

HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2017

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

Present: Forrest Sklar, Robert Lee, Jerry Sinnamon, Art Costa, Paul Foley, Cathi Strother, Priscilla Peabody, Margaret Bounds

Meeting started at 5:32 p.m..

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

Art reported that the bank account balance is \$2,461.78. \$300 was spent on a \$600 season Park mowing contract, with Forrest also contributing \$300.

Recommended to include Fundraising on next meeting agenda.

Updates included:

Hodges Square Park Activities -

Art reported on scheduled musical events, distributed posters and flyers, stressed importance of Board member presence at events, discussed shuttles for local housing authority occupants, possibilities of future evening Park events, and will send email about July events.

Sybil Tetteh, unable to attend, provided updates via email.

Under 95 –

ArtPlace America-National Creative Place Making Fund

This year the Foundation received 987 submissions and just 70 finalists this year.

Unfortunately, we were not invited to submit a full proposal.

Notice Regarding FY18 Arts Grants

Dear Applicant,

No final decisions regarding FY18 grants can be made until the CT Office of the Arts receives a confirmed allocation in the FY18-19 State Budget. The following grant programs are on hold:

- Supporting Arts in Place
- Arts Projects
- Regional Initiative Grants
- Arts Learning (Access, Connected/Correlation and Integration)

As reported in the news, the Governor and the General Assembly are working toward adopting a State Budget on or before June 30, 2017.

TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant

- All requested document has been sent to the SECCOG and waiting on DOT approval letter

LOTICIP (Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program) Grant progress

Preliminary design has been sent to DOTT for review.

HSVA Board Membership process

Executive Board votes on spending money. All Board members are voting members.

Margaret and Andrew will officially become Board members at next regular meeting, with vote to confirm. Bylaws need tightening up. Link to TVSCI bylaws will be placed on the HSVA website.

Beautification Committee

Paul planted the big pots. New mulch is coming for front of Hodges Square Building. Looking for maintenance-free path solution in Hodges Square Park for rollator and walker access. Paving stones or gravel were solutions suggested. Forrest will call Lombardi to see about donation of path materials.

Open/New Business

Mile Sculptures in Hodges Square Village

Art presented the plan to place sculptures along Williams Street in Hodges Square to connect with Lyman Allyn Museum sculptures. Sculptures would be installed by artists, rotating every year for two years, with marketing efforts, including signage, brochures and interpretive materials provided by company providing funding for sculptures. Artists are from CT and New England. Board consensus was unanimous, with motion to approve by Art, seconded by Jerry.

Thames River Innovation – Grant and Hodges Square Village

Sybil wrote that the application process started last year in September and this month Thames River Innovation (City of New London/Groton and Town of Groton) has been designated as an Innovation place by the State of Connecticut. During the application process and discussion staff felt it was necessary to include Hodges Square to the planning process as a connector to Groton via the Goldstar Bridge. There were 6 different projects identified in the application and one of them is called Redevelopment/Peacemaking project (Hodges Square and Thames Street in Groton). The following is a draft of timeline and deliverables for both places:

- 6 months - Redevelop. Plan: Inter-Municipal agreement in place; Plan management team members identified; draft Consultant Criteria and selection process under review. Other Placemaking initiatives: Thames St. TIF District under study; Engineering/design work on Costa Harbor property dock/pier contracted (if funded by SHIPP)
- 1 year - Redevelop. Plan: RFP/RFQ process finalized; Consultant selected- contract signed. Other Placemaking initiatives: N.L. Creative Placemaking Plan - project prioritization complete, implementation initiated; ground broken on phase 1 infrastructure projects.
- 1.5 - Redevelop. Plan: Draft Plan 60% complete; Team assembled for Real Estate Analysis, program implemented. Other Placemaking initiatives: Start-Up Assistance Program drafted; private lenders engaged, operational; TIF District approved; Costa Harbor dock/pier bid docs. complete; 2-4 N.L. properties contract for Real Estate Analysis. Implementation of Phase 2 Infrastructure projects started. Inter-municipal mid-project assessment of work to date -adjustments-as needed. For more information about CTNext, visit their website at <http://ctnext.com/innovation-places/>

Loitering/littering in/around Hodges Square

Cathi led discussion about continuing issues, including homeless panhandling, in Hodges Square, not only around the Hodges Square Building, but also in gas stations.

Board voted consensus about holding a special meeting on June 26 to include all Hodges Square business owners to discuss problems and solutions, and to develop a pitch to the New London City Mayor and Police Chief for more police presence and cooperation around these issues. Cathi will contact the Winthrop School librarian to see if meeting can be held in the school library. An invitation letter will be created and distributed to business owners by Board members in person. Forrest will print and distribute letters to Board members. Cathi will approach Mr. G's, liquor store, Sunoco; Art will approach the convenience store and beauty salon; Forrest will approach Slice and New China; Priscilla will approach Citgo; Margaret will approach Shell.

Next regular meeting location undecided.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm; motion by Cathi, seconded by Margaret.

R.S. - Tina DuBosque