

2026 Boards & Commissions Selection Committee
Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2026

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm. A **quorum** was present, with three members in attendance at the start of the meeting and the additional two members joining late, within the first half hour.

Agenda approved unanimously.

Amended **Minutes from the 6/17 Meeting** were approved unanimously.

- Minutes were amended to include Celia Bird as one of the Public Forum participants.

Public forum closed at 3:14pm.

- 2 speakers – Nate Lantieri, Miriam Stoll

The Committee conducted **interviews**:

- Board for Registration of Voters: Miriam Stoll, David Cawley, Jeff Comstock
 - Michelle Lefkowitz, Kathleen Manning, and Bridget O'Donnell weren't online and didn't complete an interview.
- Cemetery Commission: Miles McCallum, Mary Wesley
 - Martha Dallas wasn't online and didn't complete an interview.
 - Chair Monroe Zakaras noted that Miranda post removed her application from consideration in an email due to her support for Miles McCallum's application.
- Parks and Recreation Commission: Katie Flanagan Mobley, Frank Mamo, Carolyn Felix
 - Carolyn Felix interviewed later in the meeting around 5pm due to her work schedule.
- Electric Light Commission: Pike Porter, Paul Dawson
 - Lara Bonn, Larry Lewack, Polly Mangan, and Steve Gomez weren't online and didn't complete an interview.

The Committee **discussed applications** (note: Councilor Barlow had to leave the meeting early at 4:45pm but joined a continuation of the meeting at 8pm):

- Police Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Michaela Finneran to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.

- Chair Monroe Zakaras, Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson, and Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Erin Jacobsen, given her extensive background and expertise in law enforcement policy, particularly the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy (FIPP), which is needed on the Police Commission as Burlington grapples with the aftermath of the March 11th ICE incident in South Burlington.
 - Councilors Barlow and Carpenter wanted to put forth Romeo von Hermann because he is an engaged community member who has wanted to serve on this Commission for a long time and has experience with issues affecting downtown.
 - Councilor Carpenter was concerned that Jacobsen would have conflicts of interest, given her current immigration legal work. She also perceived it to be awkward that Jacobsen was so recently the Mayor’s Chief of Staff; she pointed out that City Councilors can’t apply to be on boards/commissions until a year after they complete their service.
 - Councilor Grant felt that von Hermann would have his own conflicts of interest, given his tenure on the Church Street Marketplace Commission.
 - Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson pointed out that having conflicts of interest is a reality of public service while working a day job, and she trusts Jacobsen and von Hermann will learn how to navigate that, like what they’ve all had to learn to do.
 - Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson expressed that she prefers candidates are not selected for their demographics alone but for their experience, and she didn’t want hidden biases to shape Councilors’ decision regarding Jacobsen’s candidacy; she wanted the Committee to create a safe space to have that conversation.
 - Councilor Barlow expressed a strong incumbency bias, in that he will nearly always decide to support an incumbent’s candidacy. Chair Monroe Zakaras and Councilor Grant weighed in that in the first meeting on June 17, the Committee agreed that incumbency would be respected and overweighted relative to other considerations, but that it wouldn’t be a guarantee to re-appointment.
- Church Street Marketplace Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Rebecca Holt (at large), Erik Monsen (at large), and Marykate Moore (at large) to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment.

- The City will need to repost for the 4th vacancy, which needs to be filled with a CSM or downtown business owner per charter. No applicants fit this requirement.
- Romeo von Hermann removed his application from consideration for re-appointment to this Commission because he expressed a preference for consideration for the Police Commission.
- Planning Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Erin Malone to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.
 - Chair Monroe Zakaras, Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson, and Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Henry Severance, given his expertise on affordable housing (works at Evernorth), and the fact that he would bring new energy and perspectives to the Board that aligns with the current moment in Burlington regarding housing and planning.
 - Councilor Carpenter wanted to put forth Andy Montroll, given his long tenure on the Commission (17 years) and the fact that he has been an engaged member with good service.
 - Councilor Barlow was not present for this discussion as he had to leave the meeting early, though Councilor Carpenter said he would agree with the choice to put forth Andy Montroll.
- Retirement Board – Motion passed unanimously to move David Mount to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.
 - Chair Monroe Zakaras, Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson, and Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Deirdre Keenan, given her experience and expertise and the importance of expanding the gender representation on the Board.
 - Councilor Carpenter wanted to put forth Alan Matson, given that he has extensive experience and expertise and is an engaged community member.
 - Councilor Barlow was not present for this discussion as he had to leave the meeting early, though Councilor Carpenter said he would agree with the choice to put forth Alan Matson.
 - Councilor Grant put forth a motion to move Deirdre Keenan to the slate of recommendations; Chair Monroe Zakaras seconded the motion. It failed 3-1.

- Board for Registration of Voters – Motion passed unanimously to move Michelle Lefkowitz to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.
 - Chair Monroe Zakaras, Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson, and Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Miriam Stoll, given her enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated in her interview, and the fact that she has experience with how voting rules/procedures affect whether and how different voters engage, especially those who are from underserved and vulnerable populations.
 - Councilor Carpenter wanted to put forth Bridget O’Donnell, which Chair Monroe Zakaras was open to.
 - Councilor Barlow was not present for this discussion as he had to leave the meeting early, though Councilor Carpenter said he would want to put forth Jeff Comstock.
 - Note that when the Selection Committee reconvened at 8pm, Councilor Barlow confirmed that he wants to put forth Jeff Comstock as a matter of increasing the Republican representation on the Board.
 - Councilor Grant expressed strong concern and disagreement with putting Jeff Comstock onto the slate of recommendations due to his public expressions of bigotry. She noted that she is willing to support a Republican candidate, as she had in the past, but that Comstock’s prior public behaviors and statements disqualified him from board/commission service.
- Cemetery Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Miles McCallum and Mary Wesley to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment.
 - Councilor Carpenter expressed some reservation about not re-appointing an incumbent applicant (Martha Dallas). Chair Monroe Zakaras, Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson, and Councilor Grant appreciated Dallas’s service but expressed strong support for McCallum because he was a stellar applicant for this particular Commission, gave a compelling interview, and attended both Committee meetings, demonstrating his commitment and interest.
 - Councilor Barlow was not present for this discussion as he had to leave the meeting early, though when the Committee reconvened at 8pm, he confirmed his support for the decision to put forth McCallum.

- Parks and Recreation Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Katie Flanagan Mobley to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.
 - Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Frank Mamo because of what he said in his interview about parks as third spaces, etc.
 - Councilor Carpenter wanted to put forth Carolyn Felix given her long history with parks as a former Ethan Allen Homestead caretaker.
 - Chair Monroe Zakaras and Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson did not express a strong preference between these two candidates, and Councilor Barlow was not present for this discussion because he had to leave the meeting early.

Chair Monroe Zakaras called a **recess** for the Selection Committee at 6:00pm. A **continuation of the meeting** was called to order at 8:05pm. A **quorum** was present with all Committee members in attendance.

The Committee continued to **discuss applications**:

- Electric Light Commission – Motion passed unanimously to move Lara Bonn to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment. Second vacancy will go to the Council floor on the 29th.
 - Committee members disagreed on who to recommend for the second vacancy.
 - Polly Mangan and Paul Dawson were the top two choices for Councilors Sanchez-Parkinson, Carpenter, and Barlow and for Chair Monroe Zakaras.
 - Councilor Grant wanted to put forth Pike Porter, given his engagement and critical eye towards City work and decisions.
- GMT Board – Motion passed unanimously to move Andrea Suozzo (full member) and Larry Lewack (alternate) to the slate of applicants being recommended to City Council for appointment.

When the discussion of applications concluded, Chair Monroe Zakaras noted that the Selection Committee had **finished their review and recommendations for all Board/Commission vacancies**. She agreed to email the Committee a final slate of its recommendations that evening.

Chair Monroe Zakaras reviewed the decisions made by the Committee in the first portion of the meeting after Councilor Barlow had to leave early at 4:45pm; Councilor Barlow agreed with the decisions made.

Moving forward, Chair Monroe Zakaras and Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson noted the need for more discussion and agreement on consistent review procedures for future Board/Commission appointments. This would vastly improve the transparency, equity, fairness, and efficiency of the application and appointment process.

The **meeting adjourned** at 8:24pm.