

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
May 1, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bongsi Magubane, Cindy Courtney, Lindsey Ewing, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Sally Taylor, Kyle Bergquist, JoAnn Bauer, Max Condren, Jon Esmail

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

Old Business: Bongsi reported that the WECA grant committee met, deliberated and awarded grants. A total of \$21,000 was requested, and after the committee deliberated, \$6200 was approved for grants. These grants were declined or modified:

- The request relating to Knox Parks for \$2500 was declined.
- The request relating to the Park Watershed education for \$4900 was declined.
- The request relating to the United Methodist Church for \$2500 for breakfast and the food pantry was reduced to \$1000.
- A \$5000 request for Summer SPHERE at Watkinson School for 1st through 5th graders was declined.

Farmers' Market: Sally Taylor reported on the Farmers Market. A new market master has been hired and was present at the meeting. His name is Joey Abad. He has lived in Connecticut for 9 years and has been a West End resident for 5 years. He has been a professional musician and teacher and has worked at Whole Foods for 7 years as an educator. Bongsi commented that it would be good for the WEFM if we elicited Asylum Hill residents to patronize the Farmer's market. Max Condren recommended that a fund raiser be conducted in the summer.

2018 Candidates' Forum: Kurt was not present to make a full report, but Bongsi reiterated that the Forum will be held once the field narrows.

Planning and Zoning: Kyle Bergquist reported that a Zoning Board meeting was being held tonight for the first time in three months. It was again reported that 123 Beacon has numerous cars in front of the property. Kyle said that he will take the issue to the City.

Sector reps: We are again tabling the overall discussion regarding the sector rep position.

Education Committee: Suzann Beckett was not present to make a report.

Community Engagement: Joann Bauer reported that there is an interest in an Oral History project.

Nominating Committee: We are looking for people to run for offices, particularly President.

Public Safety: Officer Sherbo reported on the following:

- There have been two deaths due to heroin overdoses.
- There was a robbery at Girard and Farmington.
- There will be a picnic on May 8 at Shepard's Park sponsored by the Policeman's Union.

Dorothy Lovett Buckley reported that packages left by delivery trucks on porches are being opened by strangers. She mentioned that local pickup is possible for UPS and FedEx. Bongi said that she will invite Laura Settlemyer to talk about the blight program.

City of Hartford: Andrene Bent-Jarvis passed out Hartford Guide for New Residents and a flyer for bulky waste pickup. She reported that there will be a Town Hall on May 23 at the Keney Park Tavern.

Jesus Lopez from the Hartford Fire Department reported that there will be a car seat clinic on May 20.

Community members and representatives:

- Jon Esmail reported that a PAL program at Noah Webster will begin July 9 and continue for 4 weeks.
- The Southwest Sector plans to have a meeting. A resident, Stephanie Woodlock, has engaged with Knox in relation to tree planting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.