Legislative and Nominating Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2018
City Hall, Room 209

I. Call to order

Chair Ali called to order the Legislative Committee meeting at 10:03 a.m. The following persons were present: Councilor and Committee Chair Pious Ali, Councilor and Committee Member Kim Cook, Councilor and Committee Member Jill Duson, Mayor Ethan Strimling, Alysia Melnick and Isabel Mullin (Bernstein Shur), Jen Thompson (Corporation Counsel) and Julie Sullivan (City staff). Dan Haley, Harbor Commissioner, and member of the public Carol McCracken were also present. Live streaming of the meeting was on.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Committee members reviewed last meeting’s minutes in preparation for this meeting. Councilor Cook moved approval of the minutes and Councilor Duson seconded. There were no amendments. Councilors Ali, Cook and Duson voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

III. Request to remove term limits for Harbor Commissioners

a) The Harbor Commission was created by State statute, with two members appointed by the City of Portland, two by the City of South Portland, and one by the Governor. Only the two Portland commissioners have term limits.

b) Both Commissioner Dan Haley and Jen Thompson provided information and answered questions.

c) Councilor Cook moved to change the ordinance to remove the term limits from the Harbor Commission and Councilor Duson seconded.

d) Because this is an ordinance change, Councilor Cook moved to bring the issue to the full Council; Councilor Duson seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor.

IV. Plan for review of appointed entities

a) City Clerk Kathy Jones will provide the Committee with information on what each board/commission/committee is charged to do and where that authority comes from, as well as whether there are any discrepancies in current practice versus ordinance language.

b) Ms. Jones will prepare a schedule of presentations over the summer, following the anticipated change in meeting schedule to every other week.
V. New bills and current legislation of concern

a) Alysia Melnick and Isabel Mullin provided an overview of pending legislation and the status of the session.

b) LD 1629 – the senior tax lien foreclosure bill was ought to pass as amended, but has an $825,000 fiscal note

c) LD 1710 – school-based health centers – on appropriations table

d) LD 1884 – red flag bill – unlikely to pass

e) LD 1873 – Governor’s bill to align state benefits with federal standards – indefinitely postponed

f) LD 1889 – amended to be a study commission re issues of involuntary commitment and high-risk individuals

g) Solar bills – dead

h) LD 1707 – needle exchange – on appropriations table

i) LD 1833 – sanctuary city bill – dead

j) County jail funding – pending funding

k) LDs 238 and 1539 – marijuana processing, municipal regulation language; dispensaries can become for-profits, caregivers can have more than 5 patients – held in Senate

l) LD 1783 – fentanyl – on appropriations table

m) Transportation bond pending

IV. New business

a) None

V. Adjournment

At 11:00 a.m., Councilor Cook moved and Councilor Duson seconded a motion to adjourn, and it passed unanimously. The next meeting will be on April 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 209. The legislative delegation will be invited to attend the meeting.