



Appointments Committee – Board of Representatives

Denis W. Patterson, Chair Ramya Shaw, Vice-Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room, and remotely on TEAMS.*

The Appointments Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Shaw, and Committee Member Reps. Figueroa, Kuczynski, Pavia, Summerville, and Walston. Excused or absent were reps. Baines and Grunberger. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale, Goldberg, Morson, Sherwood, Stella, Strain, Tomas, Vandervoort and Weinberg; Dana Lee, Law Department and several members of the public.

Start of the meeting was delayed by Microsoft Teams technical difficulties.

Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and opened the public hearing.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. A31.207	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amending Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, §6-123. - Duties and responsibilities (Appointments Commission) 04/09/2025 – Submitted by Rep. Stella 04/29/2025 – Held by Committee 05/28/2025 – Failed by Committee 2-3-1 06/02/2025 – Recommitted to Steering by Unanimous Voice Vote 06/02/2025 – Recommitted to Steering 6-0-0 7/30/2025 – No Action Taken 08/04/2025 – Recommitted to Steering by Unanimous Voice Vote 08/27/2025 – No Action Taken 09/02/2025 – Amendment approved 28-6-1 09/02/2025 – Approved as amended for publication 28-8-0	PUBLIC HEARING HELD AND COMMITTEE APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-1-0

Testimony was received from Kieran Edmondson, Sue Halpern, Gina Calabrese, Dan Lombardi, David Adams, Paul Brindak, Steve Garst, Maureen Boylan, Laura Martin, and Mike Papa. Most speakers supported the ordinance, urging greater transparency,

accountability, diversity, and clarity in the appointments process. Several emphasized restoring “shall” in place of “may.”

After the public hearing the item was moved and seconded, and the committee began discussion. Some Board members raised questions about the enforceability of the ordinance and what the consequences would be if the mayor failed to comply, since the requirements are now requests rather than mandates. Others stressed the need to listen to the people after strong testimony and emails from the public, emphasizing the importance of getting back to public trust and noting the overwhelming public support for the changes. Members in favor stated that the amendments strengthened accountability and were worth adopting to reflect public confidence. Attorney Dana Lee clarified that there is no consequence to the mayor, that the ordinance is designed to help the process without violating the Charter, and that it cannot be used as a political tool, emphasizing that it creates no binding obligation on the mayor but is intended to improve process and transparency.

President Sherwood presented Rep. Stella’s proposed amendments.

Rep. Walston moved the following amendment:

A motion to revise Sec. 6-123(F) to say: “Any political party that endorses a candidate for appointment to a board or commission shall submit the name of such endorsed candidate to the Appointments Commission for informational purposes. Such submission shall not be a condition precedent to nomination by the Mayor under Charter §C6-00-3(b), nor shall it delay or limit the Mayor’s authority to nominate.” Said Motion was seconded by Rep. Pavia and approved with a vote 6-1-0. (Reps. Patterson, Figueroa, Kuczynski, Pavia, Summerville and Walston in favor; Rep. Shaw opposed)

Rep. Pavia moved the following amendment:

A motion to add Sec. 6-123(G): Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to limit the exclusive authority of the Mayor to nominate individuals for appointment under Charter §C6-00-3(b). Said Motion was seconded by Rep. Walston and approved with a vote 7-0-0. (Reps. Patterson, Shaw, Figueroa, Kuczynski, Pavia, Summerville and Walston in favor;)

A motion to approve A31.207 as amended was made by Rep. Figueroa, seconded by Rep. Walston and approved by a vote of 6-1-0. (Reps. Patterson, Figueroa, Kuczynski, Pavia, Summerville and Walston in favor; Rep. Shaw opposed)

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| 2. A31.224 | Board of Ethics
Evan Guttman (R) <i>Repl. Springer (R) Exp. 12/1/24</i>
Stamford, CT 06907
Term Expires: 12/1/2027
8/29/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons
09/12/2025 – NO ACTION TAKEN | NO ACTION
TAKEN |
| 3. A31.225 | Zoning Board of Appeals
Lauren Jacobson (D) <i>Reappointment</i>
Stamford, CT 06902
Term Expires: 12/1/2026
8/29/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons
09/12/2025 – NO ACTION TAKEN | NO ACTION
TAKEN |

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| 4. A31.226 | Historic Preservation Advisory Committee
Nicholas Ponzo (D) <i>Repl. Hersh (D) Exp. 12/1/22</i>
Stamford, CT 06906
Term Expires: 12/1/2027
8/29/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons
09/12/2025 – NO ACTION TAKEN | NO ACTION
TAKEN |
| 5. A31.227 | Arts & Culture Commission
Liz van Caloen (R) <i>Repl. Collins (U) Exp. 12/1/24</i>
Stamford, CT 06902
Term Expires: 12/1/2027
8/29/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons
09/12/2025 – NO ACTION TAKEN | NO ACTION
TAKEN |
| 6. A31.228 | Social Services Commission
Shani Ben-Dov (R) <i>Repl. Lombardo (R) Exp. 12/1/24</i>
Stamford, CT 06903
Term Expires: 12/1/2027
8/29/2025 - Submitted by Mayor Caroline Simmons
09/12/2025 – NO ACTION TAKEN | NO ACTION
TAKEN |
| 7. A31.138 | REVIEW ; Demographics of Stamford's Board and Commissions.
09/04/24 – Submitted by Rep. Stella
10/15/24 – Moved to pending
07/30/2025 – No Action Taken
08/27/2025 – REPORT MADE | REPORT
MADE |

Rep. Stella noted that the demographics of Stamford's boards and commissions remain a significant issue, pointing out it had been discussed previously and emphasizing that Stamford could do better when reviewing the numbers and the makeup of those serving.

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Denis W. Patterson, Chair

This meeting is on [Video](#)