

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE:** Douglas Hempstead, Chair; Clyde Mount, John Tobin, Andrew Conroy, Carvin Hilliard, Kelly Straniti (7:16 p.m.); Laurel Lindstrom (7:16 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Timothy Sheehan, Redevelopment Agency

**OTHERS:** Sheri McCready, Norwalk Housing Authority; Diane Lauricella, Diane Cece

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Hempstead called the meeting to order at 7:13p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Hempstead called the roll. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Lauricella came forward and said that she would like to offer corrections to the Minutes. She then submitted the following statement for inclusion in the minutes.

Public Participation:

!st [sic] Paragraph, 4th sentence: I stated that I was trying to help residents about advocating for businesses on Meadow Street being good neighbors to the neighborhood groups in the area.

1st paragraph, 5th sentence: I stated that I had tried contracting Mr. Sheehan to discuss plans for Meadow Street related to the businesses and residential areas and had still not received a return call or response.

*Ms. Lindstrom and Ms. Straniti joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.*

2nd Paragraph:

"Ms. Lauricella said that she had gone to the first Special Council Community Meeting and had spoken over the last few years - plus about the City forming a sustainability committee that includes the public and businesses because the City

council and Administration had voted to purchase 20% of clean power in order to obtain free solar panels for public buildings by 2010, and had approached the Mayor and that since this had not happened for the last five years was appealing to the Council to take up the idea to help citizens and businesses of Norwalk save money on energy costs and live in a more sustainable, green way."

I also stated that I had not received a response back from Mr. Hempstead as Chair of this committee and President of the Council (and, since Mr. Hempstead is counting) I had called him at least six times in an attempt to secure a meeting to discuss this great opportunity over time...and if the Council man had a conflict of interest, he could have referred me to another Council leader.

Diane Lauricella

No one else from the public wished to address the Committee at this time.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 2, 2010 REGULAR MEETING**

**\*\* Mr. Hempstead moved to attach Ms. Lauricella's minutes to the December 2, 2010.**

Mr. Sheehan indicated that there were corrections on page 3 when he quoted from a document.

Page 4, paragraph 2, line 1: please replace the following: "Fair Housing Officer's activities were not sufficient for their purposes such as furthering Fair Housing or removing impediments." With "Fair Housing Officer's activities "did not in and of itself consist of affirmative fair housing action."

Page 4, paragraph 7, line 1: please delete "Mr. Sheehan said that the Fair Housing Officer refers those who were inquiring to an outside legal sources. "

Mr. Hempstead asked if it would be possible to have the minutes corrected.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Norwalk Housing Authority**

**Approval Certificate of Consistency with The City Consolidated Plan for the following grant applications**

- a. Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency**
- b. Family and Self Sufficiency Coordinator.**
- c. Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facility Program.**

Mr. Moore came forward and gave an overview of the three grants to the Committee.

Mr. Brodsky came forward and said that the grant was one time funding opportunity. The plan is to turn 2 Merritt Place into a work force training facility. The grant targets young people and is a cooperative effort between a number of agencies. It will reach out to students who plan to enter NCC. Career Resources in Bridgeport would also be a partner. They will create a location to deliver services, similar to their offices in Bridgeport. The housing Authority raises funds to provide scholarships for the residents of the Housing residents.

Hope Works has a program underway for shelter residents. There will be a culinary careers for food services and also retail sales. It will most likely take up to four years to complete the renovations. There is a private donor who has been supporting the beginnings of Hope Works. It will be open to the general public, but the focus is on low income families. The deadline for the grant application has been changed from January 14th to February 3rd.

Discussion then followed.

Mr. Brodsky then gave a brief overview of Ms. McCready's job and how various groups were being coordinated. He added that the soup kitchen would be located at the 2 Merritt Street facility. Currently the soup kitchen serves over 600 meals a day. It is the hope that some of the trainees in the facility will then be sent on to NCC. The culinary training will be provided by the Hope Works staff. They have run similar programs in major cities, such as New York and Philadelphia. The kitchen that is currently at the shelter will be moved across the street.

Mr. Hempstead said that he would like to have this put on the January 20th agenda for the Council and that he would be like to see the back ups for financial sustainability business plan.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO INCLUDE ON THE JANUARY 25TH AGENDA WITH THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT, BUSINESS PLAN, COPIES OF THE LETTERS OF COMMITMENT FROM THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND NOTIFYING THE COUNCIL IF GRANTS ARE AWARDED, AND PROVISION OF AN ANNUAL REPORT.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. McCready came forward and said this was a one year renewal grant and Family and Self Sufficiency Coordinator. The Coordinator works One on one with the candidates and the candidates are required to establish an escrow account.

The family homeownership would be specifically targeting Washington Village. She explained that the while the positions are similar, there are 1,600 families in Norwalk in public housing. This is a three year grant.

A discussion about the planning study on Roodner Court that had been previously approve then followed.

**\*\* Mr. CONROY MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRANTS WITH THE SAME STIPULATIONS REGARDING THE CERTIFICATION OF GRANTS, ANY REPORTS PERTAINING THE GRANTS AND PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT, BUSINESS PLAN, COPIES OF THE LETTERS OF COMMITMENT FROM THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND NOTIFYING THE COUNCIL IF GRANTS ARE AWARDED, AND PROVISION OF AN ANNUAL REPORT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GRANT PERIOD.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **CDBG**

#### **1. Review of the PY 37 NOFA/CDBG Schedule**

Mr. Moore came forward to review the start of the CDBG program and the steps required in this. He suggested that perhaps having a public information meeting on February 3rd where the applicants can come forward with their requests. The staff can then review the applications, grade them and follow this with a public hearing. Discussion then followed about last year's CDBG funding process and how the after school program partnership program is developing. Mr. Conroy said that he would like to know how many of the Housing Authority residents are involved in the program. Discussion followed about how the Committee will break up the CDBG application interviews.

**\*\* MR. TOBIN MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING CDGB GRANT SCHEDULE.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 1. Update on Wall Street Place, 95/7**
- 2. SoNo Incubator Study**
- 3. SoNo Retail Study**
- 4. Review Capital Budget Schedule**

#### **Capital Budget Schedule**

Mr. Sheehan distributed copies of the Capital Budget Calendar. A discussion regarding the dates followed.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET AS SUBMITTED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30TH AT 7:00 P.M.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Updates -

**Wall Street Place** - The Redevelopment Agency did approve the working drawings for Wall Street Place. There were two issues that were noted. Mr. Sheehan reviewed the details of the two issues, one of which is a compliance issue in the LDA. The developer received written notification that the developer will have to make a request to the City and the Agency to grant relief.

**95/7** - There was no update from the developer. Discussion followed about the details for both the City and the Redevelopment Agency in terms of expectations and timelines. Mr. Sheehan said that he expected that this issue would come to the Committee in late February. The discussion then moved to attracting various businesses to Norwalk.

**Waypointe** - Mr. Hempstead said that the Waypointe developer had requested waiting until February for a new presentation.

Mr. Sheehan said that the Mayor has signed and sent in a request to support the change in the DECD grant application.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

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