

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church of Hartford
March 8, 20176**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Janice Castle (Director Community Engagement City of Hartford), Jim Ford (DPW), Archie Bird (DPW, Supervisor), Joe Sherbo (West End CSO)

1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2. MINUTES/FINANCIAL UPDATE

There were no minutes taken last month. No financial news to report.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY

Joe Sherbo stated that he doesn't get WECA emails and wanted to make sure he is on the distribution list for things WECA related.

Car breaks and burglaries are down on Farmington Avenue. There has been three stick ups this past month. There are cameras but they didn't catch much. A lot of drug dealers are gone. Some are still on Gray Street. People must start calling when they see something, don't get discouraged if action is not taken immediately - minor or major does not matter. There's been a lot of traffic at Christina's grocery. People are fixing cars on the property. There was another burglary today on West Boulevard and a snatch-and-grab downtown. There was an abduction on the Lorraine Street. The person was returned unharmed. People need to be careful when they walk at night. The halfway house on Girard Avenue has more complaints coming from that building, police are watching.

4. FARMERS MARKET

Caroline said that a \$4000 check came in from End Hunger, \$1000 grant was received from, Watkinson School sponsored the shortcake fund \$500. The Farmers Market was not granted the fund for the music. Approximately \$1200 is needed to pay the musicians. Art truck donating 4 visits (Halloween/Back to School/Strawberry Shortcake Festival). The committee had a meeting a couple of weeks ago, to find ideas to raise money. They are in contact with the bowling alley possibly also a picnic in Elizabeth Park. Events like that should accumulate several thousand dollars for the market. Ticket prices TBD. There will be a fundraising committee meeting Thursday @ 6pm. Push for fundraising starts in April. The committee will also be revamping the

website including adding videotaping on market days. Revised sponsorship will be ready in two weeks.

5. HARTFORD DECIDES

Hooker Day Parade is May 13th. SOFA (South of Farmington Ave) marching 12-6pm. Farmers Market will have a pop up market the day of the parade.

6. SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The City is looking for grant for youth summer programming. Bongi has suggested proposing what WECA did last year (PAL) to other NRZs. The grant from WECA has been submitted already. The Chief offered to write a letter in support of the grant. Last year approximately 50 students were able to participate in the PAL programming. Bongi raised the quest of how to approach the rest of the community with proven programs in support of the city. Kurt asked Caroline if the Asylum Hill NRZ supports WEFM and she said yes.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Someone purchased the Colonial Arms building. They were supposed to meet with WECA but was cancelled due to weather and he has not rescheduled yet. Progress is being made at the Colonial Theatre - lease was supposed to be signed on the 1st but one of the individuals did not have their funding. If it isn't signed by the middle of the month then there will be renegotiations.

7. PLANNING AND ZONING

There has been a complaint stemming from a property on Terry Rd. There were cars on the lawn and in the driveway. Zoning enforcement has been called (3-1-1). The first step from them was to talk to the owner first episode see if there is a violation. It needs to be addressed if they meet the definition of the household. will keep the rest of the committee and the group up to date. There will be no immediate resolution given. Has been escalated through the proper channels at the last City Planning and Zoning meeting someone stood up and said WECA was not prepared to address the issue at hand and said that WECA looked at it but did not act on it this. Bongi stated that this person does not represent WECA and should not be speaking on WECA's behalf.

Guy stated that the city should work on a clear path for fining properties that are not maintained. Janice Castile stated that if the homeowner responds that usually stops the fines. Assistance is available for those homeowners who want to do something but are not able to take care of it themselves. Fines are really structured for absentee landlords.

Motion was brought forward to support the anti-blight ordinance with the stipulation around clarifying the "Grandma Rule (the difference between active and absentee homeowners)" Dave Jorgensen Motioned, Kurt Malec Seconded. No opposed, no abstentions.

8. DPW

The Mayor is rolling out a new management program for the speed hump program. There will be a meeting tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. Speed humps are larger than speed bumps. There will be a four-way stop sign placed at the corner of Warrenton Ave and Prospect installed next week. The city is also working to clear up parking regulations along Farmington Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.