

**Norwalk Museum Restructuring Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting/Tuesday, May 22, 2012**

Attendance: Patsy Brescia; Charlie Yost; David Park, acting secretary; David Westmoreland, co-chair; Richard McQuaid, co-chair; Mary-Alice Fitzgerald; Jim Brown; Mary Roman; Judith Bacal.  
Guest: Ralph Bloom, city historian and board of "Friends of the Norwalk Museums."

David Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Patsy Brescia moved to table the approval of minutes for May 15, 2012. Motion APPROVED.**

David Westmoreland introduced Ralph Bloom. Ralph Bloom (RB) discussed the history of the Lockwood House Museum, the Lockwood family, collections and archives. RB comments included that the house was built for \$400,000 in 1971 and opened in 1973. At that time, the collection was smaller than it is today and included Lockwood collections such as furniture, decorative art and a limited amount of archives. The current collection at the Norwalk Museum is three times as much than in the 1970's. RB commented that the Lockwood collections needs to be cared for by the city and displayed to the public. There were no other conditions between the City and the Lockwood family. The Lockwood House was moved to the present location at the Norwalk Museum in South Norwalk to better serve the public. Parking had also become an issue at the Lockwood House with the construction of the new city hall. The name was changed to better reflect the mission of the museum and to avoid confusion with the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum which was a different Lockwood family. The Norwalk Museum in South Norwalk grew with more "Norwalk history" in addition to the Lockwood collections. RB commented on the history of the Norwalk Museum building in South Norwalk which was the former city hall including plans by developers to develop the building which did not happen. The building was purchased by a Norwalk Museum partnership including Friends of the Norwalk Museums, a non-profit 501 c 3. The Friends raised funds to improve the building including code upgrades. The archives became much larger. RB discussed the operation of the Norwalk Museum which included rotating exhibits in several of the galleries. Committee members asked a few questions including items that may be on loan to the museum. RB discussed that loan items were recorded on 5x8 index cards and should be on file at the museum. RB supplied a list to the committee of items loaned to the museum by Friends of the Norwalk Museums dated Feb 12, 2008 with several lines highlighted of items that have been returned to the Friends. RB explained that there should be a large file of at the museum of collection items that have been donated to the museum and approved by the Norwalk Historical Commission. The "Friends" are a 501 c 3 non-profit organization with eight board members and approx 90 regular members. RB commented that the Friends were asked to leave the Norwalk Museum about five years ago and have not discussed at any length the current issues regarding the Norwalk Museum. RB commented that there is a safe with a silver collection inside and the curator may have lost the combination. RB does not think the Lockwood House is large enough for the current size of collections, there may be a humidity problem in the downstairs and there is a lack of parking issue. RB thinks the Norwalk Public Library is well suited for the archives to be stored and managed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Park, acting secretary