

Draft

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: David Park, Chairman; Peter Bondi; Thom Dunlap; Joe DiIorio;
Steven Serasis; Charles Yost; Eric Chandler (7:08 p.m.)

GUESTS: Mary Beth Becker, Arts Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Park called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – February 25, 2009

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 7, under New Business, first sentence should read *Mr. Bondi reported that the RFP....*

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. DIORIO AND
MR. YOST)**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Arts Commission Presentation

Ms. Becker representing the Arts Commission gave an overview of their charge. She explained that they are planning a "Party in the Park" event for Saturday, June 20th that is based on the summer solstice. She compared the event to a one day SoNo Arts Festival. They plan to hold a majority of the events in Mathews Park. Mr. Park suggested that the Arts Commission work with Parks and Rec. Mr. Bondi suggested that they may need a generator to provide electricity at the event.

Ms. Becker said that the plan is to get people excited about what Norwalk has in the area and to encourage people to park at the Maritime Garage and walk to the event. She said that they are meeting with representatives from Stepping Stones Museum and The Maritime Aquarium. She asked if tours of Pine Island Cemetery could be given. Mr. Park asked in what capacity the Historical Commission could be involved. Mr. Serasis said that people can be sold on walking to the event, but they won't want to walk back to their cars.

Ms. Becker said that they expect the event to end at 10:00 p.m. and then people can continue in SoNo. There is a person on the Commission from Waypointe who is working on the logistics.

Mr. Bondi said that he spoke with Ms. Lightfield a few weeks ago about this event and they discussed offering Cemetery tours and creating a mural for kids. Ms. Becker said that Contemporary is on board for that. Stepping Stones Museum wants to kick off their summer concert series that evening.

Mr. Bondi suggested talking to local food vendors and some non-profits that have food booths at the Oyster Festival; they know how to set up for festivals.

Ms. Becker said that they are thinking about starting the day at noon with Yoga in the Park and ending the day at 10:00 p.m. Mr. Serasis suggested having street performers on the trail. Mr. Park asked the Commissioners how they could get involved. Mr. Bondi said that the reenactment of the Burning of Norwalk takes place in July and that they may be able to do something with that. Ms. Becker said that the only requirement by the Arts Commission is that they want it to be interactive and engaging. Ms. Becker said that perhaps they could weave in story telling at different stations or stops. Mr. Bondi suggested that the Eckerts could be involved in the cemetery tours. Mr. Bondi pointed out that there are several permits they will have to get for the event.

Ms. Becker said that their Committee meets every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and they are putting out information on the internet. She added that they are going to set up a constructive way to receive ideas.

B. Mill Hill Park Master Plan Update

Mr. Park explained that 13 proposals were received and two meetings were held. All but four were eliminated and AKRF of White Plains, NY was chosen. The contract was sent to the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency for sign off and will be paid for by them. The budget is \$35,000. This is the site connectivity and programs in the Head of the Harbor area.

REPORTS—BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Mr. Bondi said that Mr. Westmoreland was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but sent his thanks for the air conditioning. He said that the Historical Commission was very grateful. Mr. Bondi said that it is a very cost efficient solution with minimal intrusiveness to the building.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion

There was no one present this evening representing the Mansion.

REPORTS—COMMITTEES

A. Building Committee

Mr. Bondi reported that the installation of the air conditioning is complete and the windows in the School House have been removed. He said that Mr. Mauro is under a tight deadline to get the windows back in. Mr. DiIorio offered to help Mr. Mauro with the installation.

Mr. Bondi said that he received a rental request for the Smith Street apartment. The person offered \$600.00 a month; however, it was priced at \$725.00. He explained that the electric costs, through CL&P are very expensive. Mr. Serasis noted that there is a new electric company in town and they are less expensive.

Mr. Park said that \$600.00 is below market value for the apartment. Mr. Serasis said that they have to take into account that it has electric heat and that would cost an additional \$250.00 a month, therefore the price is not that far off. He said that he felt the most they could charge would be an additional \$50.00 a month.

**** MR. DIORIO MOVED TO RENT THE APARTMENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE SMITH STREET APARTMENT FOR \$600.00 PER MONTH**

**** MR. SERASIS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. BONDI)**

**** MR. SERASIS MOVED TO LEASE THE SMITH STREET APARTMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH AN OPTION AFTER THAT YEAR TO MAKE A REASSESSMENT OF THE TENANT AND IF FAVORABLE TO OFFER A LEASE EXTENSION**

**** MR. DIORIO SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. BONDI)**

1. Mathews Park Buildings Exterior Painting RFP Discussion

Mr. Bondi reported that Mr. Foley is working on the RFP for the Mathews Park buildings exterior painting. Mr. Lo's opinion is that more information, including renderings of the properties are needed. Mr. Bondi noted that there will be a walk-through done. Mr. Park said that the company that is fabricating the school house windows met with Mr. Muro to be sure the windows were measured correctly. All of the glass has been removed and they believe that everything is on schedule.

B. Cemetery

Mr. Park reported that a burial for Doris Barry was held at Pine Island Cemetery on February 28, 2009. He said that he and Mr. Bondi were present to witness the burial. The family was very grateful for everything that was done to facilitate the burial. Mr. DiIorio asked if there were any other open plots in the Cemetery. Mr. Park said that he did not know. Mr. Park read the following letter sent from the family. In addition, *The Hour* gave kudos in a recent editorial.

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness will always be held in grateful remembrance.

Peter, David and the members of the Norwalk Historical Commission,

To say thanks won't begin to cover how the Barry Family feels about the hard work and dedication you all showed to accommodate Doris Barry's last wish to be buried at Pine Island Cemetery. We will never forget all of your efforts. We know she is at peace now and you all made it possible.

*Thank you very much, The Barry's
Neil, Diana, Adam, Gina, Rebecca, Marc, Justin and Tasha*

C. Finance

There was no report this evening.

D. Norwalk Museum

Mr. Chandler reported that he was contacted by a woman from Ohio, who had two Norwalk quilts. They arrived in excellent condition and a decision has to be made on how to display the quilts.

Revolutionary War commissary records on CD are now for sale in the Gift Shop. They are being sold for \$20.00 which includes shipping and handling.

Mr. Serasis said that there is a project taking place now where children and seniors are creating a quilt. He said that the quilt is going to be huge and it would be nice to display it in the Museum as a tie-in with the older quilts. Mr. Chandler suggested that Mr. Serasis contact Ms. Gunn-Bromley. Mr. Serasis added that the goal is to have the children from the five major after school providers get involved in the quilt project.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

