West End Civic Association and NRZ Board Meeting Minutes United Methodist Church June 5, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bongi Magubane, Cindy Courtney, David Klein, Kurt Malec, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Guy Newmann, Lindsey Ewing, Jon Esmail, Rick DuVerger, Roger Minor, Suzann Beckett, Max Condren

Welcome and Introductions: President Bongi Magubane welcomed the members of the community and the Board introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Cindy Courtney will post minutes on the website as well as the meetinginfo.org site.
- Financial Report: David Klein summarized the monthly report and highlighted that due to the efforts of Max Condron, Apple have given a grant of \$400 to WECA.

Business Meeting:

- WECA Elections Update: Sally Weisman reported that the Nominating committee recommends postponing the elections to the fall so that candidates for president and sector representative can be recruited. She also stated that there will be a recruiting event on Monday, July 23, 2018 at the Goodwin Library at 6:00 p.m.
- **Farmers' Market**: Eileen Buell reported that the first market was held today. There was steady traffic. SNAP benefits were being processed. Financial we are on target. The Farmer's market websites is up and running.
- Planning and Zoning:
 - Kyle reported on a long term process to address blight and quality of life in the neighborhood. He talked to different departments within the City of Hartford. The conclusion is that the best route is to report issues via 311 so that they go into the 311 database. There is a Hartford 311 app. Residents can take a picture.
 - Kyle also reported on the medical building at 230 Scarborough. The owner has hired an architect and has applied for a variance to use the building as a church. Kyle would like to hold a 6/12/18 public meeting to discuss three issues: First, the zoning rules don't allow a church of that size. A small church needs more acreage and just be on a boulevard or avenue, not a road or street.
 - A representative attended to discuss a restaurant project at 248-250 Sisson. Antoinette Sappleton has purchased the property from Capitol 33. This is the former Fire & Spice. She is planning to rehabilitate the property and has appeared before the historical zoning committee for a variance. She has hired an architect and submitted her project to the Zoning board. She wants to put a patio in front of a small restaurant. They would serve wine and beer only. She plans to keep the building historically accurate. The carriage barn is in back close to Farmington and Sisson. Kyle would also like to hold a meeting about this. A motion was made, seconded and approved to give Kyle the approval to move forward.

Mayor Bronin attended and answered questions for 30 minutes on topics including:

- How is recruiting going for the next police class?
- Where are we on the state "bail out"? How many years will the state pick up the debit? Is the legislature on board?
- Can we expect an increase in the bond rating?
- Where do the three insurance companies stand?
- Is there anything to be excited about? (Multiple RFPS out for development projects.)

Lime Bikes: Tony Cherolis brought in a Lime Bike and explained the Lime Bike program.

Public safety: Officer Sherbo reported on crimes in the West End over the last month.

Andrene Bent-Jarvis reported that there is a 201-19 Service Booklet out. The next Town Hall meeting will be at 3 Pope Park Drive on June 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.