

**West End Civic Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Conference of United Church of Christ
March 4, 2014**

Present: Amy Bergquist, Val Bryan, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Otis Cox, Rick DuVerger, Abigail Dym, David Jorgensen, David Klein, Sally Lerman, Kelly Loveday, Bongsi Magubane, Charlie Ortiz, Alan Paluck, Elvia Strom, Gretchen Unfried-English, Sally Weisman and Florence Wolff-Nicholas. Also in attendance: Fi Bookwalter, Caroline Finnegan and Lakisher Hurst.

Amy Bergquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

Motion 1: Charlie Ortiz moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2014 meeting, with a second by Rick DuVerger. Passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report

David Klein presented the financial report stating that the budget is on target.

3. Agenda Items

- June General Meeting

The board discussed the June meeting, status of the nominating process and meeting format.

- Upcoming Events for Officer Sherbo

Amy asked the board to encourage providing notice to Officer Sherbo for all scheduled events in the neighborhood.

- Advertisements in the Newsletter

David Klein shared that advertisement fees in the WECA paper and e-news newsletter have been reduced for various ad sizes. In the paper newsletter, a business card size ad was reduced from \$100 to \$50 and a 1/8 page ad was reduced from \$400 to \$200. A business card size ad is now \$25 in e-news.

- Farmers' Market

Kelly Loveday and Caroline Finnegan reported on the market's opening on June 3 at its new location at Clemens Green. The market will feature 11 vendors, six of which are new. Thanks went to Laurie Gelb for the market's new logo design. The board discussed the viability of the Friday market at the Methodist Church, challenges with the church and in securing vendors. Larger weekend markets have become very popular and vendors choose to go to where there is volume. The board commended Kelly, Caroline and their committee for their hard work to maintain the Friday market, however, it was the consensus of the board that it be discontinued.

- Grant Recommendations

Alan Paluck reported that the grants committee, consisting of Gail Billet, Steve Cohen, David Klein, Bongsi Magubane and himself, reviewed 19 grant submissions and recommended nine for board approval. Alan explained each grant proposal in detail, and, following a discussion by the board, a list of grants was approved and several were returned to committee for clarification.

4. Committee Updates

- Education

Bongsi Magubane reported that representatives from the education committee will be participating in a community dialogue on education.

- Community Building

Val Bryan reported that she is struggling to get participation and is looking for a committee co-chair. The plant swap has been moved to June and she is looking for a location.

- Social Activities

Florence provided an update on the Hartford Blooms event which will feature West End gardens, architectural walks and self-guided tours. Volunteers are needed to monitor gardens on June 24 and 28. Over 300 tickets have been sold and 21 buses are scheduled to bring groups. Michael Peck has agreed to open his property for the event to feature his sculpture gardens.

- Public Safety

Dave Jorgensen discussed burglaries that have impacted several neighborhoods and that metal and motor vehicles have been targets. He provided an update regarding his efforts with Mayor Segarra and Matt Ritter regarding the transition housing on Girard. He cautioned everyone to be wary of door-to-door solicitations for home improvements and that anyone going door-to-door needs a permit. Dave reported that WECA was approached to take a stand on the Doug Glanville matter and that at this point in time, no position will be taken. The Hartford and West Hartford police chiefs have met but no public apology has been issued by the West Hartford police to date.

5. Sector Reports

Central East: Dorothy reported that Carolyn West is working to have the situation involving the city trucks on the first block of Kenyon remedied.

Southeast: Otis reported that there will be a new church pastor in July who should be invited to a board meeting to learn about our mission and introduced formally to the committees. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.