

UNAPPROVED

MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2018

WILSON DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WINDSOR COMMUNITY CENTER - 330 WINDOR AVENUE

Members Present: Charles Jackson, Randall Graff, Desiree Primus, Dionne Robinson and Herb Virgo

Members Absent: Alvin Bingham and Joel Kent

Staff Present: Jim Burke, Economic Development Director and Kelsey Hammerman, Intern

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm

2) PUBLIC COMMENT – None

3) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Discussion of Bylaws. Graff lead discussion of proposed changes to the Committee By-Laws based on the draft previously presented to the Committee. He noted that his suggested changes are intended to bring the By-Laws in line with the way the Committee has been operating. For example, he deleted reference to an Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee which does not exist. He added a provision that the Committee should act pursuant to the authority of the Windsor Town Charter and Ordinances as well as the Connecticut General Statutes. He updated the meetings section to reflect the current meeting schedule which is every other month rather than monthly.

There was also discussion about the need to add reference to “Deerfield” in a description of the area of the Committee’s activities. The By-Laws do not contain a description of the boundaries of the neighborhood. It was suggested that a map of the area could be helpful.

b) Discussion of Committee Activities for Next Year. The members discussed a number of activities that could be undertaken to benefit the neighborhood. One theme was beautification of public spaces. It was suggested that there might be an opportunity to coordinate with the community service program of the high school through Steve Bianchi to get youth involved. The Windsor Garden Club could also be a resource.

The possibility of partnering with the Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council to produce informational videos about the neighborhood was also proposed.

4) ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee briefly discussed a police report of parking tickets issued and motor vehicle stops made in December and January. It was noted that 140 tickets had been issued for overnight parking and 359 motor vehicle stops were made in the Wilson area.

There was some discussion of the lack of signage in the neighborhood of community events like the Shad Derby.

5) STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Burke reported that town staff had submitted nominations for three census tracts to be designated as Opportunity Zones under the 2017 Tax Act. Two of the tracts are in the Wilson-Deerfield neighborhood and the other is in Windsor Center. The next step is for the Governor to recommend up to one quarter of the eligible tracts for designation by the US Treasury Department. Opportunity Zone designation makes private investments in an area more attractive.

Mr. Burke shared some of the demographic information the staff collected in preparing the nomination submission. He noted that since 1990 the average age of residents in the neighborhood has remained stable while the average age of residents of the town as a whole has increased by more than five years. The percentage of neighborhood renters has declined. Household income has increased. The percent of the population with some college education has increased from 32% to over 50%.

6) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Robinson moved that the minutes of December 6, 2017 be approved. Mr. Virgo seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.