

**CITY OF NORWALK
PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Mayor Harry Rilling; John Igneri; Thomas Livingston;
George Tsiranides

STAFF: Tammi Strauss, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Acting Executive
Director; Steve Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

REVIEW PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Kleppin gave a run through of the Plan of Conservation and Development. He gave an overview of the process of creating the Oversight Committee. He noted they conducted over 20 meetings with various population groups in the City. The Plan has some major themes, including economic development, education, housing and transportation.

Mr. Kleppin illustrated the difference between the 2008 Plan and the Plan before the Committee this evening. He said the goals in this Plan are more Norwalk specific. Mr. Kleppin suggested creating a Blue-Ribbon Panel made up of local business owners, including businesses in SoNo, Merritt 7, Norwalk center and other areas.

Mr. Kleppin reviewed outstanding issues and the Plan implementation.

PUBLIC HEARING

NORWALK CITYWIDE PLAN: 2019-2029 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Copies of the Draft Plan are available at the office of the Norwalk Planning Commission at City Hall, 125 East Avenue, Room 223, at the Town Clerk's office at the same address, and on the City's POCD website at: <http://tomorrow.norwalkct.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/complete-POCD-Draft.pdf>

Mr. Kydes opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

Mr. Adolph Neaderland said the POCD is supposed to be the vision of the stakeholders, but it is oriented toward City managers. He suggested that less than 5% of the City stakeholders were involved in the process. He said the plan should be sent back for review and more of the population should be included in the review.

Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos said they need a plan that reflects what the people want. She talked about a plan created in CA in 1986 that developed a growth management program and suggested that the POCD include something like that.

Mr. Tod Bryant said he was involved in the previous Plan and noted that this process was so much better than what he saw in the past. It is much better because it ties everything together. A few tweaks are needed such as a local historical district. Mr. Bryant added that there was a massive amount of outreach.

Ms. Lauricella asked if there was a chance to submit something in writing by Friday. Mr. Kydes said she could. Ms. Lauricella said she participated in various ways in this process as she has in the past 30 years. She offered observations about the document such as adding the Harbor Management plan, inventory of polluted sites and the re-formulation of the Brownfields taskforce. Ms. Lauricella proposed creating a green new deal for Norwalk.

Ms. Lisa Brinton said that the quality of life is going down. Residents are stressed. She said she has been watching for the last six years how traffic studies indicate there will be no impact from development, but that is not the case. Ms. Brinton said there was a great deal of outreach, but it was not strategic. She said it fails to address issues such as tax credits and how they are going to fund the schools. There has always been a disconnect between Planning and Zoning and the school system. She said the City barely brings in enough revenue to support the people in the City.

Ms. Elizabeth Greenwood said the disabled population is growing by leaps and bounds and the City should plan for that such as by better sidewalks and transportation. She said she lives on the water and sees people throw things into the water and people spraying pesticides. Ms. Greenwood talked about noise control. She also said that City Carting is a great issue why things go into the water.

Mr. John Flynn said he has been talking to DEEP for two years, but they were gutted. He said many kids have asthma. There are a lot of contaminated lots and the water report was falsified. Mr. Flynn said there is no conservation in the POCD. He said NEON was contaminated. He said if you read the reports he received from DEEP on Meadow Street, people complained about rock crushing, but if you talk to Health and Safety, they deny it. He described illnesses that residents in his neighborhood have from the uncovered rock crushing operation.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

A recess took place at 7:16 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m.

RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS ON THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Rilling said that in looking at the document it is so much better than the document produced in 2008. He thanked all those involved in creating this document. He noted there were many opportunities for people to come out and participate.

Mayor Rilling said he hoped that in 2029 this document will serve as a foundation for carrying it over for the next 10 years. It was an absolute challenge and was done well; the community input was there.

Mayor Rilling noted that Mr. Neaderland was on the Committee and had the opportunity to reach out to people and get input from them. The public had many opportunities for input.

This is a wonderful document that will not sit on the shelf and gather dust. Everyone who has responsibility for implementation will be held accountable.

Mr. Kydes thanked everyone involved and said this will be continued on September 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services