

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MARCH 27, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Acting Chair; Suzanne Betts; Eric Chandler;  
Holly Cuzzone; Bruce Kimmel; Charles Yost

OTHERS: Ralph Bloom; Isabel Bullan; Jim Brown, Norwalk Public Library;  
Patsy Brescia and Susan Gilgore, Lockwood Mathews Mansion  
Museum

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – February 27, 2013

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 4: Norwalk Museum: correct Brian Fitzgerald to Brian Fischer  
Second paragraph should read: ...the Historical Society takes everything; the Historical  
Society takes the collection; the Norwalk Library takes the achieves.

**\*\* MR. YOST MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**  
**\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ACTING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Westmoreland reported that he met with Mayor Moccia on Monday to discuss the code in the City Charter regarding the Historical Commission and its powers. There are questions whether the Commission needs to vote on the approval for the Norwalk Historical Society to manage the Museum collection or the Common Council. He said that the Mayor's position is that the City code gives him the power to make decisions that are in the best interest of the City. Mr. Westmoreland said that Mr. Maslan will come back with a ruling.

Mr. Westmoreland said that the Common Council has the authority to assign or de-assign resources for the Historical Commission to manage. Mr. Yost suggested voting on this.

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* MS. CUZZONE SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. YOST MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MOVING THE ARCHIVES TO THE NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THAT THE NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY MANAGE THE ARCHIVES**

**\*\* MR. KIMMEL SECONDED**

Ms. Cuzzone said that she felt strongly about moving the archives to the Library. Mr. Kimmel said that a year ago he was against this because he felt this present location was a good location, geographically. He said that he was not aware of the proposals made under Mayor Zullo's administration. He said that his feelings were based on his own experience doing research. He said that he came around and will go with what the Restructuring Committee recommended. Mr. Kimmel said that the Restructuring Committee did a great job and did their due diligence.

Mr. Yost said that he agreed with Mr. Kimmel; the Library has the facility, the manpower and the knowledge to do a good job.

Ms. Betts said that she believed the only reason the Historical Society offered their location, was because there were some disagreements.

Mr. Chandler said that none of the recommendations made to Mayor Moccia had any traction and it was pointless to continue.

Ms. Brescia said that that the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum Board is in concurrence with moving the archives to the Library and the collection to the Historical Society.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. CHANDLER)**

Mr. Westmoreland reported that he conducted a search for a person to manage moving the collection. After interviewing eight candidates, Laura McCarthy was selected. She will be working 2-3 days a week, starting tomorrow. In addition, he will be hiring three assistants to help her. These salaries are in the budget.

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## REPORTS-BOARDS

### A. NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Westmoreland reported that the Historical Society is getting ready for their summer season programs.

### B. LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM

Ms. Brescia reported that they are getting ready for their season. Their Gala will take place on April 13<sup>th</sup>; their new exhibit will be coupled with an art exhibit. They have completed all of the documentation for the State for their grant for the elevator, the ADA compliant ramps and the re-do of the public restrooms. She said that they anticipate going out to bid in midsummer. The plan is to start construction in January.

Ms. Brescia said that the first phase of the electrical project is essentially done; they are waiting for the final connect. She met with David Scott Parker last week regarding the roof leak issue. An RFP for that work will go out in three weeks.

Ms. Gilgore described their upcoming exhibit. It will run from April 17<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>. She said that it will be a wonderful exploration of technology in different areas and children's games from the Victorian era. There will be Docent led tours and the Curator is preparing a script for the Docents.

Ms. Brescia said that the challenge is to keep the Mansion open and functioning while there is construction. She said that they may have to extend the closing into the spring.

## REPORTS

### A. BUILDINGS

Mr. Westmoreland reported that there was a severe leak at the Gate House. It was repaired and the cost was split with the tenant. He said that after receiving the first drawings from the landscape architect for the Mill Hill master plan, they decided to go with the traditional style ramp. He said that the landscape architect took inspiration from photos of the Yankee Doodle House.

Renovations at the Jail are moving along. The entire building will need to be re-pointed. Mr. Westmoreland said that he met with FEMA representatives to go over damage to the Barn. Mr. Yost asked if there is a closing date for FEMA payments. Mr.

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Westmoreland said that the City of Norwalk's Finance department is coordinating all of the City's claims.

#### B. CEMETERY

Ms. Cuzzone said that she is waiting for the Eagle Scout who will work on his Pine Island Cemetery project on April 6<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> (if it rains on April 6<sup>th</sup>). She said that she would like to have some tree work done.

#### C. FINANCE

Ms. Betts reported that the \$50,000 that appeared in the Rogers-Ritch-Merritt House line in January has been removed. It was a system glitch. She reviewed the financials. Ms. Betts said that she and Mr. Westmoreland met with the Board of Estimate and Taxation at the beginning of the month. Mr. Westmoreland said that they put money into the budget to hire a part time person, but he is concerned that they did not budget enough. He is working with Mr. Ireland and Mr. Lo to get a better sense of cost.

#### D. NORWALK MUSEUM

Mr. Westmoreland reported that he is cleaning out the curator's office and asked if anyone wished to help.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**\*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROPOSAL DATED JANUARY 30, 2013 TO MANAGE THE NORWALK MUSEUM COLLECTION AND TO REFER TO CORPORATION COUNSEL TO DEVELOP AN AMENDMENT TO THE City OF NORWALK/NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY LEASE**

Mr. Westmoreland said that this item will be referred to the Corporation Counsel to develop an amendment. This is the first step in moving this process along. Mr. Westmoreland said that as the Board President of the Norwalk Historical Society he will recuse himself from the vote and said that Ms. Betts will also recuse herself from the vote because she is a Board member.

Mr. Westmoreland offered to answer any questions. There were none. Mr. Westmoreland offered to leave the room so the Commissioners could feel free to discuss the item. There was no discussion and Mr. Westmoreland was asked to stay in the room. Mr. Westmoreland and Ms. Betts recused themselves from the vote.

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- \*\* MR. YOST SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

Mr. Westmoreland said that they should have re-elected officers in January. He said that he is ending his term as President of the Historical Society and will remain as a Board member. He said that he is interested in being the Chairman of the Historical Commission.

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO NOMINATE DAVID WESTMORELAND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

There were no other nominations.

- \*\* MR. YOST SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. WESTMORELAND)**

- \*\* MS. BETTS MOVED TO NOMINATE HOLLY CUZZONE AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

There were no other nominations.

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- \*\* MR. YOST SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services