

**West End Civic Association and NRZ
Board Meeting Minutes
United Methodist Church
November 27, 2018**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzann Beckett, Cindy Courtney, David Klein, Kyle Bergquist, Lindsey Ewing, Guy Neumann, Kurt Malec, Joann Bauer

Welcome and Introductions: President Suzann Beckett welcomed the members of the community and the Board introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- **Financial Report:** Treasurer David Klein reported that the objective for the membership drive is \$15,000. We have achieved \$5130 toward that goal; David expects the goal to be met.

Business Meeting:

- **Community Engagement:** Joann Bauer reported on a number of items:
 - The December 8, 2018 health fair will be held at Malou Dusin's Mindfulness Center at 645 Farmington Avenue.
 - A poetry workshop will be at the Mark Twain House between Christmas and New Year's.
 - There will be a meeting on December 6, 2018 regarding an oral and house history project at Rafie Podolsky's house.
- **DineAround:** Alan English reported on behalf of the exploratory DineAround committee. A survey went out via email. The event will take place next year on February 23, 2019. They currently have 15-18 hosts lined up and would like about 25 hosts. Cocktails will be held at the CT Historical Society. The committee offers early bird pricing at \$65.
- **Planning and Zoning:** Kyle reported that it has been a relatively quiet month. The ZBA did not meet. There is no new information on the Medical Society building. The Sisson Avenue Fire & Spice property was the only thing on the agenda for the Historical Preservation group. They have submitted architectural renderings.
- **Hartford Superintendent of Schools** Evette Avila attended along with Carla Cruz, head of community and family engagement, and Marjorie Davis, Head of the Office of School Choice. She discussed the District Models of Excellence (an improvement initiative) and the strategic operating plan (including the plan to close 14 schools in 5 years). Ms. Avila answered questions from the community, including questions about recruiting teachers of color.
- **Public Safety:** Assistant Chief of Police Rafael Medina attended. He discussed the reduced numbers of officers, the two classes in training now with another slated for February; the community's desire to see more visible officers; and the updating of policies from 1974. He responded to questions from the group. Officer Sherbo reported that crime statistics are down. There was a complaint of graffiti at 250 Sisson. A resident brought up speeding on Whitney Avenue.

- **Fire Safety:** Jesus Lopez discussed the Emergency Response Data collected over five years and how it helps the department direct efforts.
- **City of Hartford:** Ms. Bent-Campbell said there would be a Town Hall at 224 Farmington Avenue tomorrow at 6 pm. The City is behind on leaf pick up. New department heads will visit the NRZs.
- **Farmer's market:** The market was a success this year. It was a re-building year. There was a good committee and a strong market manager who plans to return.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.