

WILSON DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(WDAC)  
HYBRID MEETING  
Windsor Town Hall (Ludlow Room)  
Zoom  
March 23, 2023  
Regular Meeting

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Charles Jackson, Will Pelkey, Alvin Bingham, Debbie Baker, Kim McCloud, Lakisha Hyatt.

Members Absent: Tyler Cote, Karen Zak, Kathleen Woodward.

Staff Present: Flavia Rey de Castro, Community Development Specialist; Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director.

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Bingham called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**2) PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**3) DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a) Cleanup Event**

Baker reminded committee members of the Cleanup Event to take place on Earth Day. She indicated that the event was scheduled for Saturday April 22 from 10am to 12pm, with a rain date of April 29. She noted that while visiting two of the businesses that were assigned to her for beautification purposes, she was able to secure a ten percent discount for Cleanup volunteers. Rey de Castro asked that if any members had requests or suggestions for cleanup routes to reach out to her and that otherwise these would be the ones used on previous cleanup events. Jackson noted that cleanup routes in Deerfield should also be added, pointing out to specific locations that would benefit from this effort. Pelkey agreed. Rey de Castro noted she would need assistance determining specific routes in Deerfield. She also explained that the town would be conducting outreach as in the past, with yard signs, fliers and social media and that she would be reaching out to committee members separately for assistance with this.

**b) Beautification Subcommittee Updates**

Baker indicated that some of the original Beautification plans had shifted since the latest WDAC meeting. Given that the State's Department of Transportation would

proceed with repairing the medians on Windsor Avenue earlier than anticipated, it was no longer necessary to plan on median plantings. She also noted that there had been further discussions with Public Works in regards to the location of planters and that they had decided to locate these in front of 330 Community Center, and Wilson Library. She reminded that this would only be the first phase of the beautification efforts and that, ideally, there would be further actions in the following years.

In regards to the initiative's public participation aspect, she explained that the survey was currently live and that it would be collecting responses until early April. She indicated that residents could provide input via paper surveys at the Wilson Library and online. To date, she explained, responses showed overwhelming support for the beautification initiative. She highlighted that there were many respondents who were willing to contribute towards the initiative if needed, and that they had received emails and phone numbers for follow ups in this regard. Baker indicated that she was pleased with the public's response highlighting that there were many suggestions for beautification from the public and that someone even suggested a public meeting, which could be something for the subcommittee to explore in the future. She reminded committee members that it would be helpful to get assistance in posting fliers promoting the survey at the local businesses. Hyatt offered to assist with this.

In regards to fundraising, Baker proposed to apply for the Town's Community and Neighborhood Enhancement grant, indicating there was an opportunity to collaborate with Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and for the committee to support with the landscaping of the former Wolcott School. She noted that assisting, specifically with the landscaping of the area facing Windsor Ave. and East Wolcott St., would align with the group's current Beautification Initiative.

#### **4) ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Hyatt noted that she was concerned about the broken bricks on the Wilson Ave. median, however, McMahon clarified that it was a CT Department of Transportation road and that the project to fix the median would begin later in the month and finish in the summer.

Jackson indicated that he was currently working with the Social Equity Council, which was developed to ensure the adult-use cannabis program grows equitably. He also indicated that planning and zoning regulation for cannabis does not include Wilson.

#### **5) STAFF REPORTS**

McMahon provided updates on the Wilson Gateway project. He indicated that the town is currently finalizing some details on the park's design. He noted that the next step would

be to bid for construction and that after having specific numbers for construction costs, the town would approach the Town Council and seek funds.

McMahon indicated that funds were secured to connect the Windsor and Hartford trail systems and to build a pedestrian bridge crossing Decker's Brook. He noted that later in the year, the town would be publishing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a landscape architecture firm to perform the concept design, survey design and prepare construction documents.

McMahon provided updates on the application for development at 29 Windsor Ave., or the former Flamingo site. He explained that this application will have to be revised since the latest Town' Planning and Zoning Committee.

#### **6) APPROVAL OF 6/22/22 AND 9/22/22 MEETING MINUTES**

Jackson moved to approve 1/26/23 minutes. Pelkey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7) ADJOURNMENT**

Pelkey moved to adjourn at 8:58 pm.