

# HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2017

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

Present: Art Costa, Priscilla Peabody, Cathi Strother, Jerry Sinnamom, Laura Natusch, Margaret Bounds, Robert Lee, Jeanne Milstein

Meeting started at 5:31 p.m..

**Approval of minutes** from the May 8th meeting were approved with minor changes; motion by Cathi, seconded by Jerry.

Art reported that the **bank account balance** is whatever it was last meeting (\$2,461.78) less \$300 for lawncare (2161.78).

Recommended to include Fundraising on next meeting agenda.

**Updates** included:

**Special Meeting Request to the City.** (See July 10 Agenda for issues) Art introduced Jeanne Milstein, Human Services Director, who talked about solutions, including a Community Care Team, future talk with the Homeless Hospitality Center to send an outreach worker, and distributed bi-lingual fliers for businesses "Let's Stop Panhandling". Jeanne also discussed Mobile Outreach from Norwich, Meeting with Starr St. residents about Coit St. blight, and offered to schedule meetings with involved individuals at a City level. Solutions to temporarily mitigate traffic issues included installing cameras (a Bond Commission issue), a flashing MPH sign to slow down traffic, heavier police presence. Jeanne noted that anyone could take pix of panhandlers, etc., creating a disturbance, and send to the police, or to her at 860-965-5314 with description of circumstance, and mentioned contacting Ledge Light Health District and the Fire Department as resources for public health and building issues.

A special focus meeting is being planned with City officials.

**Hodges Square Park Activities**, Art noted that 2 music events cancelled by rain, music events not scheduled past end of July, new Yoga sessions with Rosemary Gentile, Expressiones/Lyman Allyn Museum "Weaving Community" workshops, and possibility of Tai Chi classes.

**Mile Sculptures Update** Forrest made a sign and Joan Sullivan Cooper is coordinating walking tours from Courthouse along Broad St. down Williams St.. Tom Couser and Segue folks could also give tours. Mahmoud ok's use of the Park for tours and realted activities. Tours will launch early September. Garde Arts Center will help with kick-off.

**LOTICIP, COA, Under 95 grant applications** Ask Sybil Tetteh to provide updates on these and other grant applications.

Art made a motion, seconded by Jerry, to approve Brian Kent's guidelines for the Hodges Square Village Streetscape project. Motion passed unanimously.

**Membership** Need to encourage renewals/new membership. Katelin has prior membership information. Forrest might have marketing email list for the area. Cathis will form a subcommittee to do a mailing in September. Priscilla offered to join the subcommittee. Laura suggested using GoFundMe for a specific project. Cathi will contact Sybil regarding the Under 95 project, and Forrest regarding memberships.

**Beautification Committee & Hodges Square Landscape work** Art talked about mowing, paving and 2 diametrically opposed estimates on installing pavers and doing perimeter work. Priscilla will provide a third estimate. Discussion about landlords thanking merchants who beautify their properties, and creating a welcome package. Cathi will create a welcome package

Next meeting at The Sun Turtle with look to meet at The Old Town Mill in the Fall when weater is cooler.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30 p.m., Art, seconded by Jerry.

R.S. Tina DuBosque