

HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Feb 13, 2017

The Sun Turtle, Hodges Square Village, New London, CT

Present: Robert Lee, Andrew Lopez, Jerry Sinnamon, Forrest Sklar, Cathi Strother, Katelin Teel, also Sybil Tetteh, City Planner, City of New London. Absent: Art Costa

Meeting started at 5:33 pm

Approval of minutes from the January 9 meeting were approved; motion by Katelin, seconded by Cathi.

The bank account status was not given and assumed to be the same as reported in the January meeting as there has been no activity since January.

Old Business & Connections (Sybil Tetteh introduced and/or was a vital part of following updates discussions) :

Under 95 project: Katelin and Sybil met and worked on grant proposals. Costs for material and labor are determined to be \$10K-\$15K per abutment, with a total projected cost of \$156K to cover all ramps including around The Old Mill.

The new ArtPlace America-National Creative Placemaking Fund grant could take care of the Under 95 costs. (see New Business below for further discussion)

The Big Jump: City was not awarded the technical assistance grant, and responded to a new RFP for an implementation grant. City will hear if application accepted on February 23. If accepted, the City can apply for the new grant funds.

Complete Streets (ex-Safe Streets): funding includes implementation of less-permanent aspects of Safe Streets, such as using paint on the streets to indicate/try-out changes needed.

TAP grant: CTCOG is in favor of City of New London receiving full funding (\$1.2M in two phases), but decision must be reviewed/approved by ConnDOT. Discussion about plan for median divider, with lighting, trees and utility wires, on Williams Street, to slow down traffic, similar to Main Street median divider in Old Saybrook.

Working Cities grant funded by Federal Reserve Bank-Boston: A series of workshops have been held; the initial application was submitted and accepted. Central theme chosen for New London is food-related. Discussion included using food as an entry focus for Hodges Square Village, the Old Mill and a business incubator, using spaces in Hodges Square Village for food businesses. The grant has two stages, planning and implementation. The award for planning is \$1500.00.

The Old Mill: A grant for \$5K from Veolia is being sought to continue maintenance work as last year and to repair the water wheel. Sybil is waiting for a quote from Yankee Remodeler to create an aggressive grant application.

Forrest offered to ask Dime and Citizens banks for funding as well.

Update on Lyman Allyn Museum Outreach: as Art was not present, this is tabled until the regular March meeting.

Update on Connecticut College liaison: Andrew noted that a new Sustainability Coordinator has been hired, and he will send us her name and contact information. Forrest will introduce himself to her.

HSVA Membership Recruitment:

It was decided to wait until warmer weather when people are apt to be outside more and using the Park to recruit members.

Beautification Committee:

Discussion about empty liquor bottle trash and folks sitting on benches drinking liquor.

Open/New Business:

Mary Secor announced that a new business will be starting up in her building; details to follow.

The New London Neighborhood Alliance is starting up again. Discussion about creating a bottle deposit bill for liquor bottles, better police help, "eyes on the street". Cathi will reach out to the Neighborhood Coordinator regarding long-standing school traffic and police presence issues.

National Creative Placemaking Fund through ArtPlace America: Sybil spoke about this, reading the description of the grant from website content. 2% of applications received are accepted each year. Applications are due on February 22. This grant funds projects where art is used to solve an infrastructure problem. The City has partnered with MS17 Art Project. Discussion included remarks about (Jerry) the Under 95 and Creative Placemaking grant work providing excellent groundwork for this proposal, to serve the bicycle and foot traffic along Williams Street, under I95 and into the rest of the City; recommendation (Forrest) to use Under 95 grant work and include Lyman Allyn Museum and Hodges Square Village in the application. Presentation for main grant application includes a 45-minute video which will be made this week. Hodges Square Village volunteers to participate in the video included Jerry, Ronna Stuller, Forrest and Robert. Sybil will contact everyone with details. Forrest asked Sybil to send him the grant proposal.

Hodges Square Village Food Models: Discussion tabled to next regular meeting.

Meeting at The Old Town Mill: plan for a May meeting and notify Judy Cox, City of New London Loan Specialist, who volunteers general oversight of the property.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm; motion by Jerry, seconded by Cathi.

RS

Tina DuBosque