

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, April 27, 2026
1:00 p.m.
Councilman Denny Wayne Conference Room,

PRESENT: Derek Lee, Chair; Bruce Adib-Yazdi; Brandon Jenson; Abe McGull; and Jeff Schrag, ex-officio.

ABSENT: None.

VACANT: None.

STAFF: Anita Cotter, City Clerk; Kristina D’Andrea, Executive Secretary, Tonia Stopka, Administrative Assistant to City Clerk, Jordan Paul, City Attorney, and Nick Woodman, Assistant City Attorney.

GUESTS: None.

Councilmember Lee, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and roll call was conducted. Present: Brandon Jenson, Abe McGull, Bruce Adib-Yazdi, Derek Lee, and Jeff Schrag. Absent: None.

Mayor Schrag moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026, meeting. Councilmember McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None

City Clerk Update

Councilmember Lee asked Ms. Cotter to provide any follow-up from the last Public Involvement Committee meeting. Ms. Cotter provided an update on various outreaches to bolster applications for boards and commissions, including contacting the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors and Keller Williams to encourage realtors to apply to the Board of Equalization and taking applications and brochures to the April 17, 2026, Mayor’s Community Conversation meeting.

Ms. Cotter provided an update on the status of the Personnel Board. She noted correspondence from the board liaison indicated an ongoing search for qualified applicants to fill two vacancies.

The following appointments/reappointments were considered:

Landmarks Board

Consider replacement of Erik Kiser, Member-at-Large (resigned).

Consider replacement of John Sellars, Historian (resigned)

Consider replacement of John Hawkins, Walnut Street Representative (term expired)

Councilmember Lee requested Ms. Cotter provide a brief status update on the Landmarks Board. Ms. Cotter noted the receipt of a resignation from Erik Kiser, Member-at-Large. She reminded the Committee members of her conversation with Jason Nunn prior to the March 2, 2026 meeting, and he had expressed strong interest and enthusiasm in serving on the Landmarks Board. He was not interested in serving on any other board. Additionally, Tim Rosenbury, Director of Quality of Place, and Taj Suleyman, Director of Belonging and Intercultural Development, were noted as references on Mr. Nunn's application. Our office contacted both references, who provided positive feedback and noted Mr. Nunn would be a strong participant on the board.

Ms. Cotter referred to Paul Lewis' application and noted he had served as a Historian on the Landmarks Board in the past. She also noted the City Clerk's Office was working to solicit applications to replace Mr. Sellars as the Walnut Street Representative, and no applications had been received for this vacancy.

Councilmember Lee inquired about an amendment to the Landmarks Board ordinance to remove the requirement for a Walnut Street Representative from the list of members, due to lack of applicants for this representation. He proposed language for the amendment to be drafted and provided to the Committee for review. Ms. Cotter responded she would coordinate with the Law Department.

Councilmember Jenson recommended contacting the new owner of Ebbett's Field on Walnut Street to offer the opportunity to apply to the Landmarks Board.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi moved to recommend Jason Nunn to City Council for appointment as Member-at-Large to the Landmarks Board. Mayor Schrag seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Councilmember Jenson moved to recommend David Hammons to City Council for appointment as Historian to the Landmarks Board. Councilmember McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Consider replacement of Carl Knuckles, (resigned).

Ms. Cotter provided an update on the status of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She noted the City Clerk's officer received a written resignation from Carl "Bill" Knuckles.

Councilmember Adib-Yazdi moved to recommend Brandi Morris to City Council for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Schrag seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: Jenson. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees

Consider reappointment of Laura Robinson, Legal Representative (term to expire April 30, 2026).

Consider reappointment of Andy Stewart, Financial Representative (term to expire April 30, 2026).

Ms. Cotter provided an update on the status of the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees. She reported that no applications have been received for legal or financial representation.

Ms. Cotter also noted that she consulted with City Attorney Jordan Paul regarding the amendment to Article 5 of the City Code, passed in August 2025, which allowed members of the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees to serve up to four terms. According to City Attorney Paul, the amendment was consistent with the City Charter and presented no discrepancies.

Councilmember Lee moved to recommend Laura Robinson to City Council for reappointment as the Legal Representative to the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees. Councilmember McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Mayor Schrag moved to recommend Andy Stewart to City Council for reappointment as the Financial Representative to the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System Board of Trustees. Councilmember Abe McGull seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

Councilmember Jenson moved to adjourn. Councilmember Adib-Yazdi seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Jenson, McGull, Adib-Yazdi, Lee, and Schrag. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: None.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Prepared by Kristina D'Andrea

