

**WILSON DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(WDAC)**

Special Meeting
Hybrid
Windsor Town Hall
Rose Room
7:00 PM
January 25, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Alvin Bingham, Kathleen Woodward (virtually), Karen Zak, Debbie Baker, Charles Jackson (virtually).

Members Absent: Lakisha Hyatt

Staff Present: Patrick McMahon, Economic Development Director.

Guests Present: Andrew Surprise, Executive Director, Windsor Chamber of Commerce.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Zak called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

2) PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Windsor Chamber of Commerce and Engagement with Small Businesses

Surprise introduced himself and provided a brief overview on the chamber and its current initiatives. He indicated that he hopes to engage with Wilson businesses in the near future. He explained that the Chamber is working on a small business accelerator initiative that would particularly focus on supporting minority-owner businesses. He indicated he is working on securing funds for this program. He also explained other initiatives including a workforce development initiative which is being developed in collaboration with the Windsor Public Schools and has support of local businesses, and a small businesses marketing program.

** Andrew Surprise can be reached via email at executivedirector@windsorcc.org*

4) ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Zak requested updates on whether or not Mayor Black-Burke would be able to attend a future meeting as a guest. McMahon indicated he hadn't confirmed yet. Baker elaborated on the Riverfront Recapture community input sessions. She indicated that the meeting held in Wilson earlier in the month was very well attended and that many attendees were from Windsor and from the Wilson neighborhood. She noted that planners will be updating drawings based on the information received and present it to the public again in the future.

5) STAFF REPORTS

McMahon provided an update on the Wilson Park. He indicated that a referendum would be set, with a tentative date of March 12. He explained that the referendum would be for residents to determine whether or not they would like to spend \$4.35M to construct the park. He noted that

costs would include building the walkways, signs, pavilion, parking area, playscape structures, etc. He reminded committee members that these funds were all from the state and federal government. He explained that the project had already been procured and that the amount currently available would suffice to undergo construction. He also indicated that the town would soon publicize the referendum but for a short period of time. From 30 days prior to the referendum date the town would be unable to publicize, but rather would have a webpage dedicated to this project, including facts and renderings for the park. He requested that if committee members see any town social media postings on the subject to please share them. McMahon then explained that a referendum was needed because of the size of the project and that if the project is voted down, funds would go back to the state.

He also provided updates for the development at 29 Windsor Ave., including the initial town approval and the need for state DOT approval. He also noted that there will be a second phase of development for this site, but that it was not very advanced at that point.

McMahon gave a brief overview on the development of the trail from the Wilson Boat Launch to town center. He mentioned that there was progress on the design work and shared possibilities for funding portions of the upcoming development work. McMahon also discussed the former site for Stanadyne on Deerfield Ave. He explained that a company called IRG purchased the property and that they had plans to fix up the property to then sell it. Finally, gave an updates on Windsor Shopping Center the current and future tenants for this site.

5) APPROVAL OF 1/25/24 MEETING MINUTES

Baker moved to approve 1/25/24 minutes. Zak seconded. Motion passed unanimously

5) ADJOURNMENT

Zak moved to adjourn at 7:41 pm.