

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 4, 2021  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Thomas Keegan; Thomas Livingston;  
Lisa Shanahan; Barbara Smyth; George Tsiranides;  
Darlene Young (7:15 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director Business Development and Tourism;  
James Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking;  
Jessica Vonashek, Chief Economic and Community Development

OTHERS: Brian Bidoli, Executive Director, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public who wished to comment this evening.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Approval of the minutes of October 7, 2021 meeting.

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS  
PRESENTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW BUSINESS**

REDEVELOPMENT

CDBG Update

Mr. Bidoli reviewed the CDBG update that was included in the meeting packet. He noted that the funds need to be spent in a timely manner. He said he discussed with the City taking a more capital inventory approach and having conversations to discuss which funds should be identified for funding and craft a three to five year plan.

Mr. Bidoli explained that in the meeting packet was a table showing available funds. He focused on the following two projects.

- GIS Study Sidewalks

Mr. Bidoli said they are working in an asset management system to see the gaps and the condition of the sidewalk network. This will ultimately help develop a better spending plan. They need to have a plan to fund this study.

- Soundview/Cliff/Oak – intersection improvements

Mr. Bidoli said they identified the Soundview area as part of the public facility program.

Mr. Bidoli reported that there is money for job creation and job retention. They are working to structure a program to help women and minority owned businesses. He said this would be one piece of a global program. Mr. Bidoli added that the signs at the Federal level are pointing toward a higher level of resources.

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Young asked about the brownfields. Mr. Bidoli said they received a grant of \$500,000 for 30 Monroe Street. He said there is no timeframe on this and they will be issuing an RFP.

In response to Ms. Young's question, Mr. Bidole said the supportive housing was for Norwalk residents only.

## TRANSPORTATION

**\*\* MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND FUSS & O'NEILL FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE WALL STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$350,000  
ACCT: 0922 3750 5777 C0800; WEST/BELDEN/MOTT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Vonashek reviewed the item. She said there was money in the budget to look at the Wall Street area.

Mr. Travers explained that Mr. Heuvelman asked him to walk Wall Street.

Mr. Travers said an RFP was created and there were five respondents. He described the scope of services. He said that River Street could be a unique feature in Norwalk and it could be turned into a festival street.

Mr. Tsiranides asked Mr. Travers about back in parking on Wall Street. Mr. Travers said that in his opinion, he does not like back in parking. He said the Yankee Doodle garage is underutilized and the Parking Authority is working to make it more welcoming. There are no plans, but there are concepts.

Mr. Travers shared his screen and said this is an opportunity to transform the neighborhood and make it unique and special. He added that he would like to find multiple points of access to the Yankee Doodle garage.

Mr. Travers said he had a preliminary discussion with the Transit District regarding the Burnell Boulevard bus pulse point.

Mr. Kydes asked what the Planning Committee has done on this project. Ms. Vonashek said this project has been on the capital budget numerous times. Originally, it was linked to the transportation master plan. It was under the umbrella of a wider plan. The RFP took place in early October.

Mr. Kydes asked if any Common Council members took part in the RFP process. Mr. Travers said that no members of the Common Council were involved in the selection process, but he was in touch with Mr. Heuvelman. Mr. Kydes noted that usually members of the Committee take part in the RFP process. He asked Mr. Travers to keep the Planning Committee updated during the process.

Ms. Smyth said there have been a lot of discussions about moving the bus terminal to the train station and asked about the timing for that. Mr. Travers said the pulse point serves the community well. He added that there should also be a pulse point at the train station. It serves the end users well to have multiple pulse points.

Mr. Kydes asked about the plans for a parking lot at the corner of Wall Street and Main Street. Ms. Vonashek said those conversations have been resurrected.

Ms. Vonashek reported that Norwalk Hospital pulled demolition permits for the former YMCA building and for two houses. She said they did not submit plans, and assumes they will be moving forward with their original plans.

Ms. Young asked about Loehmann's Plaza. Ms. Vonashek said the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency is leading the effort on behalf of the City. Planning and Zoning has been in contact with their representative.

Ms. Young said it would be helpful to have regular updates on the new project. Mr. Kydes agreed and asked for updates at every other meeting.

Mr. Keegan asked about creating a rotary at the intersection of Belden Avenue and Wall Street. Mr. Travers said they looked at that, but feel there are a couple of challenges. He added that the Connecticut Department of Transportation is not keen on roundabouts.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Smyth asked if Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum will continue to be able to use the parking spaces for overflow parking at the new hospital project. Mr. Livingston added that there are historical aspect to the two smaller residential buildings on that site. Ms. Vonashek said she will report back next month about the parking and the historical artifacts.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services