

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
May 2, 2017**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Cristina Chillogalli, Max Condren, Rick DuVerger, Ruth Fortune, Lakisher Hurst, David Jorgensen, Melissa Macri, Bongi Magubane, Kurt Malec, Ed McEachin, Guy Neumann, Angela Pomfret, Anne Thompson.

ALSO PRESENT: Janice Castle (Department of Public Works), Jeff Hill, Officer Sherbo, and many residents.

Meeting opens at 7:00pm.

1. WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Malec welcomed everyone.

2. MINUTES

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

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Malec said membership is down, possibly because the print newsletter has not been mailed. The Farmers' Market Bowling and Bingo fundraiser was a success and raised \$590.

4. FARMERS' MARKET

Ms. Thompson said there is a fundraising event happening at Eddie's Farm in Newington in June. In honor of 15-year anniversary, Caroline is planning a Quinceañera party in September and is looking for other ways to advertise the FM.

The West End FM was rated second for best of farmers' market in Hartford Magazine for the state of CT.

5. HARTFORD DECIDES

Ms. Chillogalli said 3 projects were funded, as planned. Then a 4th was funded since the funds were available – heated bus stops, tree planting at local schools, garbage cans and laptops in libraries. The mural project – Paint the City – needs a bit more planning to implement. Hartford is reaching out to artists.

6. SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMING

Mr. Jorgensen said the Noah Webster program will likely reoccur and they are working on other partnerships.

Mr. Malec said 8 grant submissions were submitted. The committee will present the choices to the Board at the June meeting for a vote. At Mr. Condren's request, WECA will accept another submission, even if late.

Ms. Magubane said Fred Thornley will coordinate the Noah Webster end of year party.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Malec said they are still trying to find a tenant, preferably a restaurant, for the Colonial Theater building and are working with a CBRE agent to promote the space. One tenant fell through due to lack of money. Rent is about \$1,300 and is structured competitively to get a tenant in at a low price. A sign should go up in the next 2 weeks.

Mr. Condren added that a teacher in the area is looking for a space for music and ice cream for kids; another person is looking for a storefront.

8. PLANNING AND ZONING

Mr. Bergquist said the City of Hartford continues to get questions about 257 Terry Rd. The current tenants have too many cars.

The Hartford College for Women campus might have some new interest. The prior developers are no longer pursuing it and never went to the City directly, so it seems that proposal is dormant for now. The new President might feel differently about selling the buildings.

Mr. Neumann recommended inviting Sara Bronin to the next Board meeting to speak about the energy and environmental efficiency plans in Hartford.

The 230 Scarborough property is likely going to seek a variance to operate as a church.

10. PUBLIC SAFETY

Officer Sherbo said overall things are relatively calm in the West End compared to the rest of the City. Thieves continue to steal from CVS and take packages. There were 5 shed burglaries and are many large items are being stolen. There is extra coverage in the West End at night.

A young student was grabbed at Elizabeth Park but was not harmed since she managed to escape. Sex offenders are moving in the neighborhood – one on Girard and was identified as the assailant. There is no update on the halfway house on Girard.

Officer Sherbo urges everyone to lock their windows during the summer and lock all doors when leaving.

Mr. McEachin said some people want something done to calm the speeding at N Beacon.

Evergreen properties have been purchased by developers from NY who will turn them into luxury apartments.

11. SECTOR COMMUNICATION

Ms. Magubane said Laura Setemeyer would like to approach blight block by block. Mr. Bergquist and Ms. Magubane will meet with her to identify blocks to work on. Ms. Setemeyer and her team have a city-wide map and want to ensure every NRZ gets some attention.

Mr. Neumann organizes and invites everyone to the Hartford Rib Off charity event on June 17, 2017. This year's beneficiaries are The Pegasus Wings Program – helps kids get into a career in aviation – and Marc Community Resources, LTD. – a new non-profit.

12. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Speed bumps and traffic calming

Ms. Macri listed the nominated streets, which include Evergreen (West Boulevard to Farmington), Terry Rd (Westerly to Albany), N Beacon (Elizabeth to Fern). WECA will prioritize them from 1-7 then collect at least 1 signature per address for 75% of the residents on that street. Each NRZ is being allocated 7-10 speed bumps and the Department of Public Works (DPW) wants a final submission by June 1st. Notice will be given to people whose house will have a speed bump placed directly in front of it.

The DPW is considering other traffic calming measures, such as traffic light coordination and a smart system.

Ms. Castle said Mayor Bronin will host town halls on May 18, 20 and 23 about the recommended budget submitted to the City Council.

Ms. Magubane suggests WECA sets aside money to encourage reporting furniture/trash dumping.

Mr. Condren said the 62 Kenyon boarding house was purchased and will continue to be so, but the new owner has other future plans for it.

Mr. Malec moved to adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.