



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, July 6, 2020

5:00 PM

**Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)**

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

Absent

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Others in Attendance

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Deputy City Clerk Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 29, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, June 1, 2020, Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Member Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Chair Cynthia Newbille addressed the PlanRVA vacancy and suggested that the committee recommend applicant Jacob Giovia for appointment to PlanRVA due to his qualifications and experience.

Member Kim Gray inquired if the Office of the Mayor was notified regarding the number of vacancies that required a mayoral nomination. Member Gray stated that certain boards and commissions had difficulty obtaining a quorum at meetings due to the number of mayoral nominated vacancies.

Chair Newbille stated she would instruct Council staff to follow-up with city administration regarding the mayoral vacancies.

Chair Newbille moved to forward the following appointment to Council with the recommendation to approve:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
PlanRVA (13 members)	Qualified Voter (1 vacancy)	Jacob Giovia

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

Member Gray moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board (10 members)	Representative from Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities* (1 vacancy)	Aubrey Jones
Audit Committee (7 members)	Certified Public Accountant (1 vacancy)	William Chaney (reappointment)
Ethics Reform Commission (11 members)	* (5 vacancies)	Nathan Joyce
Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board (16 members)	Resident of a City Council district with 20% poverty rate* (3 vacancies)	Dominic Barrett (reappointment) Carmen Simon

*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

Introduction of Richmond Police Chief Gerald Smith

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid provided an introduction of Police Chief Gerald Smith.

Chief Smith addressed the committee and stated he was looking forward to working with members of Council to address issues impacting the city.

Member Kim Gray inquired about the enforcement of laws regarding open carrying of firearms, destruction of public property and overall public safety in city neighborhoods surrounding Monument

Avenue. Member Gray expressed her concerns about individuals openly carrying semi-automatic weapons with large ammunition magazines in the Monument Avenue area.

Chief Smith informed members that multi-departmental action would occur involving the Richmond Police Department (RPD), the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Works, to collectively address the situation. Chief Smith stated his first act to address the current situation was to request an increased police presence within the Monument Avenue area.

Lincoln Saunders, Office of the Mayor chief of staff, informed members that the carrying of firearms was prohibited in city owned buildings and within city parks.

Member Kristen Larson stated she was concerned about RPD officer morale and the potential loss of staff.

Chief Smith acknowledged that the RPD was facing a difficult situation and that morale among officers appeared low. Chief Smith informed members he was taking steps to support officers and to address concerns amongst the department.

Member Stephanie Lynch welcomed Chief Smith and stated she was looking forward to working with him to initiate policies to address systemic racism in the city.

Member Michael Jones expressed his belief that current protests in the city would continue in response to interactions between the police and citizens.

President Cynthia Newbille stated she was looking forward to future discussions between Council and Chief Smith regarding racial equity reform related to RPD policies and procedures.

Statue and Monument Update

Member Kim Gray requested the Office of the City Attorney provide a legal opinion that addressed if sidewalks and right-of-ways on Monument Avenue were considered public park spaces and therefore under the supervision of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown recommended to the committee that Council proceed with the Virginia General Assembly mandated process regarding the removal of certain statues addressed in Ord. 2020-154. Mr. Brown informed members that the public hearing for Ord. 2020-154 would take place on August 3, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber. Mr. Brown stated the public hearing would allow for public comment in-person and that a quorum of Council would be required to attend the meeting in-person. Mr. Brown also stated if Council adopts Ord. 2020-154 on August 3, 2020, then Council may decide on the disposition of the removed statues by resolution.

Member Kristen Larson inquired about the process regarding the collection of offers and requests for transfer and acceptance of the removed statues.

Council Chief of Staff Lawrence Anderson informed members that Council staff would be working with city administration to collect and organize received offers regarding the disposition of removed statues and that the offers would be submitted to Council for review and a decision.

Member Gray inquired if the city had been involved in any litigation regarding the removal of statues.

Interim City Attorney Brown stated he was unaware of any litigation and added he would inform Council if any litigation occurred.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert requested that he be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2020-154.

Chair Newbille and members Ellen Robertson, Kristen Larson and Kim Gray, requested to be added as co-patrons of Ord. 2020-154.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports of standing committees.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Items

Administration's Progress/Plan Regarding:

- **Civilian Review Board**
- **Marcus-David Peters Alert**
- **Re-imagining Public Safety Task Force**
- **Community Engagement Strategy**

Chair Cynthia Newbille informed the committee that the Civilian Review Board referenced in Ord. 2020-155, would be reviewed for recommendation at the July 23, 2020 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, at 12:00 p.m. Chair Newbille added that the establishment of a "Marcus Alert" referenced in Res. 2020-R045, was reviewed and recommended for approval at the July 2, 2020 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting. Chair Newbille stated both items would be considered by Council and available for public comment at the July 27, 2020 Formal Council meeting, at 6:00 p.m.

Member Kim Gray stated she spoke with a representative of Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) regarding Ord. 2020-155, who indicated that RTAP had not reviewed the proposed ordinance yet. Member Gray also stated if RTAP decided to support the ordinance, then she would request to be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2020-155.

Member Kristen Larson expressed her concerns regarding Res. 2020-R045 being introduced on July 1, 2020, and then considered by the Education Human Services Standing Committee on July 2, 2020. Member Larson stated she believed the next-day committee review after introduction did not provide enough time for full community engagement at the committee level of review.

Member Andreas Addison stated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council needed to adapt and increase outreach for public participation at committee and Council meetings. Member Addison also stated information regarding legislative statuses and the instructions for citizens to participate through electronic communication means in meetings needed to be shared with the public to increase participation.

Member Michael Jones stated members should share the pending legislation introduced at the July 1, 2020 Special Council meeting, with their constituents to increase public participation at the committee level. Mr. Jones also stated he had requested that the items introduced at the July 1, 2020 Special Council meeting, be placed on the regular agenda for consideration at the July 27, 2020 Formal Council meeting, at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Newbille informed members that city administration would need to provide updates regarding the Re-imagining Public Safety Task Force and Community Engagement Strategy discussion items.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid stated city administration would work with Council staff to provide that information at the next Council meeting.

Member Gray requested an itemized list of costs incurred and notification of any emergency procurements made, be provided by city administration in relation to the removal and storage of certain statues in the city.

Member Larson inquired about the process of Council working to implement upcoming public in-person meetings of Council in the Council Chamber.

Chair Newbille stated Council staff were developing the process and members would be updated as soon as possible.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.