

# HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2017

The Sun Turtle, 1 Bailey Circle, Hodges Square, New London, CT

Present: Art Costa, Cathi Strother, Jerry Sinnamom, Robert Lee, Andrew Lopez, Michael Souza

Meeting started at 5:36 p.m..

**Approval of minutes** from the July 10th meeting were approved with minor changes; motion by Art, seconded by Jerry.

Art reported that the **bank account balance** is \$2552.10. \$1100 will be spent on landscape work.

**Updates** included:

**HUD Grant:** Art attended the HUD grant meeting and notes that this is a Housing Authority project to make possibly 10 or so apartments available to people moving out of Thames and crystal high-rise buildings due to redevelopment in that area.

**Hodges Square Landscaping,** Chris McCutcheon is landscape architect working on area in front of Hodges Square Bldg., moving/trimming/mulching plants, installing crushed pebbles. He suggests to place bike rack in new landscaped area.

**Mile Sculptures** installation has slowed a bit due to search for more sculptures by donor. The sculpture trail will be from the Courthouse, up Broad St., along Williams to Lyman Allyn Museum. Stakeholders are HSVA, Lyman Allyn and City of New London. Sculptures might be rotated in/out over a 2-year period, so a 2-year agreement is being sought from private property owners.

**Hodges Square Park** activities include continuing T'ai Chi and Yoga. A good project would be to make a bike rack from pallets.

**Regarding vandalism, loitering, panhandling, etc. in Hodges Square,** once the bench was moved from the monument area, the area has been clean. Bench will be reinstalled by old Portuguese Fisherman restaurant. Bike rack being stores behind the liquor store. Police are constantly visible but don't walk around. Panhandling still ongoing. The MPH digital speed sign is in place. It was remarked that there are no speed limit signs anywhere along Williams Street south or north of Hodges Square. Cathi will talk to Jeannie Milstein about getting speed limit signs installed.

**Beautification Committee:** noted that lots of weeds and overgrowth on sidewalks in some areas, need to be removed/trimmed. Paul and Gordon have been caring for flowers, but not at this meeting to discuss further work.

**Fundraising Action Plan** to include adding more bike racks and benches, more trash receptacles and a plan to have them emptied on a regular basis, replace aging CopyCats bench.

**Communications Action Plan:** Cathi will meet with Katelin to discuss.

**Membership Recruitment:** Cathi will contact Forrest to discuss new fliers for recruitment, and create a welcome wagon packet supported by local businesses. Robert will organize local business support for the packet.

**New Business,** Eclipse Legacy Weekend, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in April 2018, organized by alumni to help minority cadets, was introduced by Art. This is a USCG Alumni event. On the Saturday of the chosen weekend, a community service event to include alumni, cadets, community youth, to clean-up an area with a BBQ following, is planned. They are looking for the need, with the goal to be the impact on community use. Art spoke by phone with a representative regarding cadet volunteers and grant application during this meeting. Better details will be available in December 2017.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:47p.m., by Jerry, seconded by Cathi.

R.S. Tina DuBosque