

**NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
CITY OF NORWALK
May 13, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Suzanne Betts, Chair; Eric Chandler; Dana Laird

STAFF: David Westmoreland

WELCOME - ROLL CALL

Ms. Betts called the meeting to order at 6:50PM. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

**1. RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF THE
COLUMBUS SCHOOL**

Ms. Betts said that the Board of Education has a proposed an idea to demolish Columbus School and build a new school. She said she has previously sent a letter to the Board of Education stating the commission does not support the idea of demolition, and would prefer to keep the existing structure because it keeps the historical context of the neighborhood intact. She said that she received a response back from Mr. Barbis that some of the numbers in the letter were incorrect.

Mr. Westmoreland said that Dr. Adamowski has reiterated to him on three occasions that there is no educational difference to the kids whether it's a rehabilitated building or a new building. He said the benefit that the Board of Education is claiming is operational deficiencies and in his opinion they need to identify the specific operational savings, and which line items in the budget will be reduced once the new school comes online. He said given the information that have to build a school costs more and it destroys a historic building and he does not see the benefit. He said that some research was done on the history of the building and was found that the school was fought for by the Hungarian and Italian communities.

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE PASSING A RESOLUTION
RECOMMENDING THE REHABILITATION OF THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL INSTEAD
OF TEARING THE BUILDING DOWN AND BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL IN ITS PLACE.**

****MS. LAIRD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES FOR THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Ms. Betts said there was a meeting held to discuss amendments to section one of the current zoning regulations to provide some options for existing property owners to do improvements on historical buildings without destroying them. It was suggested to put additional stories with a setback with some limitations on the number. There are guidelines from the National Trust for historic neighborhoods and there are additional requirement added to include a review by the Historical Commission and if the commission feels it is a need it can be forwarded to the SHPO office for review. Mr. Westmoreland said that no building can be over four stories.

Mr. Westmoreland said that he received feedback from one of the developers in the Wall Street area objecting to the requirement of the narrative being prepared by an historic architect. He said he does not have an issue making it a recommendation rather than a requirement. Ms. Betts said that Mr. Kleppin suggested the language and she would rather it stay. Mr. Chandler agreed that it should be kept in as a requirement.

**** MS. LAIRD MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REVISED ZONING REGULATIONS FOR THE CBD.**

**** MR. CHANDLER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. LAIRD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services