

HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2017

The Sun Turtle, Hodges Square Village, New London, CT

Present: Robert Lee, Andrew Lopez, Jerry Sinnamon, Art Costa, Paul Foley, Mary Secor Sullivan, Katelin Teel, also Sybil Tetteh, City Planner, City of New London.

Meeting started at 5:40pm

Approval of minutes from the February 13th meeting were approved; motion by Jerry, seconded by Robert.

Art reported that the bank account balance is \$2,696.73.

Old Business & Connections (Sybil introduced and/or was a vital part of following updates discussions, also Katelin) :

Under 95 project:

COA Grant:

The COA (CT Office of the Arts) grant application (\$15000.00), for a public art installation under the Interstate 95 overpass adjacent to Hodges Square Village, is due on March 22. Katelin is almost finished writing the application. The match amount is \$7,500.00: 50% of the match will be met with ODP staff and volunteer in-kind (project oversight and community outreach); 50% of the match will be met with previously-allocated funds for Hodges Square Neighborhood.

Here is a breakdown of the budget:

Artist Fees (\$10,000 + \$7,400 + \$7,400) = \$24,800

Materials/Equipment for Power wash & Primer (\$1,500 + \$500 + \$500) = \$2,500

Total = \$27,300

Cash Match (NL) = \$8,000

In-Kind = \$4,300

Total = \$12,300 (minimum match \$7,500)

The City will match the funds and Sybil recommends that HSVA fundraise.

The match requires presentation to the City Council at its next meeting on March 20 at 7 PM. During the Public Comment session, letters can be presented and statements can be made. Fundraising for the mandatory match can include crowdsource funding and events. The grant will be awarded in July 2017; work must be implemented by June 30, 2018.

Creative Placemaking Grant:

The new ArtPlace America-National Creative Placemaking Fund application was submitted on February 22. The multi-phase project will create art installations in vacant storefronts from Hodges Square to to the city's downtown along State Street and strategically deploy temporary and permanent art at the I-95 overpass. This application is for the first I-95 underpass, total two abutments, on Williams Street, closest to State Pier. CT DOT has final approval on design. The new DOT contact is John DaCosta. There was discussion about installation of along the State Street-Williams Street corridor. Sybil sent documents to Tina for distribution to the Board.

TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant: a letter of approval and distribution of resources is forthcoming. This project covers the area in front of the Arboretum to Briggs Street.

Complete Streets:

Sybil introduced maps of Hodges Square Village and approaches "Traffic Control Improvement Upgrade – Proposed Site Layout Plan", addressing slowing down car traffic, providing a sense of place with narrower road and signage.

Changes include speedbumps at Briggs and Williams Streets, bike lane across the Route 32 bridge, dedicated bike lane signage, bike lane (green lane to differentiate car lane from cyclist lanes) both sides of street, 4' wide median raised 6" housing utilities and street lights, similar to those in the municipal parking lot on Eugene O'Neill Drive, changes to parking in Hodges Square center.

Hodges Square Village Food Models:

Art distributed two papers: 2009 Greater New London Farm to City Local Food Strategy Executive Summary; and MI Food Innovation District Executive Summary. Art discussed the Greater New London Farm To City Coalition Project Study, and a Food Innovation District allowing food supply chain projects/businesses. He will be meeting with Tim/Portuguese Restaurant to learn what could be done with the building. He proposed that the next step be to bring in a consultant to update the papers with a focus on New London and a way for HSVA to bring the plan to fruition, with the vision of creating a food economy.

Art talked about Hodges Square Park Activities music on June weekends, Lyman Allyn painting workshops on July Saturdays, and Blissworks yoga on two August Saturdays. Katelin asked that a schedule be posted on the HSVA website and Facebook page. Discussion about heavy mulching in the park and the Square, landscaping and Spring clean-up.

Update on Connecticut College liaison:

(from Andrew Lopez) The new Assistant Director of Sustainability, Margaret Bounds is the new HSVA liaison, but unable to attend this meeting.

Meeting at The Old Town Mill: plan for a May meeting. Contact Judy Cox, City of New London Loan Specialist, who volunteers general oversight of the property.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm; motion by Jerry, seconded by Katelin.

RS

Tina DuBosque