

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ
November 1, 2016**

PRESENT: Jim Barry, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Cristina Chillogalli, Lakisher Hurst, Rick DuVerger, David Klein, Jan Klein, Bongsi Magubane, Kurt Malec, Ed McEachin, Anne Thompson, Max Condren, Fi Bookwalter, Guy Neumann

ALSO PRESENT: Ricardo Ball, intern from Trinity College. He will be involved in projects and housing committee. He is an urban Studies major.

1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Magubane welcomed everyone including the guests. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES

Kurt moved to approve minute minutes, David Klein second with the addition of adding NRZ to the meeting minutes' header. Kurt also added that the meeting minutes and action items need to be out by the end of the week that the board meeting occurs. Sometimes we forget and it's too late to bring them up by the next month meeting.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Treasurer's report - great start to a new membership year. There were three major expenses: H&R \$700 to buy more plaques.

Farmers Market is significantly over budget this year.

Education committee honor roll celebration held in June also significantly over budget.

Nightfall people were also paid. The year's outcome will be determined on how well membership does. Bongsi stated that the budget of the honor roll celebration will be hard to be kept in line unless there are cutbacks to be made. She feels that this is the only time some of the students, teachers and families get together. David stated that few items that are significantly over budget we'll have to address this next year when the budget is redone

4. NEWSLETTER

Kurt led the discussion of free publishing in the e-news. Kurt has been approached about publicizing events and business services. David stated that for all for-profit organizations, they should pay for ads. In the case of a non-profit the event needs to be free and touch West End residents or take place in the West End. Content in the e-news it is getting pretty long. A more efficient way would be to use the calendar on the website more effectively. some info on the e-news should be replaced with a click here button. Kyle feels like we should not act as an aggregator for social events. He is concerned about allowing others to have their own events, how we would manage it technically and administratively. Some of our donors may have donor fatigue and we are letting other organizations raise money off our members. Lakisher and Kurt to work on the links in the e-news.

5. DINEAROUND

DineAround is the most important fundraiser for WECA. No responses initially to host. Short on hosts but will post the information on West End living Facebook and invite individual emails from previous years. Kurt asked about feedback from previous years and said that more people just want to attend and not host. Some have said that they are going to be out of town. Fi stated that in the 13 years that it's been running there really hasn't been any "new blood" to serve as hosts. A lot of the previous year's hosts are now middle-aged and are not interested anymore. Kurt believes we should find new ways to energize the event. Jan stated there's no problem with the sponsors and they are still working on finding more hosts. At this point the committee is out of ideas to find new hosts. Christina suggested using the Watkinson school for CHS to use as a combined space for several hosts. Kurt will make an announcement at the general meeting.

6. PNZ UPDATE – Kyle stated that on October 11th, two out of the four recommendations were adopted. Kyle posted updates on the WECA website. For the pawn shop situation – the owner will postpone the application and will speak to the WECA board in regards to proceeding further.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE – Christina does not know what transpired at the last meeting and has not been in contact with Joe Sherbo. Max Condren cc'd on email from Alan Pollack about garage break-ins. Bongi stated that there has been police activity in her apartment complex.

8. NRZ – Bongi feels like we are not fully acting as an NRZ. At least not like some of the other NRZ act and would like us to align ourselves with how others operate. The biggest difference is the alignment with City Representatives, all we have is Joe Sherbo who occasionally shows up to meetings. She feels like we need to align our activities with the city Representatives who support that area. Kurt would like to have committees under certain umbrellas so that not only one person is responsible for everything. He feels that Public Safety needs to be shared more publicly with the rest of the residents and Community engagement.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Website: Kurt is working on getting a domain name. He has been having a hard time getting in contact with Jon Barton. Westend.org is not for sale. He would like to find an alternative to using our personal emails.

Guy Newman suggested that he has a client that may be interested in grant writing for WECA. He will be in contact with Caroline.

Tax credit information session November 14th Connecticut Historical Society

Committee reports: Farmers Market last Tuesday final day. Market is looking for funding for next year. They didn't have all the funding as expected and are still trying to communicate with the community that West End Farmers Market is not aligned with other farmers' markets. Bongi

suggested that Anne or Caroline contact Aetna because they support a lot of community gardeners. Funding is an issue because the market has expanded. Caroline is on for another year. Part of the market strategic plan is to structure it to make it sustainable for years to come.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.