

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
January 3, 2017**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Barry, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Cristina Chillogalli, Max Condren, Ruth Fortune, Lakisher Hurst, David Jorgensen, David Klein, Jan Klein, Melissa Macri, Bongsi Magubane, Kurt Malec, Jamie McPike, Angela Pomfret.

Meeting opens at 7:05pm.

1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Magubane welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. MINUTES

Mr. Malec moved to approve the December minutes with a second from Ms. Pomfret. The motion passed unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Klein said the final 2016 report was better than expected due to a \$6,000 grant from Apple, but is the first year in many that WECA has an operating loss. Mr. Condren was instrumental in getting WECA the Apple grant. All the loss is due to the Farmers' Market (FM) which used \$17,000 and is expected to receive \$4,000 in matching grants from Wholesome Wave to reimburse WECA.

The membership drive raised about \$15,000 so far and lags last year's numbers by \$1,000. The FM cannot continue as is if WECA is to balance its budget. There is an interest in finding ways to fundraise for the FM and/or limit its cost.

4. 2017 MEETING DATES & PLANNING

Ms. Magubane received a notice from the City of Hartford requesting that WECA and NRZs submit their 2017 meeting schedule.

The following Executive Board positions need to be filled for the next term: President, VP of SOFA and Secretary. Various committees also need to fill vacancies for the next term.

Ms. Magubane and Mr. Malec proposed regrouping committees to have the current chairs cover responsibilities of absentee chairs, restructuring or eliminating dormant committees to reduce vacancies thus optimizing WECA's volunteer corps.

WECA needs to come up with a process to address and monitor ongoing quality of life concerns in the West End that transcend committees, such as the repeated drug overdoses at 77 Evergreen and aggressive parking enforcement. The Hartford Fire Department Chief will attend the February WECA meeting.

Hartford is conducting a survey for the recurring accidents at Prospect and Warrenton after a resident sent out a letter.

After some discussion, WECA will invite the West End East Lawn Committee to the WECA meetings with the goal of officially getting the group to join WECA. Perhaps it would be best to broaden the name to represent the West End instead of Elizabeth Park's east lawn. Contrary to the perception they are already a part of WECA, the group was founded as a short-term, ad hoc

task force. They continue to advocate and send notices to the City about pertinent matters like trash, parking, and their recent ad hoc soccer noise/issue at Elizabeth Park.

Mr. Klein will contact the members of last years' Nominating Committee to invite them to rejoin the committee to help recruit and fill the 3 vacancies on the Executive Board. Ms. Magubane wants the Board to help recruit committee chairs and not leave it all to the President as done in the past.

5. NEWSLETTER

Mr. Malec proposed getting fixed email addresses for the board positions. The print newsletter will become a one-page direct mail piece that goes out two or three times per year.

6. 2017 BUDGET

Mr. Klein reviewed the 2017 budget with the board. After some discussion, he will make the following updates: reduce the Noah Webster event from \$3,000 to \$1,500, reallocate the funds for social activities to the Community Engagement Committee, and keep a grant for the partnership between the Police Athletic League and WECA for the youth summer program. Mr. Bergquist submitted his P&Z request for funding for twelve annual meetings. WECA's expected budget shortfall for 2017 is about \$5,000 assuming a \$6,000 allocation to the FM.

7. WEST END ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Malec will attend the Colonial Theater Renaissance Corporation (CTRC) event as a WECA representative. It is a new committee consisting of three people. They will seek to help businesses through a myriad of vehicles and to get vacant, dilapidated buildings to become productive. They are working with two potential tenants, one who will take over the Braza spot. With the CTRC funded, it can start to pay back taxes and collect monies owed to it from the neighboring property, the former RooBar.

8. COMMITTEE UPDATES

P&Z: Mr. Bergquist's goals for the year are to (1) understand what an accessory dwelling unit is since the P&Z Commission just passed a regulation on it, and (2) deal with whatever comes up. On other news, a church bought the medical building at 230 Scarborough St but no new activity has occurred due to zoning restrictions. The pawn shop is on a standstill but expressed a desire to play by the rules through their attorney.

Public Safety: Mr. Jorgensen announced an array of criminal activities in the last couple of days – a shooting at Gray St on Evergreen, shot fired this morning, and increased car break-ins. There is an ongoing narcotic investigation and a lot of undercover police presence.

DineAround: Ms. Klein said it's been a tough year. They are still waiting on sponsor seats and have about twenty openings.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Hartford Decide\$ has an action team meeting on January 14 at City Hall, Council Chamber. Perhaps welcoming new West End residents with a kit that includes a one-pager about WECA, owner-donated gift cards to local stores and other goodies would go a long way in engaging newcomers. A neighborhood canvas could help recruit WECA volunteers and gather data to keep in contact with West End residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.