



Hartford NEXT Virtual Board Meeting Agenda 2/17/2022

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Mission: A collective voice of Hartford residents and stakeholders working to strengthen and grow our community

Time (est.)	Agenda Item	Facilitator Presenter	Purpose/Action	Activity/Essential Questions
6:00 – 6:05 pm	Welcome & Introductions	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Confirm Agenda Review of Mission, Vision & Values Review Ground Rules 	Introductions Changes/Acceptance of Agenda Protocol for Virtual Meetings
<p>Attendees: Marion Griffin, Chair; Robin Zaleski, South Downtown; Mary Falvey, At-Large (Hartford Preservation Alliance); Jackie McKinney, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association; Violette Haldane, Treasurer, At-Large; Keisha Dickenson, Chair, Upper Albany; Eileen Noonan, Southwest/Behind the Rocks; Randal Davis, City of Hartford; Jeffrey Stewart, At-Large; David MacDonald, Executive Director, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association; David Morin, Parkville; Lindsay Ewing, Co-Chair, West End Civic Association; Luz Holmes, Upper Albany; Elizabeth Davis, At-Large (Hartford Public Library); Bernadine Silvers, Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSS/CON); Chris McArdle, CSS/CON; Jean Holloway, Vice Chair, Clay Arsenal Revitalization Association (CARA).</p> <p>Associate Member: Henry Hester, Friends of Keney Park;</p> <p>Guests: Sherry Frazier, Elaine Hatcher</p> <p>The chair of the meeting, Marion Griffin, with Mary Falvey as co-host, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.</p>				
6:05– 6:10 pm	Board Business	Marion Violette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Board Minutes Financial Report 	Review and Vote Financial Status
<p>Notes: minutes from the January meeting will be approved at the March meeting.</p> <p>Violette Haldane presented the Treasurer’s report. We still wish to close down one of the two bank accounts but will not do so right now. We are expecting funds from an economic development grant that are direct deposited into an account that we will keep open until those funds are received. We are expecting about \$20,000, less legal fees, from the state. The legal fees are for attorney’s contracted with by DECD. Concern was expressed regarding the requirement of HNXT to pay the State’s legal fees.</p>				
6:10 – 6:20 pm	Development & Funding for NRZs and HNXT	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Opportunities to Fund neighborhood /NRZ activities 	What resources are available? How do we utilize these resources? Who will participate and support these initiatives?
<p>Notes: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has three different grants that Hartford NTZs and other organizations could apply for. In order for an NRZ to be eligible for one of their grants, the NRZ must be a 501(c)(3) organization or use a fiscal agent, another 501(c)(3) organization. If you need any help finding another organization to pair up with, get in touch with Hartford NEXT.</p>				



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<p>The Love Your Block grant is a little different this year. There are now two tiers for this grant, one at \$2,500 and the other at \$25,000. The due date for applying is soon — March 8. There is also a neighborhood beautification grant from the Hartford Foundation and an AARP livable community grant. Both of these grants have a short turnaround time. There is a March 22 deadline for the AARP application. And the project must be completed by the end of the summer. There was a session on grants today that Marion attended and she has power points available to share. There were two cities showcased. One was for the West Hartford initiative in blocking off portions of the central streets so that restaurants could have outdoor dining during the pandemic. Another one was for improvements in marking some of the Hartford streets near the South Green. The AARP grant is for anything that impacts senior citizen — parks or anything . Average grant from AARP is \$11,000 or \$12,000, but it can go up to \$50,000. Marion will send a copy of the power point out to everyone.</p>				
6:20 – 6:30 pm	Updates	Committee Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Communications & Marketing Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has been accomplished? What can we do to support HNXT activities What is the role of Board in Membership Recruitment Where do we go from here?
<p>Notes: The Program Committee is busy on the “It’s Your City” webinars. They have also sent surveys to our board and to the NRZ chairs to get feedback. This gives us an opportunity to check in with our “customers” to make sure that we are doing what the NRZ’s need us to do.</p> <p>Elizabeth Davis said that the Communications and Marketing Committee is working on our website and also getting the information poster out. They are not ready to set up the donation button on the website but are still getting helps and hints from such organizations as the Hartford Public Library. There will be more information on this for the next meeting.</p> <p>Mary Falvey gave a shout-out to Robin Zaleski who has agreed to take charge of our Facebook page. Everyone should hop on to the page and give it a “Like.” If you have an NRZ Facebook page you can share it and you can share a post from the Hartford Next page onto your own page. If you don’t know how to do these things, ask Robin. We want every Hartford person to be an ambassador and booster of Hartford Next and the NRZ’s.</p> <p>Jeff Stewart reported from the Governance Committee that there are some changes needed in the by-laws including a name change from Hartford 2000. The UCONN Urban Legal Initiative, Inc. (CULI) is helping out with this. If there is anyone out there who can join committees, it would be helpful. Let us know. Associate members cannot vote but they also do not have to commit to making every meeting, they just need to help out. As far as volunteer recruitment goes, there is an application so that we have some help in match up a volunteer’s skills with our needs.</p>				



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6:30–6:45 pm	HNXT 2022	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It’s Your City! 2/19/2022, 3/5/2022 & 3/19/2022 LISC AmeriCorps Position HNXT Board Member Survey HNXT 25th Anniversary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can each of us do to support HNXT Programs What can each of us do to make 2022 a successful year? What can I do to recruit volunteers? What support do we need to help NRZs? Who will lead?

Notes: Marion reported that we need to publicize the info on our **“It’s Our City” webinars**. The Saturday, February 19th, webinar features Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Works. join us on Saturday and learn more about what these departments do. There are also a number of maybe surprising aspects under the HHS purview;. Please share this information with your neighbors. The March 5 webinar is on Youth, Recreation & Education and will include Kim Oliver presenting from the Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation. The March 19 webinar will be on Police, Fire & Emergency Services.

AmeriCorps Service Member. HNXT has selected is a UConn School of Social Work student as the LISC AmeriCorps service member to join Hartford NEXT with at start date of March 1st.

2022 is the **25th anniversary of Hartford NEXT** (formerly Hartford 2000). If you have ideas on how to celebrate our 25th anniversary, let us know.

NRZ Funds. The \$50,000 grant from the City of Hartford has been received and distribution to the NRZ’s by HNXT will begin. NRZs, following City of Hartford confirmation of NRZ’s compliance with the NRZ ordinance should submit their community engagement expenses for reimbursement. This benefit is for expenditures between July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. HNXT has received \$5,000 for managing the NRZ funding process for the City of Hartford.

There was a question regarding what will happen to left over funds. The response, If an NRZ decides not to participate or does not spend all the funds within the allotted time, this may be interpreted as an indication that NRZ’s do not need or want funds. This is certainly not so and we don’t want to send that message. There is some guidance on “leftover” money and, when we have more details it will be discussed.

There was also a question about how the funds are meant to be spent by the NRZ’s; this funding was set aside for community engagement in each of the NRZ’s. This includes such things as sending out notices, zoom accounts, etc.; anything that is going to enhance community engagement.

6:45 - 7:15 pm	NRZ Roundtable	NRZ Reps	Sharing of One Key Initiatives and/or Accomplishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has been accomplished? What are the new initiatives? What support do you need? What opportunities are there for NRZ collaboration?
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Notes:.. Lindsay Ewing reported the **West End Civic Association** raised \$1,500 for Interval House to assist with the resettlement of the Afghan family that the West End is welcoming. Those families who arrived last year are settling in well; they have jobs and are learning English. This has been a successful effort. N-95 masks have been distributed via neighborhood social institutions and food pantries. There is a blood drive at the Noah Webster



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			<p>school; go to the American Red Cross website and search for blood drives. If you have any questions about applying for funding, send Lindsay an email at Lindsay.ewing@gmail.com</p> <p>Robin Zaleski, Chair of the South Downtown NRZ, reported that they are applying for one of the Hartford Foundation grants, teaming up with the Center for Latino Progress, the Knox Foundation, and the Institute for Hispanic Families (part of Catholic Charities). The goal is to create a public orchard with shade trees and fruit trees near 55 Elm Street, right across from the Pump House at Bushnell Park. Also, there is an application for a zoning change at city Planning & Zoning to redevelop into apartment buildings where there is now surface parking.</p> <p>Jackie McKinney and David McDonald reported that the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association is awaiting receipt from the city and the state of the final approval of their updated strategic plan. They are planning an event, chaired by Ted Carroll, for June 26.</p> <p>David Morin from Parkville NRZ reported that they just voted for a letter of support for \$50 million for the Parkville arts and innovation grant. The application shows the community benefits and environmental justice benefits of the project. This grant must be matched 4 to 1 by the developers and has to be submitted with details in a short time frame. There are quite a few projects that are shovel ready. We need to support the city of Hartford's efforts to get this grant. Randal Davis, City of Hartford Dept of DDS remarked that it is an innovation grant and that Parkville is a transformative area. So, it's a natural place for which to submit a grant. There are multiple players involved; there's an economic development team because realizing the vision will be a heavy lift. There is a very short turnaround time, so they hired a consultant because this is a big opportunity. One of the big things about this grant is that the projects must be shovel ready. But this meets the reality in Parkville, because work is getting done already and the developers are already involved. "We are ready and poised for this undertaking. Many thanks to DDS for their help." He added that Parkville NRZ is not a 501(c)(3); they don't need to be because they do a lot of collaboration.</p> <p>Mary Falvey reported that the Hartford Preservation Alliance released their list of most threatened buildings on Valentine's Day. HPA received a great response from various neighborhoods, including in Clay-Arsenal, Barry Square (the 20 Clifford Street old St. Augustine's School), and Parkville (152 and 154 Francis Street). There will be two public meetings next week. Planning & Zoning is at 6 pm on Tuesday and their agenda includes an application for a food truck park at 510 Farmington Avenue. This food truck park is a wonderful use of vacant space in the neighborhood. And at 7 pm The Common Council will consider the mayor's resolution of 16 properties going to Hartford Land Bank.</p> <p>Eileen Noonan reported that Southwest/Behind the Rocks NRZ is involved in the work on the South Branch of the Park River trail. Many participants spoke up and remarked that the various branches of the Park River go through several NRZ's so there is strength in numbers by combining with Parkville, Asylum Hill, and West End NRZ's and getting in touch with Mary Pelletier who has also worked on Park River projects.</p>	



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<p>At-Large Board Member Jeff Stewart reported that the DEEP will be resuming water activities at Keney Park; boating and other activities will be starting up when the weather permits. DPW is looking at what capital improvements are needed in that park.</p> <p>City of Hartford Board Member Randall Davis (DD) reported that there will be a presentation to the council about all the initiatives underway under the aegis of DDS. There will also be a presentation to the Blue Hills NRZ on March 7. People should know that DDS is short-handed; there are staff 22 vacancies right now.</p> <p>Robin Zaleski mentioned that the post office has a program that allows us to mail postcards to every address, residential or business, along a postal route. This makes it unnecessary to purchase a mailing list.</p> <p>We also welcomed one of our two newest NRZ leaders. Keisha Dickenson, the new Chair of the Upper Albany NRZ. There is a wealth of information among participants in this meeting and newcomers should not hesitate to reach out to other NRZ leaders.</p> <p>A guest provided information on experiences at Hartford Public Library. The HPL representative indicated that the information would be shared with the Library.</p> <p>A guest requested the how to obtain information on all the activities taking place in Hartford. It was suggested that they sign up for the Office of Community Engagement’s newsletter which is issued each Monday.</p>				
7:15 – 7:28 pm	Other items Assessment	ALL	New items for discussion March Meeting Agenda Items	<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? Does anything need to be documented and voted on?
<p>Notes: If people have ideas for the March meeting, please put them in the chat or send them on by email to Marion.</p> <p>Please put as much as you can in the chat or send it in an email.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respectfully submitted, Eileen Noonan</p>				
7:30 pm	Close			

Next Board Meeting: March 17, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL



Mute your audio until you are ready to speak

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 out side 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 speak briefly and to the point.**
- 12. We do not make inflammatory statements or accusations.**
- 13. We work together to adhere to times noted on the agenda.**
- 14. We help each other to stay on topic and on agenda.**
- 15. We enjoy ourselves.**