



Hartford NEXT Virtual Meeting Minutes 3/17/2022

<https://zoom.us/j/98193504161?pwd=dWpKOWx2SnJwZWk0MzdRQ01laHFiQT09>

Meeting ID: 981 9350 4161 Passcode: 131544

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm Community Meeting 7:00 – 7:30 Board Meeting

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 Review of Vision & Values Review Ground Rules 	Introductions Changes/Acceptance of Agenda Protocol for Virtual Meetings
<p>Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm Attendees: Marion Griffin, Chair; Janice Castle, At-Large (City of Hartford); Darlene Childs, Northeast; Elizabeth Davis, At-Large (Hartford Public Library); Lindsay Ewing, Co-Chair, West End Civic Association; Mary Falvey, At-Large (Hartford Preservation Alliance); Violette Haldane, Treasurer, At-Large; Jean Holloway, Vice Chair, Clay Arsenal Revitalization Association; David MacDonald, Executive Director, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association; Chris McArdle, Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood; Jackie McKinney, Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association; Eileen Noonan, Southwest/Behind the Rocks; Bernadine Silvers, Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood; Shirley Surgeon, Upper Albany; Jeffrey Stewart, At-Large; Robin Zaleski, South Downtown; Jack Antonich, Associate Member; Jillian Davey, AmeriCorps Intern. Residents: Ms. Frazier. Guest Speakers: Susan Gunderman and David Lukens</p>				
6:05 – 6:10 pm	Board Business	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Board Minutes Introduction of AmeriCorps Service Member 	Review and Vote Welcome
<p>We reviewed the board minutes from the January and February 2022 meetings. Mary Falvey said that the title of both should be changed to “board minutes,” and also reflect we are meeting virtually. February minutes should note that the meeting time was changed to accommodate the Mayor’s Town Hall. The January minutes were corrected show that Jack Antonich is an associate board member. Jeffrey Stewart moved to approve both sets of the minutes as corrected and Elizabeth Davis seconded the motion. Both sets of minutes with corrections were approved unanimously. There were no abstentions.</p>				
6:10 – 6:15 pm	Guest	Susan Gunderman	Hartford’s Neighborhood Ambassadors Program	
<p>Susan Gunderman, Re-Entry Services Specialist, City of Hartford, and Stephen Haynes, MSW, Director of the Working Man’s Center & Open Hearth Works at The Open Hearth gave a presentation on Hartford’s Neighborhood Ambassadors Program. The objective is to provide job training and wraparound services for formerly incarcerated Hartford residents. The program creates a structured process to support job training that provides 6 months of 25 hours-per-week work at just above minimum wage and leading to full-time employment. The work will be focused on such areas as</p>				



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<p>neighborhood beautification and services to small businesses in areas where business district taxes are not feasible. The Welcome Center is responsible for making referrals to the Program. Open Hearth will help identify the specific skills that should be taught and how to develop these skills via on-the-job training. Instruction in resume writing, mental health assessments, certifications and other pre-employment tasks will also be covered. Ms. Gunderman thanked Janice Castle for her work in providing the engagement piece for the project.</p>				
6:15-6:25 pm	Guest	David Lukens	Broadband Mapping Study	Equitable access to Broadband What does this mean for Hartford? What can we do to help Hartford residents and businesses obtain better access to internet services
<p>David Lukens, Broadband Mapping Coordinator, GIS/State of Connecticut's Office of Policy Management (OPM), discussed on the Act for Equitable Access to Broadband. By state law, all Connecticut residents are entitled to access to good quality broadband. His task is to survey Hartford residents, beginning with the Hartford NRZ leaders to determine areas where internet connection is problematic. Mr. Lukens is asking that the survey, which can be found at the link https://arcg.is/9DnLn, be made available to as many local stakeholders as possible to uncover where there are significant gaps in service.</p> <p>Attendees identified area such as Sheldon/Charter Oak NRZ and the Northeast NRZ neighborhoods where high speed internet connection is bad or even unavailable. In the Clay Arsenal NRZ, there are entire neighborhoods without internet service. These issues have been reported multiple times but without a response. In Hartford, there are places where older buildings need to be rewired and also where, in general, affordability is a big issue. Mr. Lukens understood and agreed and offered that the state can help with these things. He said we need to document the places where coverage is poor or doesn't exist. There are funds available from the American Rescue Act to assist.</p> <p>Marion Griffin emphasized that it is essential to report these things to the state via this survey. Lindsay Ewing asked what the plan was once the state has this survey information. Dave Lukens said that it will be passed on to DEEP who manages the grants. The state wants to use this opportunity to get rural and urban internet development done. They want to effect curb to home connection. Jack Antonich asked whether this survey can be posted by the NRZ's on appropriate social media and David Lukens agreed that would be a good way to get the survey to as many people as possible. The link to the survey is in the chat.</p>				
6:25 – 6:30 pm	Standing Committee Reports	Committees	<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?



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<p>Jack Antonich said that there is nothing to report from the Programs Committee. Mary Falvey said that there was no meeting of the Communications and Marketing Committee and, so, nothing to report now. Jeff Stewart reported that there has been work by the Governance Committee on the revisions to the bylaws and to expect that he will be reporting at the next meeting on the first bylaws changes.</p>				
6:30–6:35 pm	HNXT 2022	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's Your City! Public Safety 3/19/2022 Annual Meeting June 16th HNXT 25th Anniversary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can I do to support HNXT Programs What can I do to make 2022 a successful year? What support do we need to help NRZs? Who will lead?
<p>Marion Griffin reported that because of competing events on March 19, the “It’s Your City” webinar did not take place and will be rescheduled. Also that the Hartford NEXT Annual Meeting will take place in June.</p> <p>Marion Griffin reminded all NRZ’s that all paperwork must be submitted by the second week in July in order for an NRZ to be reimbursed from the City of Hartford community engagement grant money.</p>				
6:35 - 6:55 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?
<p>Robin Zaleski (SODO) reported that the NRZ, the Center for Latino Progress, and the Knox Foundation have submitted an application for planting shade and fruit trees on a vacant lot on Hudson Street. It is intended that these be public harvest fruit trees.</p> <p>Lindsay Ewing (West End NRZ) reported that the plans for a food truck court on Farmington Avenue is kicking off at the end of April. They have had lots of discussion in the neighborhood about this. There will be outdoor seating and rotating food trucks. The West End NRZ is also working with Asylum Hill on events in June.</p> <p>David MacDonald reported that the Asylum Hill NRZ has done some reformatting of their updated strategic plan, it has been okayed by the state and will be going next to the City Council. He also reported that Asylum Hill and West End NRZ’s are working together for the DominGO! on June 25.</p> <p>Janice Castle, thanked the NRZ’s that submitted “Love Your Block” ideas; they will be finalizing the reviews of these tomorrow. They are also wrapping up the voting on artists who wish to work on the beautification along the Albany Avenue corridor.</p> <p>Chris McArdle reported that the Sheldon/Charter Oak NRZ just had a reorganization and they have a new executive committee. He asked Janice Castle whether there is a calendar of annual or more</p>				



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				<p>frequent grants and funding opportunities available for the NRZ's. Janice responded that there really are no guaranteed scheduled grants. She applies for grants and then lets the NRZ's know about them.</p> <p>Eileen Noonan reported that the SW/BTR NRZ would like to be in touch with any NRZ's who are interested in pooling some of their city council grant for the purpose of sharing a part-time administrative person. Also, they have asked the City Tax Assessor to come up with a communication to residents that is a comparison of various scenarios of real estate taxes dependent upon the old and new assessments and the possible mill rates. If other NRZ's are interested in joining either of these efforts, they should email Eileen at eanoonan@me.com.</p> <p>Marion then spoke about the progress on updating strategic plans. There are consultants contracted by the city and available through Planning and Zoning to help the NRZ's. They are doing strategic plans for about 3 NRZ's each year. This year it is the Northeast, Asylum Hill and Frog Hollow NRZ's.</p> <p>Marion was also asked about the status of our search for a new web platform. She responded that we are going to be working with Catchafire — Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is giving us that opportunity. They will be doing a content audit and then a redesign of our website. City Council funding could possibly be used for the website. There will be a page for each NRZ on the new Hartford NEXT website. Marion will be in touch with NRZ chairs about the particulars of the Catchafire design. The NRZ's can work directly with Catchafire or, once we have it in hand, with Hartford NEXT.</p> <p>There was a question as to whether the Polish National Home is on the Hartford Preservation Alliance list of endangered buildings. Mary Falvey responded that it is not on this year's list but it is individually listed on the National Register.</p> <p>Elizabeth Davis reported for the Hartford Public Library. Masks are now optional at the library. There is more action downtown and at the branches. The "Jazz on Sundays" maximum audience has been increased to 75. There is broadband and internet access at the libraries and one-on-one technical assistance.</p> <p>Shirley Surgeon reported for the Upper Albany NRZ. They, too, are going through a change in leadership this month and are in process of reorganizing themselves.</p> <p>This concluded the public portion of the meeting; then began the executive session with the NRZ representatives and At Large members.</p> <p>Marion announced that Jillian Davey, the new AmeriCorps intern started working last week. She has begun attending NRZ meetings and should have gotten around to all of them by the end of May.</p>
6:55 – 7:00 pm	Community Meeting Close			



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7:00 – 7:28 pm	HNXT Board Meeting		Board Business	
7:30 pm	Close			

Next Meeting: April 14, 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 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.**