

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes**
September 13, 2022



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

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Please use the following link and passcode to access the meeting:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/87377216395?pwd=YUZJS1M1Y3A0bS91T3VQVDNjQ3lnQT09>

I. Call to Order

Mayor Kate Snyder called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Acting Chair Kate Snyder (Mayor), Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Ashley Rand (City Clerk), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present. Councilor April Fournier (Chair) joined the meeting at 8:10 AM.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from the July 19, 2022 Meeting

Mayor Kate Snyder made a motion to Approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilor Pious Ali, vote (3-0)

III. Legislative Update (Bernstein Shur)

Kate Knox provided an update on the State Legislature, noting that due to upcoming elections, most work taking place at this time involves task forces and confirmations. Bernstein Shur is working with the Delegation on determining their legislative priorities.

IV. Legislative Priorities

a. Staff Priorities (Dena Libner, Chief of Staff)

Dena Libner discussed staff's progress in developing a list of legislative priorities, specifically an interest in developing specific, actionable goals to propose to state legislators.

b. Committee Priorities

Chair Fournier voiced her interest in preparing for the legislative session September-November 2022 in order to better prepare for the legislative session in concert with the State Delegation, and asked the Committee members to express their legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

Mayor Snyder expressed an interest in pursuing changes to General Assistance, specifically highlighting following up on the development of a GA task force. Mayor Snyder also expressed an interest in looking to the State for assistance with match funding for affordable housing developments, as opposed to relying on municipal funds. She noted that the City has access to the Jill Dusen Housing Trust Fund, but many other municipalities do not have access to that kind of revenue. Mayor Snyder also expressed an interest in discussing a local option tax.

Councilor Ali expressed an interest housing-related legislation.

Chair Fournier expressed an interest in discussing housing development and alternate funding sources, potentially reopening discussion on 90% reimbursement for General Assistance, and echoed interest in a local option tax. Chair Fournier also noted an interest in expressing opposition/support on bills that may impact marginalized communities.

V. Nominating Update

Chair Fournier explained that the Committee met the previous evening to interview candidates for boards and committees, and also noted that while many nominations were made, there are still a few committee positions that remain unfilled. Ashley Rand informed the committee of the plan to fill the remaining open committees by engaging current and former members, as well as prior applicants. Unfilled positions will be advertised in the coming weeks.

VI. Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed their preferred schedule for the coming months, and decided that they would plan to meet every Tuesday in September, every 2 weeks in October, and twice in November, taking account of elections and holidays.

VII. Adjournment

Councilor Pious Ali made a motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Kate Snyder, vote (3-0)