

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

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The Appointment Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Council George C. Tyros at 4:00 p.m. Appointment Committee Members Councilor Judy Mack was present. Also present was Mayor Nicholson, Economic Dev. Coordinator Jessica DeRoy, and Assistant City Clerk Faith Glover.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN MEETING RECORDINGS:** Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the Meeting Minutes. This information is also posted on the wall by the door for review.

Chair Tyros: Is anyone recording today's meeting? Is anyone recording today's meeting

**I. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.**

On a motion by councilor Judy Mack, and seconded by Councilor George Tyros, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the meetings of August 17, and September 6, 2022.

**II. Appointments:**

**10770-Frances LeMieux** to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to the Appointments Committee 09/07/2022). (09/19/2022. More time).*

**Mayor's Statement:**

Mrs. LeMieux has served as an art teacher in Gardner Public Schools for over a decade. I asked her for her willingness to serve on the Cultural Council to bring a perspective from someone who is involved in the fine arts as well to increase the committee's outreach to the younger residents of the city through her involvement in the school system. She has always been interested in getting involved in the city and is a very talented artist herself. She will bring a different perspective to the position. The Cultural Council funds that we annually receive from the Commonwealth, we do have to use or lose by the end of every fiscal year. Jessica Deroy will be able to explain the roll of Cultural Council

**Jessica DeRoy's Statement:**

Each individual City and town or Regional, the commonwealth provides the Cultural Council organization X amount of funds every year. We tend to get the same amount; this year is boosted by quite a bit because they have had an influx through covid funding. The funds go to things around the city like the Band committee for the summer concert series. Cultural Council gives an opportunity for various organizations, like the Library and the Senior Centers, or places that are non-profit based organizations. They may need entertainment,

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something to draw in a crowd to be able to host these things, but do not have the budget to do so. We have some business that will be applying as well, the DOT line Preparations is looking to do some art classes but do not have the funding to do so. They have some artist friends that want to be part, they can apply and be able to do those classes. It provides opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't be able to receive, and it must benefit all the city and neighboring areas. So, we do fund things outside of Gardner as long as it's within a space where Gardner residents can make it to those locations, and we know that Gardner people have gone there in the past.

**Mayor:** How Much?

**Jessica DeRoy:** Last year it was around \$36 thousand, this year I believe we have \$43 thousand, which it's a decent amount. There is no limit per say how much people can get. The maximum we've done in the past is about \$5 thousand for a full series of events not just one single event. The money cannot be used for refreshments, it must be the actual cultural event, based on the history of the area or whatever they're trying to teach. We have an ethnics group that's based out of Somerville, MA that does a puppet series that teaches about the Native American, and also African tradition, they are trying to teach people about someone else's way of living. I do not believe they can charge anything for admission.

**Councilor Judy Mack:** I think she's a great person to serve on this commission. I have known Mrs. LeMieux for many years, she is one of my colleagues at the high school and she is extremely generous with her time outside of the school day. She donates a minimum of at least a week teaching our children during the summer through the recreation department. Mrs. LeMieux is extremely creative, as the mayor said, she is as much of a wildcat as the rest of us that who were born and bred here in Gardner. I strongly support this appointment.

**Councilor George Tyros:** I agree, I think it's a fantastic appointment, I strongly support.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor Judy Mack and seconded by Councilor George, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Frances LeMieux to the position of Member of Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. Motion Passed.

**10771-Paulette Burns** to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to the Appointments Committee 09/07/2025). (09/19/2022, More time).*

**Mayor's statement:**

Mrs. Burns has been an active member in the community for several years, mainly through her involvement on the Board of Assessors, and is looking to increase the ways she can give back and sever our city. She reached out to the Cultural Council's current chair, Jessica DeRoy, and inquired how to become a member. Whereas the committee had vacant seats on it, I was happy to submit her appointment to fill the open seat with someone with a vested interest in the work of the Cultural council.

**Jessica DeRoy:** Paulette has been on the Cultural Council in the past, it has been a few years

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but she does have experience with the process and understands how it works. This will be beneficial because there is a lot of us that are new. Someone can only serve so many years consistently. We feel it would be good to have someone else that has a little bit more background on what has been done previously.

**Mayor:** Statutorily the cultural Council members can only serve three two terms before taking a year off, that is to make sure that we are rotating people and getting different perspectives. I do want to thank all those that have given their time to Cultural Council.

**Councilor Mack:** I want to point out that the mayor said that Mrs. Burns sought out to go back on the Cultural Council, I think that's important that that is something that she enjoyed serving on. There are a lot of different committees and interest that serve the greater Gardner community and try to attract talent from all the surrounding area communities.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor Judy Mack and seconded by Councilor George, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Paulette Burns to the position of Member of Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. Motion Passed.

**10772-Kristina Singer** to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to the Appointments Committee 09/07/2025). (09/19/2022, More time).*

**Mayor's statement:**

Ms. Singer has served one full term on the Cultural Council. She has served quite well in this role and is willing to stay on and continue serving for a second term. The General Laws of the Commonwealth limit the terms of service on the Cultural to two consecutive three-year terms after which, a member is ineligible for re-appointment for at least a year to allow a rotation of members on the committee. We have been very happy with Kristina performance in this position.

**Jessica DeRoy:** Kristina has been a great benefit to the team during the last cycle. Kristina has been a great asset very willing to provide her thoughts on applications that we have received.

**Councilor Mack:** I thank you for her reappointment to the committee and I also think it's important you know as we re-appoint people who have served in the past, but we have a couple of new appointments that you have a nice mixture of experience, and they can show the new appointees the ropes on how the Cultural Council works.

**Councilor Tyros:** I completely agree and move to recommendation.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor George Tyros and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Kristina Singer to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. Motion Passed.

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**10773-Kathleen Deal** to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to the Appointments Committee 09/07/2025). (09/19/2022, More time).*

**Mayor's statement:**

Mrs. Deal has continuously been an active member of the Gardner Community and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and network of those in the area through her employment with the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce and North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation. A Gardner resident, she brings both a strong knowledge of the community, coupled with the knowledge of different programming offered by the Commonwealth and other organizations with her that would largely benefit the work of the Cultural Council.

**Jessica DeRoy:** Kathleen is very connected to Gardner, and very excited and interested in being part of the Cultural Council. She is familiar with the area and knows some of the people that are serving.

**Councilor Mack:** I really hope that the citizens really look for the postings on the city website when the applicants are available. The postings are there so people can take advantage of the grant opportunities that are available.

**Councilor Tyros:** Absolutely!

**Motion on Recommendation:**

On a motion by Councilor George Tyros and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, it was voted to recommend that the City Council confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Kathleen Deal to the position of Member, Cultural Council for a term expiring August 30, 2025. Motion Passed.

Thank you very much to Jessica DeRoy for her input.

**10788-Charles LaHaye** to the position of Member, Historical Commission for a term expiring September 13, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to Appointments Committee 09/19/2022).*

**10789-Scott Huntoon** to the position of Member, Historical Commission for a term expiring September 13, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to Appointments Committee 09/19/2022).*

**10790-Alanna Tomeu** to the position of Member, Historical Commission for a term expiring September 13, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to Appointments Committee 09/19/2022).*

**10791-Chris Pera** to the position of Member, Historical Commission for a term expiring September 13, 2025. *(In the City Council and referred to Appointments Committee 09/19/2022).*

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**Mayor's statement:**

All the aforementioned individuals have been submitted for re-appointment to the historical commission after their previous appointments expired in 2014 and were not put up for renewal by the previous administration. They have all served the city well in their roles and with the City's Centennial Celebration coming next year, I believe that having the Historical Commission active would be beneficial. These appointments still leave three vacant positions on the commission from individuals who do not wish to be re-appointed.

**Councilor Mack:** I want to thank all of them for their service, I know a lot of these people are really involved with the Gardner Museum and the South Gardner Historical Society which a lot of people aren't familiar with, I have known for years about it and think their contribution to continuing to preserve the historic aspects of Gardner and to be involved are very important. I think that the budget of \$200 for those old, old gravestones, maybe someday a boy scout group or somebody, that would be a great project for them. I just want to put it out there and hope that someone would like to serve on the historical commission. There is a need for younger people to get involved. Gardner is very rich in its history. I appreciate their willingness to continue, and I thank those who served in their time and are willing to participate but not necessarily serve on the commission on a regular basis.

**Councilor Tyros:** I want to thank the mayor too for filling the committee because Gardner has a lot of history and shows a lot of pride in Gardner to have this commission repopulate and active again.

**Motion on Recommendation:**

Councilor Judy Mack recommends that Items 10788, 10789, 10790, and 10791 to the position of Member, Historical Commission for a term expiring September 13, 2025.

Councilor George Tyros seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**III. New Business:**

**Councilor Judy Mack:** I have nothing.

**Councilor George Tyros:**

**Mayor:** The search committee of Chief McAvene and former acting Chiefs Kearns and Alfano and Deb Pond (HR) will be meeting to review the applications and interview the applicants soon for Deputy Chief, maybe by the time the Appointments Meeting meet again.

On a motion by Councilor George Tyros and seconded by Councilor Judy Mack, all agree to adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20pm.