



Hartford NEXT Board Meeting Notes 11-16-2023

Time: 6:00_– 7:30 pm Board Meeting

Attendees:

Marion Griffin, Chair; Violette Haldane, Treasurer; Charles Teale, Northeast; Mary Falvey, HPA; David MacDonald, AHNA; Elizabeth Davis, At-Large Hartford Public Library; Randal Davis, City of Hartford; Janice Castle, City of Hartford; Mary Pelletier, WECA; Bernadine Silver, Chair Emerita; Aleena Durant, (GOTV) Hartford Next; Bongsi Magubane, WECA; Emely Lugo, South End; Frank Sentner, SoDo; Jack Antonich, Associate Member; Jean Holloway, Clay Arsenal; Jeff Stewart, At-Large; Cheryl Zeiner, CSSCON; Keisha Dickenson, Upper Albany; Kim Gauthier, Administrator Hartford Next

Board Members Not Attending:

Janine McMahon, Asylum Hill; Sharmeen Wright, Blue Hills; Chris McArdle, CSSCON; David Morin, Parkville; Larry Williams, Upper Albany; Lindsay Ewing, West End; Henry Hester, Associate Member; Jackie McKinney, At-Large, Janine McMahon, AHNA

Expected Outcome:

- Introduction to HNXT Updated website
- Community Engagement Ideas
- Vote on Co-Chairs
- Cross NRZ Collaborations
- Introduction of Compliance Best Practices for NRZs

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6:00 pm	Welcome	Board Chair	Call to Order	
The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm and attendees welcomed by Marion Griffin.				
6:00– 6:05 pm	Meeting Protocol & Introductions	Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNXT Board Meeting Protocol • What should we know • HNXT Vision • Review of Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices for meeting participation • Add Your Organization to your Zoom name • HNXT Vision
Mary Falvey went through protocol for the meeting.				
6:05 – 6:15 pm	Board Business	Marion Jeff Violette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of October Board Minutes • Board & Committee Co-Chairs • Financial Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on Board Minutes • Vote • HNXT & Fiscal Sponsorship
Approval of October Board Minutes was introduced by Marion Griffin; motion was made by Randal Davis, seconded by Charles Teale. Elizabeth Davis abstained because she was absent from the October meeting. No opposition or discussion. The October minutes were accepted.				
Marion Griffin introduced new roles for two board members for a vote. Bongsi Magubane as co-chair of Hartford NEXT, Inc. and Frank Sentner as the co-chair of the Program Committee. A motion was made by Jeffrey Stewart				



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<p>and seconded by Janice Castle. No discussion, abstentions, or opposition. The new board members were accepted unanimously.</p> <p>Violette Haldane gave a summary of the Treasurer’s Report. September and October: earned \$28 interest, spent approximately \$4,000 for insurance, legal services, rent, internet. One thousand dollars was spent on Programs. The balance in the accounts, \$196,819.89, is restricted. The board is still looking for a volunteer to work with Violette or take over Treasurer’s duties. Hartford Next’s 990 Report has been submitted and will be posted on the website. Violette will provide a 2024 budget at either the December or January meeting.</p>				
6:15–6:20pm	Board Announcements	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNXT Opportunity to support Environmental Justice in Hartford through project partnership with CRCOG’s EPA Brownfield Assessment grant • Share NRZ pictures and announcements with HNXT for the Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for Hartford residents’ quality of life interests • Board /NRZ Assistance Request
<p>Marion Griffin and Frank Sentner have been asked by Hartford Mayor-Elect Arunan Arulampalam to be part of his transition policy committee. They will serve as committee co-chairs. There are 11 committees; Frank and Marion encouraged other board members or NRZ members who are interested to let them know. This is an opportunity for Hartford NEXT to play a role in the community and policymaking decisions. A motion to support Marion and Frank as part of the transition policy team was made by Jeffrey Stewart and seconded by Mary Falvey. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Charles Teale will also be at the kick off meeting for the Mayor-Elect’s transition team related to public safety.</p> <p>Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) asked Hartford NEXT, Inc. to be a Project Partner with CRCOG for their application to the EPA for Brownfield Assessments grant. Marion read a HNXT Board Resolution for Hartford NEXT, Inc. to provide a letter of support to CRCOG’s grant application for Brownfield Assessment Funds. The board voted to accept the resolution to provide a letter of support for CROCG’s application to the EPA. The motion was made by Jeffrey Stewart and seconded by Mary Pelletier. The motion passed unanimously. Elizabeth Davis, Board Secretary will certify the resolution.</p> <p>Hartford Public Library is sponsoring a workshop about the Tech Fundamentals of Small Nonprofits. Anyone interested in attending should go to the HPL website.</p>				
6:20-6:30 pm	HNXT Website	Mary Falvey	Introduce updates to the website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been updated? • When will it be available? • What can Board members do?
<p>Mary introduced the new updates to the Hartford NEXT website, answered questions, and noted comments from attendees. The update was done by Catch-A-Fire. There are plans to establish a Hartford NEXT YouTube channel in conjunction with the website where videos from training sessions and events can be housed. Mary reminded board members to submit photos of their events and projects for inclusion on the website. If there are logos for</p>				



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<p>NRZs, please send them to Mary maryf@hartfordpreservation.org. For more information about Catch-A-Fire, contact Mary Falvey.</p> <p>Mary Pelletier asked if information for the Hartford Urban Bird Treaty + including seasonal advisory on the HNXT website.</p>				
6:30 – 6:50 pm	NRZ Roundtable	NRZ Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State ONE Community Engagement Activity sponsored by your NRZ or One community engagement idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What support does your NRZ need? How can we partner?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frank Sentner, South Downtown: The NRZ is planning a blood drive in partnership with First Presbyterian Church. They need a minimum of 35 participants to involve the American Red Cross. They were planning to hold the drive in December but were unable to meet the minimum number of participants. Other NRZs interested in partnering with SoDo, contact Frank at frank@sentwood.com. 2. Charles Teale, NERA: NERA’s main initiative is to create a community service hub in the northeast. The Simpson Waverly School is the potential site for the service hub. They are assessing service needs in the neighborhood. There is a meeting at 2550 Main Street on November 28th; registration is required to attend. NERA is partnering with Ascend Pipeline Grant, Community First School, Build A Better You, and others on the initiative. Contact Charles Teale for more information. 3. Mary Pelletier: The Hartford Audubon Society is working to preserve There was a project at the bio retention basins to work on landscape along the river to preserve endangered species. Volunteers from OPP helped with the project. 4. David MacDonald, AHNA: The neighborhood’s Green Committee sponsored Green Energy Family Festival in October. The weather kept attendance low but vendors were able to speak with residents and there was entertainment. 5. Bernadine Silver, CSSCON: CSSCON is partnering with SoDo, Frog Hollow and neighbors from the former South Green NRZ to express opposition to the dog park. Chris McArdle suggested city-owned land on Hudson Street as a location for the dog park. Barnard Park is the oldest park in Hartford and the NRZs want to develop a plan that will better represent the city. Marion suggested that Hartford Preservation Alliance should be included in the planning. 6. Elizabeth Davis, Hartford Public Library: Elizabeth encouraged attendees to use the Hartford History Center for historical use of property around the city. <p>The CT Commission for Educational Technology is putting together a plan, Digital Equity Plan for CT, and are seeking public comments. The comment period is December 20, 2023 to January 20, 2024. Lauren Thompson, Digital Equity Program Manager, CT Comm. for Educational Technology, aims to engage with community events, Lauren.thompson@ct.gov</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Janice Castle announced the citywide Toy Drive and giveaway on December 16th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at UCONN Hartford. Vendor tables are available and Hartford Next was invited to have a table at the 				



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<p>event. The Hartford Fire Department will be at Walmart on Flatbush from December 2nd to December 9th collecting toys.</p> <p>8. Bongsi Magubane, WECA: New officers were elected and she will provide an updated board list. The first phase in the development of East Lawn of Elizabeth Park is complete. There are new pathways, a rain garden, new trees, additional parking, and other facility improvements.</p> <p>9. MARG will hold its holiday event on Thursday, December 21st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at St Augustine's Church on Campfield Avenue. Bring a nonperishable food item.</p> <p>10. There is a Mobility Study that impacts Upper Albany and Frog Hollow. More details to follow.</p>				
6:50 – 7:20 pm	Compliance Best Practices For NRZ (Guide)	Janice Castle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the new Guide for NRZ Municipal and State NRZ requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview /Reminder of guidelines
	2023 GOTV	Aleena Durant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Vote My Voice Oct. 28th Young Adult Candidate Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the event
	HNXT Updates	Committee Report Chairs/Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Committee • Communications & Marketing Committee • Development Committee • Program Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been accomplished? • What needs to be done & by Whom? • What are the next steps? • What can you do?
<p>Janice Castle provided an overview of the new guide for NRZ State and Municipal compliance requirements. She impressed upon attendees the need for compliance to qualify for state funding and to provide information to questions from municipal groups regarding NRZ membership and voting. A link to the Compliance Material was included with the meeting's email and Janice will send 2 paper copies to each NRZ.</p> <p>Aleena Davis gave an overview of the 'My Vote, My Voice' event on October 28th. She emphasized the need for young adults to be included in political training opportunities. She conveyed the desire that young adults have to be informed and active in the political process.</p> <p>The issues most important to young adults are safety/gun violence, education, employment opportunities, immigration, urban development, and health/mental well-being. Attendees would like to continue to meet and hold leaders accountable and not have this meeting be a one-time event. A recording of the forum is available on Hartford Next's website at https://hartfordnext.org/election-tools-information/ my vote my voice video. Aleena, Charles, and Frank stressed the importance of youth participation. Aleena and Marion will recap the event and advise the board at a future meeting.</p>				
7:20 - 7:28 pm	Follow up and Assessment	All	Continuous Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did we miss discussing today? • Does anything need to be documented and voted on?



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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How am I doing as a Board Member? What went well? What did not go well? What needs to change?
<p>Summary of action items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Frank Sentner at frank@sentwood.com to participate in the SoDo Blood Drive. 2. Volunteer for Mayor-elect transition team committees; contact Marion Griffin or Frank Sentner for information. 3. Janice will provide 2 print copies of the compliance manual to each NRZ. 4. Violette will have a budget for board review and voting by the January meeting. 5. Charles Teale volunteered to be the Hartford Next historian. 6. Mary/Aleena – reach out to the My Vote. My Voice participants to participate on transition committees. 				
7:30 pm	Close			
<p>Marion Griffin called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Frank Sentner and seconded by Charles Teale. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.</p>				

Objectives, Actions, & Decisions:			
Objectives	Action Steps	Accountability	Timeline
Outstanding Items			
Community Engagement Survey – April Workshop follow-up	Complete Survey	NRZ Chair/NRZ Rep	
Quality of Life Committee	Establishment of Committee, schedule meeting, determine objective	SW/BTR	???
Property Taxes/PILOT/.....	Establishment of Committee, schedule meeting, determine objective	SW/BTR – Chair Amilcar Hernandez	In Process???



VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL

**Mute your audio until you are ready to speak
Add your NRZ or organization's name after your name in
your Zoom window**

HARTFORD NEXT GROUND RULES

- 1. We come prepared.**
- 2. We think before we speak.**
- 3. We listen to each other.**
- 4. We share and respect diverse points of view.**
- 5. We don't attack each other personally.**
- 6. We don't shout.**
- 7. We stay for the whole meeting.**
- 8. We avoid side conversations in and outside of the meeting room.**
- 9. We are guided by the meeting chair or facilitator.**
- 10. We turn off our cell phones during the meeting.**
- 11. We keep our microphone on mute unless called upon to speak.**
- 12. We raise our virtual hand to be recognized to speak.**
- 13. We speak briefly and to the point.**
- 14. We do not make inflammatory statements or accusations.**
- 15. We work together to adhere to times noted on the agenda.**
- 16. We help each other to stay on topic and on agenda.**
- 17. We enjoy ourselves.**