

WILSON/ DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(WDAC)
VIRTUAL MEETING
October 20, 2020
Special Meeting

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alvin Bingham called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were committee members Kim McCloud, Lakisha Hyatt, Karen Zak, and Charles Jackson.

Staff: Jim Burke, Economic Development Director; Flavia Rey de Castro, Community Development Specialist.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Attendee Shawnee indicated she had no comment but that she was interested in listening to the conversation.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Committee Meeting Schedule

Committee members agreed to change meeting times to the 4th Thursday of the month, every other month at 7p.m. They agreed on a meeting schedule for FY21. Furthermore, they decided to cancel the upcoming December 2 meeting and hold a meeting on December 3 instead. Changes were supported by all members present in the meeting.

Member Recruitment Efforts

Rey de Castro informed committee members of the town's current recruitment efforts and invited committee members to refer interested parties to her.

4. INTRODUCTION TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Jim Burke provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Program and requested that committee members prepare to provide ideas for the December 3rd meeting. Committee members can suggest an existing project be given priority or identify new projects. He indicated that staff would send a reminder email and explained that once a suggestion is supported by the committee. The staff would be responsible to work out the details of costs and funding avenues with the engineering department.

5. WILSON REDEVELOPMENT SITE AND WOLCOTT SCHOOL

With a visual aid, for common understanding of the location of these properties, Burke provided an overview of the previous uses of each property and explained how these ended up in the town's ownership. He went into detail to explain the

town's 2019 and 2020 community outreach efforts to consider future uses for these properties. Furthermore, he provided an overview of the methods and results of the community survey conducted in the spring of 2020. He indicated that these were also presented to Town Council and that the Town Improvements Committee is tasked with providing a recommendation to the Town Council on the best uses for these properties. He highlighted that the input from the WDAC committee members is one of many aspects that they will consider.

Bingham indicated he is looking forward to having a serious discussion about the use of these properties and the implications on the neighborhood. Burke indicated that the Town Improvements Committee is taking the community input very seriously. He explained that they held a meeting in August and discussed future uses for the property. He explained that they were hoping to get neighborhood input but delayed making a decision as they understood WDAC would soon have new members. The Town Improvements Committee is hoping to have input from WDAC members before making a decision.

Bingham expressed support for maintaining open space at the redevelopment parcel on Windsor Ave. Hyatt also expressed support for keeping an open space but highlighted the importance of having the space beautified and showing evidence of investment. Jackson also supports having an open space but not community gardens. Zak supported maintaining open space and agreed with Hyatt on the importance of beautify the space.

Jackson inquired about Wolcott School and asked if Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) had expressed interest in using it. Bingham supported this option and requested further information. Burke confirmed that CREC had reached out to the town but pointed out the challenges of making the building operational. Bingham and Zak would both support CREC using the building. Burke explained that council members have to determine if there are other potential uses by the town before making a decision. He indicated that town staff will notify committee members as soon as the Town Improvements Committee sets up a meeting date.

Burke, indicated that the Town Council had recently approved a grant application to collaborate with Riverfront Recapture in extending the riverfront trail from Hartford to the Windsor trail on Barber St.

6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bingham requested information from the Police Department. He expressed concern about the enforcement of the winter parking ban and unregistered vehicle ordinance. Jackson supported this idea. Hyatt suggested that the town share data on police enforcement of the issues raised. Zak talked about community policing and wondered how officers are assigned to an area. Committee members suggested inviting the Town Manager and Police Chief to the December 3rd meeting.

Hyatt raised the issue of cleanliness in the neighborhood. She indicated that Wilson is not as clean as other parts of town and expressed interest in learning about the allocation of town resources towards this issue. Committee member Zak and Jackson agreed. Hyatt expressed concern about a particular area in the neighborhood but Jackson indicated it was private property. He suggested using SeeClickFix for private property maintenance complaints. Town staff further explained the use of SeeClickFix and where to find it on the Town's website. McCloud suggested a different approach. She suggested exploring where the litter is coming from. She indicated that it is the neighbors' responsibility to keep their spaces clean. Committee members expressed interest in getting information from the Department of Public Works at a future meeting to learn more about their resource allocation.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Rey de Castro suggested adding the revision of Bylaws to an upcoming meeting. Committee members agreed and Bingham indicated he and staff would add this to an upcoming agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Chairman Bingham and seconded by Jackson to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Motion passed 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Flavia Rey de Castro