

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
March 6, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bongsi Magubane, Kurt Malec, Cindy Courtney, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Max Condren.

Welcome and Introductions: Bongsi welcomed members of the community and asked the Board to introduce themselves. The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Farmers' Market: Emily Guertin attended and reported on the Farmers Market. They plan to issue a job posting for a market master position. They are also fundraising. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded a grant of \$6000, which means that the Market will no longer use Wholesome Wave.

Economic Development: Kurt Malec reported that the Brazza building has a potential tenant. His name is Kenny Thompson and he owns another business, BK Chicken and Waffles. The new business will be called BK Supper Club. They are hoping to be open by summer, after cleaning up the property. They will have a full liquor license.

Governors' race: Kurt Malec reported. At this time there are many candidates. Kurt has met with several potential candidates and asks the question "what is your plan for Hartford"? WECA will try to put together a candidate forum, but will likely wait until after the convention to schedule it. We will try to do it at the Methodist church or the Historical Society.

Newsletter Update: We will do a print version this spring, the purpose of which is to get out the word about grant applications.

Planning and Zoning:

- Kyle reported on 9597 Fern Street, a multifamily building wherein the owner started doing renovations and stopped in order to go through the official process. WECA supported the city staff's recommendation and that was what was imposed. Certain details need to be preserved, i.e. columns can't be covered with PVC board.
- Noah Webster has a digital sign that is bright and has content. We reached out to the school. They have turned down the brightness and changed the content to words instead of a moving flag. Kyle recommends seeing how things go. The sign is off after 6 pm at night. (It advertised the WECA meeting.)
- The Colonial Arms building is still in process, the developer has approvals.

Sector reps: Most sector reps were not present so this report has been tabled until next month.

Public Safety:

- Officer Sherbo provided a report. There were no burglaries last month. There were a couple of robberies of businesses. 34 Girard Avenue is blighted and panhandling picks up in front of that building in warmer weather. There is a UCONN student living in a van. There is a concern about dogs at 115 Oxford Street, but it is private property.

- Jesus Lopez from the Hartford Fire Department announced a car seat clinic at 150 Sisson Avenue from 10-3 the first Sunday in April.
- Incoming Hartford Police Chief Rosado introduced himself. He described the cutting edge work that the police department does. Technology is a priority. They have a predictive policing, where they can identify issues that may arise. "Shot spotter" triangulates where a shot comes from so that police can quickly go to the area. Bongi asked what he would ask of us. Chief Rosado said keep communicating with the police department.

Jim Ford, Traffic Engineer: Mr. Ford discussed the status of traffic humps on North Beacon and other streets in the West End.

Farmington Avenue Streetscape: There was a detailed presentation by the consulting firm that is designing and would engineer these changes. Michael Conlon, Randy Collins, and Jay Bertolli presented. They described the history of the project from the early 2000s when a group came together to conceive it, to the completion of Phase 1 in 2016 with the construction of a one half mile area east of Prospect. Now Phase 2 is under consideration although not currently funded for construction. (Bongi shared that Matt Ritter reported to her that funding is imminent.)

The goals are improved traffic safety, traffic calming, inclusivity (taking all users into account) and storm water.

City Council Woman Cynthia Jennings introduced herself.

Janice Castle:

- Janice announced Mayor Bronin's upcoming state of the City message.
- To report potholes, text, call or email. Use the 311 app to post a picture.
- The new community person for NRZ representation will be Andrea Bent-Jarvis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.