

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
December 18, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzann Beckett, Cindy Courtney, David Klein, Kyle Bergquist, Lindsey Ewing, Kurt Malec, Joann Bauer

Welcome and Introductions: President Suzann Beckett welcomed the members of the community. She informed the group that the WECA meetings will be held at the Hartford Seminary for January 22, February 26 and March 26, 2019.

Old Business:

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the addition that Dorothy Lovett Buckley was present at the last meeting.
- **Financial Report:** Treasurer David Klein described the new format of the budget report for comparing the status 12 months ago with this month's status for each item. The membership amount is about \$6000 short of the goal of \$15,000. Two grant payments were made today: \$1500 for the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and \$500 for an event at the Mark Twain house of reading by West End authors. Grants yet to be paid: Camp Courant and a writing competition. David expects to finish the year in the black.

Business Meeting:

- **Community Engagement:** Joann Bauer reported that the December 8, 2018 health fair was held at Malou Dusin's Mindfulness Center at 645 Farmington Avenue. There was a mobile unit that conducted screenings. There were about 10 presenters and additional free services. There will be a poetry workshop for students at the Mark Twain House on December 28, 2018, consisting of two sessions for grades 4-8 and 9-12.
- **Planning and Zoning:** Kyle reported that the city is still short staffed and it is therefore hard to get information. The Episcopal diocese building was sold to a new owner. The new owner must use the property as a single family home. A question was raised about the Brazza property. Kurt Malec advised that there will be a tax foreclosure in January and the property will go to bid. The tax and other bills total about \$200,000. A question was raised about the Hartford College for women property. There are plans to renovate Butterworth Hall; Kurt was not sure whether Johnson Hall is being used; there were cars and lights at Babcock Hall. The dorms are being used.
- **DineAround:** Lindsey Ewing reports that 20 hosts are confirmed.
- **Sector Reps and other committee chairs:** Suzann put forth the following names, which were approved by the Board as interim reps until the next election.
 - **Sectors:**
 - **Southwest:** Angela Pomfret and Max Condron.
 - **Central West:** Lindsey Ewing
 - **Central East:** Dorothy Lovett Buckley and Guy Neumann.
 - **North:** Melissa Macri.
 - **Hartford 2000:** Bongsi Magubane would like to be the rep. She is the co-chair of Hartford 2000. Each NRZ gets two reps.

- **Architectural History and Resources Committee:** Rafi Podolski reported on the renewed AHR committee. There are two initiatives or "subcommittees": Helping Kyle with land use issues and the promotion and publicity of the West End as a historical district.
- **Fundraising:** We still need a fundraising chair. Cindy Courtney will talk to her neighbor Debbie Kleinman, who attended last summer's event at the Goodwin mansion and said at the time that she would be interested in developing fundraising ideas.
- **Beautification:** Mike McGarry will be the chair.
- **Comstat rep:** Jon Esmail will be the rep.
- **Education:** Erin Sheehan will be the Education Committee chair. Erin talked briefly about (1) her involvement in the Shared Governance Committees (SGC), their responsibilities and involvement in proposed policy changes and (2) the commencement of the budget process.
- **Farmington Avenue Alliance:** David Barrett clarified that WECA has 5 reps on the Alliance and that Toni Gold is the chair.
- **North Brand Conservation Committee:** Mary Pelletier will serve as committee chair. There are three major initiatives: The city plan of conservation and development; the MDC long term control plan, and a push to have the East Coast Greenway go along the branch.
- **Farmer's Market:** Joan Pritchard reported. There are two reps to the Board: Emily Guerin and Sally Taylor. The budget form should go to Eileen Buell.
- **Public Safety:** Officer Sherbo talked about package thefts and the risk of running one's car to warm it up.
- **City of Hartford:** Ms. Bent-Campbell said there would be a Town Hall at 1300 Broad Street this coming Thursdays. She mentioned First Night and also that there is free tax assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.