

**West End Civic Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ
October 6, 2015**

PRESENT: Amy Bergquist, JoAnne Bauer, Max Condren, Jim Barry, Guy Neumann, Lakisher Hurst, Lucas Karmazinas, David Klein, Jan Klein, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Bongsi Magubane, Ed McEachin, Angela Pomfret, Cristina Chilloalli, Zephyr Strassner, Anne Thompson, Florence Wolff-Nicholas, Alex Collada, Abigail Dym, Kurt Malec. Also in attendance: Caroline Finnegan.

Bongsi called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Bongsi introduced Guy Neumann (CW Sector Rep) and Jim Barry (CE Sector Rep)

2. SEPTEMBER JUNE MEETING MINUTES

David Klein moved to approve them subject to any subsequent comments from the Board. Charlie Ortiz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

David Klein provided a brief overview. Month of September was fairly normal. The biggest item of interest was the cost of the newsletter mailing. The cost of making the copy of making the newsletter was approximately \$400. The cost of having the post office distributing the newsletter is approximately \$800. Farmers' Market had a positive month. ArtAround had a made \$27 for the year (WECA) serves as a fiscal agent only. Bongsi questioned when the grant writing process will begin in regards to committees submitting their request. David Klein said that is was a part of next year's budgeting process. Committees normally submit them some time in December and it will be discussed at the January board meeting.

4. NEWSLETTER UPDATE

David Klein said that the purpose of using the post office was to make sure that everyone in the west end had access to the newsletter. The determination has to be made where to use the volunteer force versus using the post office and looking for areas that overlap. Target was to get the newsletter into 90% of all mailboxes in the west end. Going forward it would be preferable to use the sector reps and block captains to deliver the newsletter. There are several difficult places such as Clemens Place and Shephard's Park. David Klein asked Lakisher to insert a notice into the several e-news editions asking if residents received their newsletter and what street they live on. Bongsi suggested that the sector reps recruit block captains to help out with newsletter distribution within the different sectors.

5. AGENDA FOR 10/13 GENERAL MEETING

Bongsi passes around the final draft copy of the agenda for the general meeting/education forum. Abby stated that they received a number of questions that were submitted before the meeting.

There were some questions that were person specific and a number of questions that asked about the reason why there was no such thing as a neighborhood school anymore. The general meeting will follow the same format of the welcome and general announcements and then we will move onto the education forum portion.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Education: Abby said that there were two goals the education committee was currently working on. (1) created a community space that can foster the same sense a child would get from a school and/or library. (2) to focus on literacy by providing children an opportunity to learn and engage in literacy. It was also mentioned that the city council meeting will be the same night as the education forum so there might not be a lot of people in attendance.

Architectural History and Resources: Jan & Lucas said that the tax credit meeting is going to be held on Wednesday October 21st at 7pm.

DineAround: Jan & Fi said that the committee meeting will be held on Thursday October 8th. The DineAround is going to be held on the last Saturday in January.

Membership: Charlie stated that the 2016 membership drive is coming in November

Beautification and Planting: Charlie said that things that will be happening soon are buying mums, re-construction of signs that are broken on Blvd, replacing the state on the east lawn near the playground in Elizabeth park. Charlie will be having a meeting in the near future to find out the details of the no name park next to the firehouse to find out who owns it and what should be done with it.

Community Engagement: JoAnne will be working on a committee statement.

Farmers Market: Anne stated that the market is still open (most people don't realize that). The new hours are 3-6pm until the 27th of October which is the last day of the market season. They are also looking into fundraising ideas for the next season.

7. SECTOR UPDATES

Southwest: Max Condren said that there were over 20 neighbors in attendance for the first SW sector meeting. Officer Maldonado & Officer Sherbo were there. Bongi was also in attendance and shared her vision about what she thought envisioned for the sector.

Central East: Dorothy Lovett Buckley introduced Jim Barry as the new sector rep for the CE sector.

Southeast: Zephyr stated that she is still working with Shepard's Park to move forward with the Mural. It is primarily to have the youth work with the elderly by creating art.

Central West: Ed stated that the summer had been pretty quiet. He is looking to have a sector meeting the early part of November.

North: Kurt said that it was quiet in the north sector. He is looking for new block captains. Many of the neighbors have asked him about the big empty house that is for sale. They thought it may have been blighted because it's been on the market for years.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Bongi stated that the board should keep a few ideas in mind for the upcoming new year. Mainly focusing on which direction WECA should be going in. the strategic plan needs to be updated as

there are some items in there that no longer reflect who WECA is and what WECA does. JoAnne Bauer, Zephyr Strassner, Angela Pomfret, Kurt Malec, Max Condren and Abigail Dym all volunteered to help re-write parts of the strategic plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.