

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
Hartford Seminary
April 23, 2019**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzann Beckett, Michelle Ewing, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Guy Neumann, Kyle Bergquist, David Klein, Cindy Courtney, Erin Sheehan

ALSO PRESENT: Officer Sherbo, Toni Gold, guests as noted below, and residents.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 2018 meeting were approved.

Financial report: David Klein reported that the grants committee will meet on May 7, 2019 and invited participants in the grant approval process.

Farmer's Market: No report.

Farmington Avenue StreetScape: Toni Gold reported that the Farmington Avenue Alliance has had to relinquish its plan to add diagonal parking on Farmington Avenue due to lack of funding and instead will concentrate on developing the intersection of Sisson and Farmington with redone curbs and sidewalks. There will be a public meeting in June.

Dorothy Lovett Buckley proposes the creation of an Environmental Committee.

Planning and Zoning: Kyle Bergquist reported that Beacon Street would like to have speed humps. There was discussion of this at the February meeting. He stated that the City is interested. Upon a vote, the WECA Board supports this proposal.

Public Safety: Officer Sherbo was not present.

City of Hartford: Ms. Bent-Campbell was not present. Grace Yee reported that rain barrels are available for Hartford residents. The city is hiring rodent inspectors

Education: Erin Sheehan and Suzann Beckett organized a panel to speak on education issues and respond to submitted questions. The panel consisted of Wen Fa from Pacific Legal Foundation, Tim Sullivan from CREC, Matt Ritter from the legislature, Cara McClellan from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, John Gale (City Council); Leslie Torres-Rodriguez (Superintendent of Schools) and Andrew Clark, parent.

Question and discussion topics include: CT School Finance Organization report on school funds, both overall and on a per pupil basis; continuing litigation in Scheff v. O'Neill and Robinson and pursuit of remedies; School Governance Councils; how to participate in the budget process; what is being done to fill two spots on the Hartford Board of Ed; publication of salaries; lack of libraries and other facilities and so forth. The discussion was spirited and informative, and lasted about 90 minutes.

The meeting was adjourned.