

City Council Committee Reports for 2023

Date: January 24, 2023 Recorder: McCauley

Community Service Committee

Councillors Attending		Others Attending	Address
James McCauley	<i>m</i>	<i>Molly Ettenborough</i>	<i>Dept Head for R-E-S</i>
Jennie Donahue	<i>m</i>	<i>Max Tilson</i>	<i>Resident/BOH</i>
Connie Preston	<i>m</i>	<i>Lina Matta</i>	<i>Applicant to BOH</i>
Byron J. Lane			
Ed Cameron			
Heather L. Shand			
Afroz Khan			
Bruce L. Vogel			
Christine E. Wallace			
Sharif I. Zeid			
Mark Wright			

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION TAKEN

<i>Approval of Previous Minutes</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>APPT 367 1-9-23 Lina Matta to BOH thru 2026</i>	<i>Approve 3-0</i>
<i>Discussion with Recycling, Energy & Sustainability Dept</i>	<i>No Action</i>

Recording

You can copy the recording information below and share with others

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/AMWX9o77MFKcL0RoMABnmQXeJv4xlgP-dmhLZ2QP3IL3whqBc07QbiKPORSQkJOZ.pMUFHuN7FNLBfvVO>

Passcode: JdY36P^0

Agenda Items

Present were: Cnclr Donahue, Cnclr Preston, and Cnclr McCauley

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

This is the first meeting of the newly formed Committee on Community Services

APPT 367 Lina Matta to BOH

Nominee was present to discuss her appointment.

Lina gave a 3-5 min overview of her background, her motivations and her goals for this position.

Background: Degree in Pharmacology, Masters Public Health. Currently at B+W as Dir of Ambulatory Svc's. Familiarity with the collaboration needed for hospital operations. Favors creating new innovative projects to approach things differently.

Motivations: Her father was committed to public health/service traveling to help control malaria. She would like to find a way to give back, become involved in this community (here 2-3 years from brookline).

Goals: proactively promoting Public health...listening to how people are reacting, new programs to reach out.

Committee reviewed appl.

Q from Cnclr Preston: How might we improve Vac rates? Ans: more discussions about what are the concerns, what works what doesn't. Are people still listening? If not, why not. Overcome these perceptions, will help raise Pub Health awareness.

Q from Cnclr Donahue: Is there a role for BOH in ensuring quality health care locally (specifically at Anna Jaques)? Ans: yes. Need to work collaboratively to understand their challenges, respect their leadership, help with public outreach...ie Blood, CPR drives, awareness campaigns.

Q from Chair: From your time as an independent researcher, what insights had you gleaned about institutional culture vs Costs? Ans: previous perception tht higher price meant better healthcare. That perception is changing among the institution....healthcare is about outcomes and that includes cost considerations.

Committee: Vote to bring to council for it's review and approval. Approve (R+F) 3-0.

Discussion with Recycling, Energy and Sustainability Dept

Molly Ettenborough, Dept Head, was present to discuss the R-E-S dept. and some hot topics:

Cost of Energy: City was prepared for costs increases thru its Community Aggregation Program...est savings (whole community) 2m in charges over next year. Continuing to share info on the program to public. Also, 60% of City's energy needs being met via "green sources" (thru direct or contracts)

Trash Recycling: City facing crossroads. Cost for Trash pick up/disposal rising (50%...mostly labor and insurance costs by provider). Will renew at 1 year at market rate, but need a longer term solution starting June 2024. Proposals...mix of all options: Auto pick up of carts/barrels, composting, recycling, repurposing.

Resiliency: The Resiliency Committee meets regularly to identify actions to be taken. Recent publication of a resiliency Brochure. Working with National Grid to secure their Electric Plant on water, further protections for Wastewater Plant, working with Water Dept to help secure our sources of water.

Committee pivoted a bit to an ongoing open item: Availability of EV chargers.

Public Comment by Max Tilson...a recent appointee to the BOH. He is finding it challenging to find an open EV charger consistently. Asking us to accelerate our plans with Nat Grid to expand EV charging pool. He is a bit dismayed that he cannot charge from his home—running a cord across/under the sidewalk. [This item was addressed in a meeting of Public Safety in 2021...not allowed]

End of Public Comment

Molly Concluded by noting the EV projects in the pipeline: 10 stations at Green St, 10 at new waterfront park, possible trial with Nat Grid (still needs DPU approval) to push chargers into neighborhoods. All these are 8-12 mo away at the earliest. Also noted, is the new stretch code (stretchier stretch code) will require EV chargers in new homes.

No other questions, motion to adjourn 3-0.