contribution as a member.

**The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of David McCoy to the Recreation Commission.**

Ms. Smith informed the Committee that Mr. Darlington, who was scheduled to be interviewed, had to reschedule for another date as he was unable to attend today so this concludes today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Bea Rivera, Legislative Aide*