

West End Civic Association

Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2020 at Hartford Seminary

Opening

The regular meeting of the West End Civic Association was called to order at 6:01 pm on **January 28th, 2020 at Hartford Seminary.**

Present (Board Members)

WECA Board (Section)

Public Safety Officer – Elected – Matthew Marks

Sector Reps – Nominations

Announcements :

Please renew for the calendar year for membership

Please sign up for public comment

Dine around – need 3 hosts

Next meeting – date change

Adam Cloud as a guest speaker next month

Budget requests – please present

Public Comments (Section)

Gifts of love – no show

Economic mobility Americorps Vista – Tax prep - \$56K or lower they will help with taxes, 211 #3,6 to get an appt and a free online service online if income is \$66K or less

Question – complies or simple forms – specific forms request need to ask when they call.

West End Clean Up – mike – 1st weekend of May – hit all corners, working with Knights of Columbus; Hartford Blooms Garden tours – Hartford Heritage Garden Tours this year;

St Patrick's Patrick Days weekend the old Vito's restaurant will be family friendly for a festive Irish event

Cell Antenna – Yvonne – Verizon attorney intends to install an antenna near her house, wanted to ask about community awareness

- Guy Newman stated that Eversource is not required to even notify people adjoining. Yvonne thinks now there is a statute that requires notification. She states that she is objecting to the installation based on health and aesthetics reasons.

Mary North Branch Conservation – 10 years to make urgent environmental difference with climate change - wants conservation for corridors along the city. Park watershed has asked Hartford in the next 10 years they want conservation in the corridors and that there is a comprehensive plan. Need community support. A petition will be circulated for a plan for the North branch (education issues, transportation issues, flooding).
Parkwatershed.org for more information

Laura – vacant lot for urban farming – no show

Josh August – no show

Sharid on Fern St – HPD really helped clean it up

Lawrence – on Prospect – prostitution issues/drug issues in a school zone. Mr Sherbo is aware of this.

Patrick Doyle works at Knox – lead a city wide clean up April 30 – 02May 2020 wants to collaborate with communities- please consider collaboration. Also – Knox city planters program this year if any business are interested. Working with the city get the dept of public works to partner to maximize amount of waste removal –
patrickd@knoxhartford.org

Question – can we make a big trash pick up day – it is in discussion with public works

Health fair at Melna Holistic Center this Saturday.

Sandy Fry – Farmington Avenue upgrade..moving from design to execution. There is an 8 page hand out available. She is looking for validation of the design. Sherman and Sisson are a concern – align or not? Take the subway property or no? Planters on Farmington to be incorporated while maximizing the sidewalk.

Question: 10 year old designed shelved?

A year before it goes out to bid

Question: summarize when it will be completed – how Farmington ave will be different: sidewalks will be all new but not much different than now; improved tree plantings; entirely new lighting, new street furniture, eliminate the curb on the planters next to the side walk so it feels larger, pedestrian light post all along the avenue.

Question: Grass is paved over, what about run off into the streets, may not be sustainable, Answer – run off into the new tree planters with structural soil to support the trees.

Question: Back areas from Sherman to Whitney, behind the lots, there is aspiration to be like WEHA but we don't have the space – is it possible for the city to allow a walkable building behind the buildings rather than refacing the streets scape. Answer: looking mostly at off street parking.

Matt Ritter Guest Speaker

Excited about the Farmington ave rebuild that the state is paying for...he is in his 2nd as House Majority leader and is running for Speaker of the house. Hartford over the last few years has come a long way, budget issue are not resolved but there is a rainy day fund. Actively working toward transportation issues, and others.

Question: trash incinerator –

He has an issue with DEEPs plan. Wants to look at other options.

Question: Climate change – can CT get behind working toward changes, the Killingly plant is concerning

He is not sure about that happening. Wind development project on Bridgeport is a leading project. New London also has a large renewable energy port . He wants to incentivize tax credits with eco cars; we have the CT green bank with is very large for green solar

Question: food waste – funding to help non profit facilities get going on separating food waste

He thinks we need to start with food composting and there is not a plan in place to start with that. Recycling – is the most expensive part of it. Suggested Pay as You Throw – so you pay for the trash bags that you would pay for the mixed waste which is very controversial. And we pay for all of this in tipping fees. This is a much bigger discussion.

Question – Hartford is trying to grow economic development – any chance of a bill to help the municipalities deal with assessments? Answer – the bill requires more detailed review and look at mass model

Question are we in a recession? He is not the best person to answer this; Answer – the streetscape is designed to help address this so at 8pm it is a more walkable place. And as far as the recession – that is why we need a rainy day fund.

Question – drug issues in the area – what is the state doing to back up the PD; requires Fed involvement – when will the state use National Security money to assist with this? What about NAFTA to protect the schools.

Question – regional environmental staff is needed for Hartford for higher density development; conservation measure can achieve reduced energy loads

Answer – we need to look at reevaluating keeping that fund intact.

Question - property values and education, where is CHEF going

Answer – ratify CHEF vs O’Neill - racial isolation change the requirements from racial to socio economic, but it requires the parties to sign off on it. The new integration should be more reflective of society for 2020 than 1989.

Question - how do we improve education in Hartford and is regionalization possible; Answer Open Choice is more likely that regionalization there is a lot of push back

Question – how safe are the magnet schools from a funding perspective Answer – under Chef settlement so they are safe, creek school may have issues and the towns compensate

Question – simsbury doesn’t have enough kids but they don’t want kids from Hartford. (departed from question)

Low income housing. – where is it? What about tax free building all around the city? Answer: if they buy a place that pay taxes they have to keep paying taxes.

Question what risks does the state have for sea level rise on our long coast line. Who is responsible if people need to be relocated. Answer – can’t sue the state of CT – so since Sandy all town must take this into consideration during planning. It is not state mandated but towns that have been impacted the towns are working toward it. Currently the state is leaving it up to the municipalities.

Comment – recycling – communication is poor on what can be recycled and what cannot.

Ritter wants separate trash bill so its not in the mil rate for Hartford

Question Sports betting generates lots of money; and marijuana

Answer – complicated because of the tribes – which will file a lawsuit so a mutual agreement is needed at the tribes and they will offer APPS and it; Marijuana doesn't have the votes....it is going to happen at some point.

Once it legal then records get expunged which changes things for misdemeanor possessions.

Question - Special session on transportation have we galvanized the opposition that now threatens us. Answer – it could have been tackled better earlier, but the car bill did not have the votes. Truck tolls may pass shortly and it may work but it will a close vote. It will generate 190 million dollars and can be used to fix bridges and roads. For cars will only happen in a bipartisan house.

Question – criminal justice reform. Answer – clean slate bill for misdemeanors – you have to apply for it after a period of years. May pass in the next 2 years.

Statement- ban on flavors for vaping, but we may wait for it to be federally handled.

We need to pay the arc on pensioned, and have discipline over the next 10 years we will be in a better place.

Question what's going on for new bills for business coming into the state. Answer – you will see a change about attracting business. We are going to back end fund rather than upfront fund for business that stay for 2 years.

We need a better transportation infrastructure – how do we get young people here? We need to build on things we can attract like building biotech and such. We have stopped taxing pensions.

Question – repealing religious exemption is the state looking at the impact on schools. Answers – the public health committee is going to have input on the bill upcoming.

Question are we looking into the dangers of 5G. Answer – 5G is safe, we rely on the scientific information.

Special Guest – Matt Ritter (Section)

XXXXX

Community Meeting (Section)

Public SafetyOfficer Joe Sherbo

Quiet in the wend. Car break ends, please lock cars and don't leave valuables in sight. Lights out need to be addressed with Eversource. Package theft is up.. use your resources. Please send emails and make calls if you see something it helps fund the police show of force.

Prospect and Warrington – stop sign is not being followed – new section just addressing accidents. Will get a speed cart out there – will send a email - be aware this will increase tickets.

3 overdoses today.

Missing street signs – Lorraine - can that get looked at?

Complaints about the parking lot on Girard not being finished – can we get an update on that? It is causing car break ins.

Fire Department Update.....Lt. Jesus Lopez

Fire detectors and CO2 detectors, call office 860-757-4523

Annual Stats – 1107EMS, 25 rescue calls, 13 Narcan, 183 service calls, 118 fire calls, lots of mutual calls, 29K call for service for fire – business in the state; 539 fires.

City of Hartford Update.....Andrene Bent-Campbell

311 supervisor next town hall is on Thursday at Hartford public library at 6pm; monster jam for February are available; recycling information in hand out.

Board Meeting (Section)

Accept Minutes from last meeting (Nealie Newberger) Postponed till next meeting – will be posted on the website.

Financial Report (David Klein) – see email.

Membership Report (Michelle Ewing) membership is down, cannot require a monetary contribution; Suggestion: market better in events throughout those events throughout the year. Should we solicit at meetings.

Issues for Discussion– (Entire Board)

- Hartford2000 Representative – they will come in Feb – will be Joann Bauer always the 3rd Thursday
- Review Budget / Categories...delayed to go over soon
- Committee Budget requests to Date: these 3 approved by committee
 - o North Branch (Pelletier)
 - o Beautification (McGarry)
 - o Movies (Lerman)
- Possible summer Golf Tournament
 - o Allocate funds?
- Porchfest
 - o Budget request received? Ask for \$1500 - Approved
- Consider hiring vendor for bi-monthly blogs & e-newsletters – to advertise all the great things in the WEND; could we offer a contest or scholarship for someone to do research on the WEND. Guy to reach out to Tim to find someone. \$140/mo to hire.
 - o Guy suggested a competition to write essays
 - o Karen Or interested in oral histories
- Website development – Lindsay - ongoing
- Schedule meeting for in depth review of financials
 - o & modification of grant program
- Bank of America signature card – needs to be updated
- Secretary of State minutes – need to be updated

Agree there grants we can apply for?

Can carmen apply for a grant for educating people to pick up trash.

Can we change the day for WECA meetings – open to suggestions. WED perhaps

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by Suzann Beckett. The next general meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday February 25th, at Hartford Seminary.

Minutes submitted by:

Approved by: Name