

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
September 4, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bongsi Magubane, Cindy Courtney, David Klein, Kyle Bergquist, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Lindsey Ewing, Suzann Beckett, Jan Klein, Rick DuVerger

Welcome and Introductions: Outgoing President Bongsi 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 stated that the final payment has been made to the West End Farmers' Market; that WECA funded a year end celebration at Noah Webster School, and that WECA funded the summer movie series in Elizabeth Park. He also stated that the final Wholesome Wave payment from last year was received in July, and he is discussing remaining compensation issues with the previous market manager.

Business Meeting:

- **WECA Elections:** Sally Weisman took the floor on behalf of the nominating committee. She asked for a motion that the slate developed by the committee be elected. The slate consists of Suzann Beckett for President, Jonathan Esmail for Vice-President South of Farmington Avenue, Kurt Malec for Vice-President North of Farmington Avenue, David Klein for Treasurer, and Cindy Courtney for Secretary. There was a motion and a second. The slate was unanimously elected by those members present in a voice vote. Suzanne was asked to say a few words about herself and her ideas about serving as president of WECA. She said that she has lived on Girard Avenue for 30 years, is a lawyer and is interested in expanding the WECA Board to revive formerly-existing committees. She recommended going to the 2012 document outlining the goals for WECA and focusing on a selection of those goals.
- **Farmers' Market:** No representative of the WEFM was present.
- **Planning and Zoning:**
 - Kyle reported on the plan by the owners of 248-250 Sisson Avenue to increase the restaurant space and to use the carriage house in the back. The WECA Board had voted last spring to support this application. The Hartford P&Z is considering this application this night of September 4, 2018.
 - Kyle also summarized the summer's actions regarding the medical building at 230 Scarborough. The owner had applied for a variance to use the building as a church.

WECA held a 6/12/18 public meeting to discuss the application. The WECA board met on 6/25/18 and voted not to support the variance application.

- There was discussion about the Farmington Avenue Street Scape. It was previously reported that the state would provide an additional \$4.5 million in funds to complete the project. Questions were asked about whether the project would be coordinated with the replacing of the water main. It is the intent that the City coordinate with MDC to avoid the risk that the streetscape must be torn up to install a new water main.
- There was also discussion about the traffic islands, which, per contract, are not maintained west of Gillette Street. (East of Gillette, Aetna has contributed to the maintenance.)
- 479 Farmington Avenue will be the subject of a rehab project. Guy Newman is the general contractor.
- There was no report available regarding 488 Farmington Avenue, the former Brazza space.
- 205 Beacon Street, an empty lot, has been sold and Kyle reports that the owner plans to develop it. Bongi said that the new owner is Cecil Ellis.

Public safety: Officer Sherbo reported on several individuals living in vehicles. He also reported asking the owner of the Brazza property for help to address blight issues. There was discussion regarding the ownership of the property by a non-profit whose board has always included a member of WECA. That board is not active.

There was mention of blight at 186 Kenyon Street.

Rafie Podolsky asked about the Housing Committee, which used to address blight issues. David Klein stated that the committee no longer exists. Bongi added that many committees don't have chairs.

Andrene Bent-Campbell reported:

- Rain barrels are available.
- She passed out notices on bulk item pickup.
- She responded to questions about how blight reports are investigated and acted upon.

Suzanne Beckett asked whether someone can come and talk to WECA about blight issues; Andrene stated that Laura Settlemyer can do that.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.