

**WILSON DEERFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(WDAC)
Regular Meeting
330 Windsor Ave.
7:00 PM
May 23, 2024**

Members Present: Alvin Bingham, Charles Jackson, Debbie Baker, Carolyn Joseph, Karen Zak, Jenn Czelazewicz, Ken Resol.

Members Absent:,. Lakisha Hyatt, Kathleen Woodward.

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

Guests: Nuchette Black-Burke, Town of Windsor Mayor

1) CALL TO ORDER

Bingham called the meeting to order at 7:04PM

2) PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3) INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Jennifer Czelazewicz and Ken Resol introduced themselves to the committee.

4) DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Conversation with Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke.

Black Burke was welcomed by the committee. She discussed updates in the Wilson neighborhood including the Wilson Park groundbreaking and upcoming developments related to the park such as a possible public contest to determine the park's name. Black-Burke thanked committee members for their participation in the process. The group discussed how to ensure the neighborhood continues to be informed of the park's development process.

The group discussed ways in which the Wilson Deerfield is an asset to the Town Council and how to best ways to keep open lines of communication. Black-Burke referred to staff liaisons as resources and indicated committee members could reach out to her directly if any issues that need immediate attention arise.

The group discussed how to reach and update those who don't have access to email. Rey de Castro noted the Town utilizes geo-targeted facebook ads on occasion. McMahon, noted postcards are used at other times. It was concluded that hosting an open house may be an efficient way to get more participation and detailed public input on the park's programming.

Joseph indicated that hosting events might be a way to incentivize residents from different neighborhoods to come to Wilson and help improve what she perceives as a division in town. Black Burke explained that she perceived it as people being proud of the neighborhood they are from. She noted that in the public participation process for the park, it was important to give a voice to all Windsor residents, but to pay special attention to Wilson residents. Czelazewicz commented that the way residents in other neighborhoods perceive Wilson is an issue. Black-Burke highlighted the importance of challenging that mindset and suggested committee members challenge that notion.

Jackson proposed the committee plays a role activating the Wilson main street (involving businesses, working with other organizations such as sustainability project, and considering neighborhood assets such as Goslee pool, parks, boat launch, etc.). He noted that this effort should start with Wilson Park.

Black-Burke asked about the type of support that Wilson Deerfield Committee member were looking to obtain from Town Council. Baker indicated that continued support on committee efforts such as beautification initiative.

Committee members asked about code enforcement for private blighted sites. McMahon suggested utilizing See Click Fix or sharing with staff.

Baker mentioned the need to replace certain bus shelter panels and reminded the group that the librarian was hoping for a library sign.

Jackson mentioned the need for decorative street sign replacements highlighting he was aware of how challenging it was to get those signs. He suggested the town use electronic signs for outreach for events. Black-Burke, agreeing with the usefulness of these types of signs, explained that depending on the particular placement, these were costly and could be hazardous for drivers.

5) ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Zak provided an overview of the cleanup event. She explained that she had led the group that took the new route and shared that in doing so, she identified the need for trash receptacles at either end of the power line path on Deerfield.

Baker provided some updates on the Riverfront Recapture property in Windsor. She explained that they will hold another community workshop, taking synthesized designs from previous public input to further advance the design.

6) STAFF REPORTS

McMahon gave updates on economic development activities taking place near the Wilson and Deerfield neighborhoods including the arrival of new business to the Windsor Shoppes including Giovanni's, Don's Catering (dinner), and Florettes Caribbean Food. In regards to the Wilson Park, he provided a development timeline, indicating that construction should be finished in the spring/summer of 2025. McMahon explained that for programming the town will rely on the Recreation Department to activate the space initially. He encouraged committee members to provide feedback to staff. Baker suggested inviting the town's Recreation Department to a future WDAC meeting to discuss programming and get ideas (December meeting).

McMahon provided addition details on neighborhood businesses including CREC receiving bonding funds for additional upgrades, 29 Windsor Ave. facing challenges on their development process, and the former Stanadyne facility being likely to receive state funds to remediate the site.

7) APPROVAL OF 4/4/24 MEETING MINUTES

Zak made a motion to accepted minutes with revisions. Jackson seconded. Motion passed.7.0.0

8) ADJOURNMENT

Jackson made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:19pm. Zak seconded.