

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
Hartford Seminary
January 22, 2019**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzann Beckett, Lindsay Ewing, Dorothy Lovett Buckley, Christina Chillogalli, Kyle Bergquist, Cindy Courtney

ALSO PRESENT: Guests Officer Sherbo, Captain Cando, Andrene Bent-Campbell, Dr. Michael Worley, Peter Stevens, Mayor Bronin and residents.

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

Financial report: David Klein delivered the financial report, noting finances are in the black. Discussions about committee budgets will be postponed until next month.

Public Safety:

Officer Sherbo reported that crime rates are down, and added the following points of advice:

- If you witness a drug transaction, call it in.
- Don't leave your snow blower out.
- Nissan, Honda and Infiniti wheels are being stolen; having them etched is a deterrent.
- Leave a light on, presumably interior and exterior.
- Be careful when selling on Craig's List.

Captain Mario Cando reported for the Fire Department. He presented the 2018 statistics, noting 30,469 calls. He reported that 127 fire fighters have been hired over the last 2 years, and about 100 have retired.

City of Hartford: Ms. Bent-Campbell presented the 2018 311 report.

Children's Museum: Dr. Michael Worley, director of the museum and Peter Stevens, planner, appeared to discuss the possibility of moving the West Hartford museum to the University of Hartford campus in the West End. Their lease with Kingswood has ended. They have begun discussions with City of Hartford officials. They project a time frame to open the museum as 12-18 months.

Dr. Worley described the present organization of the museum as education-oriented, targeting ages 3-13, including a preschool. About 125 cars per day pass through the museum lot, with possible spikes to 250 or, in extreme cases, 350. About 1-2 school buses per day come to the museum.

New construction may be needed if they can't use the Auerbach building. Dr. Worley opined that a zone change would not be needed because the purpose is still educational.

Planning and Zoning: Kyle stated that there is not much to report. There were a few inquiries about the Children's Museum. Rafie Podolfsky asked whether new zoning would be required. Kyle responded that a special permit relating to lot size may be required.

DineAround: About 50 responses have been received.

Education Committee: Erin Sheehan gave an update.

- Ms. Sheehan voiced a concern shared by other Hartford parents regarding a plan that would reduce parental input on the SGC—School Governance Council.
- Last year the budget was not completed until August. This year it is promised in May.
- Teachers will be getting new contracts. Concessions will be requested. Issues went to arbitration, but an agreement was apparently reached.
- Mayor Bronin, in attendance, stated that the contract agreement must go before the Municipal Accounting Review Board (MARB). He also noted that the state may change the ECS formula. Special Ed is a big driver (private placements that the City pays for).

Mayor Bronin gave the following report:

- He announced his reelection campaign today.
- In his first administration, progress was made with ATVs and blight, but not with the bulky waste program.
- The mission is growth and quality of life.
- For the first time in 20 years we have a 5 year plan—through 2023.
- We should invite Eric Johnson, Director of Development Services to address a meeting.
- We need to be disciplined in our capital investments.
- A number of projects are under way including an apartment building on Arch Street, the building on Pearl Street that has been vacant for years will be residential, a developer is submitting a project for Park and Main, Albany Avenue Streetscape, we will know about the EXEL Center in the next few months.

Beautification: Mike McGarry would like to get a group together to volunteer to clean up parts of Farmington Avenue and maybe install some plantings on islands. Rafie would like to monitor when West End buildings go before the architectural commission.

Farmer's Market: Sally Taylor said that the committee held a meeting on January 8 that was well attended. She noted the importance of funding from WECA.

The meeting was adjourned.