



Meeting minutes of May 21, 2019

Presented by Cary Wheaton

Attendees: Ron Peaslee, Graciela Rivera, Barry Kriesberg, Officer Steven Pino, Julie Ann Robinson, Paige Berschet, Sandra Bernstein, Chris Brown, Marylee Morrison, Janice Castle, Cary Wheaton, Joe Barber, Marion Griffin, Lee McLean-Houle, Aaron Gill, Melvyn Colon, Dan Kiernan, Tom Szymanski, Abby Ostrom, Sean Fitzpatrick, Fernando Betancourt, Gannon Long, Jim Horan, Megan Brown, Lt, Jesus Lopez

April minutes approved

Hartford Police Department: Crimes across the City were down 30.5% last month. There has been an uptick in assaults due to more warm weather congregating. Major arrest on Wolcott Street – guns and fentanyl. Increased presence at the Muhammad Islamic Center on Hungerford Center during Ramadan. Concerns stated about aggressive police attitude towards neighbors congregating outside on Park Street. Businesses have complained about loitering affecting their businesses. Requested putting this on the HPD reporting going further. Officer Pino now working evenings Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights

Hartford Fire Department: Still have smoke alarms, please contact if you want one. Encouragement to purchase renter's insurance. There were 634 calls across city last month

Love Your Block: Award Ceremony was on April 30th. The Art Box Lot project is underway. Check projects out on Facebook: Love Your Block Hartford

City of Hartford

- Town Hall Tuesday, May 28th South End Wellness Center, 830 Maple Ave noon with Mayor Bronin
- Town Hall Wednesday May 29th Metzner Community Center, 680 Franklin Ave. 6:00 PM with Acting Police Chief Jason Thody
- Artisan Vending Program at City Hall, Tues-Fridays, 11AM to 2:00pm. Free vending space for Hartford residents. Contact Janice to apply; Janice.Castle@hartford.gov
- City of Hartford Resident Guide is out in English and Spanish. Please use and share
- Contact the MDC for free rain barrels for summer gardening

Strategic Plan Assistance: Thomas Szymanski and Abby Ostrom reported on their project as Trinity College seniors. They focused on marketing for their Frog Hollow Revitalization Initiative. They updated the NRZ website, targeting residents, Trinity College, and other institutions. The site is now enhanced with a Spanish language plug in on every page, link to Facebook, mobile

friendly. They created manual for updating site and will be available in the short term for assistance. Longer term we need someone to step up to operate site. Congratulations and thanks for work were extended.

Hartford Public Library:

- Crochet Group meets Saturdays, 11:30 to 1:00; 6/15, 7/6, 7/27, 8/17, 9/17
- Meditative Journal Workshop – 6/25: 1pm to 3pm. Please RSVP
- Caseworker from CRT Services 11am to 1pm: 5/29, 6/12, 6/26
- Muni ID Processing: Monday – Thursday 11AM to 2PM
- Summer Reading Program begins June 15th with kick off 12:30 pm to 3pm
- Capital Community College Career Advancement program representative 6/3 and 6/17: 1pm to 4pm
- Museum and Hartford Stage passes available to Library card holders
- Camp Courant and Affleck Street Garden applications available at Library

Neighborhood Investment Guidelines: Melvyn presented guidelines for IRS administrated Opportunity Zones. These are tax shelters for wealthy individuals to invest in urban areas. Funds must be created by December 31st with a 10-year benefit to investors. There are no provisions in the legislation for how money is invested regarding community needs, affordability, etc. These guidelines, adopted already by SINA, are an attempt to get ahead of the curve in having community impact on any potential projects. There are currently no projects/investments identified but the possibility is there. Discussion about residents never being listened to and having little impact over many years of advocating. High end developments might lead to dislocation of residents and increased rents. On other hand, might be tool to bring capital into neighborhood. Group decided to put off vote until next NRZ meeting to give time to research further. Sean Fitzpatrick will send Aaron a 3-page piece on Zones.

Trinity College Neighborhood Survey: Megan Brown of Liberal Arts Action Lab reported on door to door survey occurring this summer. Purpose is for Trinity to better understand how to be a good neighbor. Last survey was done in 2001. Are there some questions we would like included? Results will be shared this fall. Suggestion to use Youth Service Corps members to supplement students and 7 community interviewers. Members made suggestions for questions to Megan.

Hartford 2000

- May 29th, 5:30 From Development to Impact – information about impact of ordinances on development: 460 New Britain Ave
- June 19th - City Council Candidate Forum HPL Main Branch 5:30PM
- June 20th Yearly Meeting/New Name Reveal. Jay Williams of Hartford Foundation speaking: 5:30PM

No other reports.

Meeting adjourned 7:45