

City of Norwalk
Museum Restructuring Committee
May 1, 2012 - REVISED MINUTES

Attendance: Judith Bacal, Patsy Brescia, James Brown, James Clark, Mary Alice Fitzgerald, Rick McQuaid, Mary Roman, Scott Wands, David Park, David Westmoreland, Charles Yost

Guests: Mayor Richard Moccia, Thomas Hamilton

Call to Order

Mr. McQuaid called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Co-Chair Rick McQuaid briefly welcomed and thanked everyone for being a part of this committee.

Mayor Moccia also thanked everyone, advised committee to choose a secretary in the event Erin Halsey can not attend. He also informed the committee that if they would like public participation and get comments on the agenda, that the meeting should be posted as a public hearing.

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves and commented on their profession and various committees that they are or were on for the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Hamilton introduced himself and offered his services since there will be budget implications and will make recommendations as needed.

Co-Chair David Westmoreland outlined the scope of this committee, which basically involves the committee spending time at the Norwalk Museum, identifying what is currently on display, looking at possible sites for relocation of the contents of the museum, and making recommendations based on the financial state of the city.

A discussion ensued, including:

- Partnering with non-profits and aligning ourselves with them
- Legal restraints and what our obligations are
- Determine current inventory and options of where to relocate the artifacts

Discussion continued:

- Costs involved in relocation
- Turning the museum into a 501 C3, non-profit, which could be difficult due to the amount that it would take to maintain it, about \$1 to 2 million dollars
- Current status of the museum and lease negotiations
- Closing the museum to keep the inventory safe, changing locks, alarm codes, etc, pending owner notification
- Alan Lo will be the keeper of the codes and keys and will check on the building periodically
- The importance of making sure all of the items are well taken care of, during and after the relocation

Mr. Wands informed the committee that there are currently 17,000 objects currently entered into a collections database, but the Norwalk Museum collection contains approximately 50,000 total objects. Mr. Wands recommended that an inventory be done and he could assist **with securing someone to “triage”**.

Mayor Moccia explained that there are state guidelines that have to be adhered to; that no one wants anything to happen to any of the museum pieces, and that the committee just wants for preserve the contents. The committee is made of people who know and appreciate the historic value of the contents.

Mr. Clark reiterated that this committee will manage things, make recommendation on where to put things and that the committee only wants things to be better than they are currently.

Mr. David Parks generously offered to act as secretary if Erin Halsey can not attend a meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 9th at 5:30 at the **Norwalk Museum**. Mr. McQuaid and Mr. Westmoreland will be sending out a schedule to everyone regarding the “tour” date, Saturday, May 12th from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

- ** **Mr. Clark made motion to secure the Norwalk Museum Building**
- ** **Ms. Bacal seconded the motion**
- ** **Motion was passed unanimously**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** **Mr. Westmoreland moved to adjourn**
- ** **Mr. McQuaid seconded**
- ** **Motion passed unanimously**