

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
June 6, 2017**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Barry, JoAnne Bauer, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Rick DuVerger, Ruth Fortune, David Jorgensen, David Klein, Melissa Macri, Bongsi Magubane, Kurt Malec, Ed McEachin, Guy Neumann, Anne Thompson, Suzanne Becket.

ALSO PRESENT: Sara Bronin, Janice Castle (Department of Public Works - DPW), John Gale, Jeff Hill, Officer DeMay, Gretchen Unfried-English, Sally Weisman, and many other West End stakeholders.

Meeting opens at 7:05pm.

1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Magubane welcomed everyone and turned it over to Ms. Castle.

2. CITY INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Castle gave an update on the Mayor's town hall series and made the below announcements.

- Hartford is implementing an ID program which pays for itself.
- There is renters rebate program for those who are over 65.
- Jim Ford of DPW is still waiting on bids for the speed bumps. The June 1st deadline is extended to June 22.
- A newsletter is going out on a weekly basis with events happening around Hartford.
- Hartford has a new city engineer.

John Gale said Hartford's budget is dependent on the state budget.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY

Officer DeMay (on behalf of Officer Sherbo) reported the 6 burglaries, 7 larcenies, a stolen vehicle, an armed street robbery, numerous pan handling arrests, and an arrest related to the burglaries. He advised being aware and proactive by making sure bicycles are locked up due to increasing bicycle theft and keeping windows/doors locked.

There is an ongoing drug enforcement operation.

4. SARA BRONIN

Ms. Bronin delivered a presentation about Hartford's climate initiatives. The Climate Stewardship Council oversees these efforts, though it was originally created to expand on the P&Z Commission's work to update the zoning code. Thanks to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Council now has a grant-funded, full time staff for the next 2 years.

Hartford is interested in the environment because its residents believe climate change is real. The zoning code updates have earned Hartford many awards. The Council is interested in how Hartford could advance the ball in 6 areas of focus.

Please go to Hartford.gov/climate for what residents can do and how to get involved.

5. NOAH WEBSTER UPDATE

Principle Jay Mihalko of Noah Webster announced the school is inundated with fruit/drain flies. They are considering various solutions, including moving the dumpster outside of the building which could be unsightly. In the spirit of being a good neighbor, he wants to make sure the school involves WECA by inviting a member to attend the meetings and voice WECA's perspective. Eleese Wright volunteered as the WECA representative.

Ms. Magubane offered a check to pay for the reception at Noah Webster.

6. GRANT RECIPIENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Klein announced the following grant committee's unanimous recommendations:

- \$3,000 to United Methodist Church to support the breakfast and food pantry;
- \$2,000 to Knox Parks for planters and mulch along Farmington Avenue;
- \$1,600 to Camp Courant;
- \$1,000 to Elizabeth Park Conservancy for the concerts;
- \$2,000 to Hartford 2000 for the youth civic engagement program; and
- Up to \$1,250 (\$250 upfront and \$20 per documented West End student) to Danny Starbuck Pelletier to start a chess program for young people in Hartford.

Ms. Thompson requested that WECA links the chess grant to the FM based on conversations she had with Mr. Pelletier.

Mr. Klein motioned to approve the grants as recommended. Mr. Malec seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. FARMERS' MARKET

Ms. Thompson said the FM's opening day was excellent. It included an art tent – an added feature to every market this year.

There will be a June 19 fundraiser at the beautiful Eddie's Farm in Newington.

8. SPEED BUMPS

Ms. Macri said her committee is still gathering signatures for all the nominated streets, except N Beacon which is done.

The meeting proceeds with the election and sector groupings.