

**West End Civic Association and NRZ  
Board Meeting Minutes  
United Methodist Church  
April 4, 2017**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanne Bauer, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Cristina Chillogalli, Max Condren, Rick DuVerger, Ruth Fortune, Lakisher Hurst, David Klein, Jan Klein, Melissa Macri, Bongsi Magubane, Ed McEachin, Anne Thompson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Suzanne Becket, Officer Chanaka, Jeff Hill, Jim (Department of Public Works), and many residents.

Meeting opens at 7:05pm.

**1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Magubane welcomed everyone.

**2. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Klein said they raised \$19,000 for the DineAround, received \$1,500 of income from the Farmers' Market (FM) and \$3,600 from last year. This brings the FM subsidy down to \$11,000. Grant requests are due on April 15 for \$7,000 allocated.

**3. MINUTES**

Mr. Bergquist moved to approve the March minutes with a second from Ms. Fortune. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. FARMERS' MARKET**

Ms. Thompson said all is moving smoothly to have the FM open for its 15<sup>th</sup> year and challenges all sector representatives to sell 10 tickets for the bowling and bingo fundraiser on April 26 at 6:30 PM at Ducks on the Ave – 572 Farmington Ave. Tickets are \$15.

**5. HARTFORD DECIDE\$**

Ms. Chillogalli encourages everyone to vote and have a voice in the next projects for Hartford Decide\$. Some board members and residents said they attempted to vote online but could not. Mr. Condren will help with online assistance.

**6. NOMINATIONS**

Ms. Magubane introduced Suzanne Becket – a volunteer for Education Chair. Ms. Becket has lived in the West End for about 30 years, has deep roots in Hartford, is a graduate of UConn Law and has 5 children – 2 in magnet schools, 2 in open choice schools, and 1 in college. Her children have attended Noah Webster. Ms. Becket does not have any specific projects should she be voted as Chair but said she wants to get kids in the community more involved.

**Vote**

Mr. Klein moved to approve Suzanne Becket as Education Chair. Ms. Chillogalli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Becket said a new WE resident is interested in starting a chess club in Hartford. WECA contacted him so he could apply for a grant.

**7. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Officer Sherbo could not make the meeting but sent Officer Chanaka on his behalf. Officer Chanaka said despite the continuing pattern of burglaries and package theft in the West End, it is still a much safer and calmer part of Hartford.

Homicides and shootings are up in the North End, so the police have been focusing much of their efforts there. However, they are beginning to reallocate resources to the West End. For details and statistics on crime in Hartford, please visit [www.hartford.gov/police](http://www.hartford.gov/police).

A new class of officers will soon graduate. The City is considering running 2 classes simultaneously – an unprecedented move – to train new officers to replace the large number of retiring officers.

## **8. TRAFFIC CALMING**

Ms. Macri introduced Jim – a representative from the Department of Public Works.

Hartford developed a new approach to traffic calming for the approximately 100 permanent speed bumps that a \$500,000 grant will build. After reviewing traffic in Hartford on an aggregate level, some streets are designated ineligible for speed bumps for various reasons. The revamped approach focuses around each of Hartford's 14 NRZs and gives NRZ residents the power to identify and recommend eligible streets for speed bumps. Streets are to be nominated by residents of each NRZ for consideration for installation of speed bumps. NRZs will review and prioritize the requests. In order to receive a speed bump, a nominated street must have a petition showing 75% of residents on that street want the speed bump.

Jim advised that NRZs thoughtfully and strategically prioritize locations recommended by residents for speed bumps since such discretion is left to NRZs. He also advised that NRZs collect signatures of the streets they prioritize, not all nominated streets. The City will only assess best placement of speed bumps on the streets submitted by NRZs.

The speed bump project timeline is detailed below:

- 3/8/17: new process rolled out,
- 4/15/17: NRZ public outreach completed,
- 5/1/17: speed bump request submissions to NRZ,
- 5/7/17: NRZ short list to Public Works, and
- 6/15/17: construction through end of August.

\*There are a few additional steps after the NRZs submit their short list and before construction begins that may or may not involve the NRZs.

Some unofficial street nominations are: Warrenton Ave, all eligible blocks starting at Prospect to Sisson, all of Evergreen, N Beacon from Elizabeth to Farmington (lack of support for one resident for Cone to Farmington), and Terry Rd from Westerly to Albany.

A 530 Prospect Avenue resident voiced her concern that speed bumps are not sufficient for traffic calming, especially at a dangerous intersection near her house. Jim agreed and said the City will install a 4-way stop at that location to reduce the high accident rate.

Ms. Bauer and Mr. Hill voiced their concern about Evergreen St. Mr. Hill previously collected signatures from Evergreen residents for speed bumps that never came to fruition. If asked again to sign another petition, he worries that many residents will decline to do so since this would be a repeat.

Mr. Klein moved to adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.