



Notes Hartford Next - October 19, 2023 Board Meeting Virtual Meeting

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Mission: To be a collective voice of Hartford residents and stakeholders working to strengthen and grow our community.

Board Members Attending:

Marion Griffin, Chair	Mary Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance	Jeffrey Stewart, At-Large
Janice Castle, City of Hartford	Bea Powell, Chair, Clay Arsenal	Frank Sentner, SoDo
Mary Pelletier, WECA	Cheryl Zeiner, Director, CSSCON	Marcus Ordonez, Frog Hollow
Lindsey Ewing, Director, WECA	Violette Haldane, Treasurer	Emely Lugo, South End
Janice McMahon, Asylum Hill	Charles Teale, Northeast	Keisha Dickenson, President, Upper Albany
Cindy Fenton, MARG	Jean Holloway, Clay Arsenal	Randal Davis, City of Hartford

Associate Members

Sibongile Magubane,	Jack Antonich,	
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Board Members Not Attending:

Chris McArdle, President, CSSCON	David Morin, President, Parkville	Nikki Wright, Blue Hills
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Stakeholders:

Aleena Durant, GOTV Coordinator, Hartford Next		
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Time (est.)	Agenda Item	Facilitator Presenter	Purpose/Actor	Activity/Essential Questions
6:00 pm	Welcome	Board Chair	Call to Order	
The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. Chair Marion Griffin welcomed attendees and requested that Jeffrey Stewart read the protocol for the meeting.				
6:00 – 6:05 pm	Meeting Protocol & Introductions	Jeffrey Stewart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNXT Board Meeting Protocol • What should we know • HNXT Purpose • Review of Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices for meeting participation • Add your organization to your Zoom name • HNXT Purpose
The meeting protocol was read by Jeffrey Stewart. Marion reminded attendees of organization’s purpose and reviewed the agenda.				
6:05 – 6:15 pm	Board Business	Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of September Board minutes • Election of new board member • Treasurer’s Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on Board Minutes
<p>Approval of September Board minutes Marion asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Janice Castle, seconded by Charles Teale. Frank Sentner</p>				

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and Jeanine McMahon abstained. No changes or questions. The September minutes were approved.

Election of New Board Members

Mary Pelletier and Bongi Magubane are switching roles; Bongi will be the board member from WECA and Mary will become an Associate Member. Bongi will also become co-chair of the Program Committee with Jack Antonich. Mary Pelletier will take the lead on an adhoc committee on Environmental Justice. Once the committee is approved, Mary will work with the Governance Committee to plan next steps.

Move to change Mary Pelletier to Associate member. Motion to accept was made by Jeffrey Stewart and seconded by Charles Teale. No questions. No abstentions. No opposition. Unanimous decision.

Motion for Bongi Magubane to be the WECA Representative made by Jeffrey Stewart, seconded by Charles Teale. No questions. No abstentions. No opposition. Unanimous decision.

Motion by Jeffrey Stewart that Bongi Magubane be the co-chair of the Program Committee. Seconded by Charles Teale. Discussion about the process of transition; Bongi and Jack will serve together for a couple of months after which Jack will transition out of the co-chair position and will continue to be a member of the committee.

After the discussion, the motion to have Bongi as co-chair of the Program Committee with Jack Antonich. No abstentions. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

The report was moved to November.

6:15 – 6:20 pm	Board Announcements	Marion Aleena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNXT Office • Get Out to Vote • NRZ specific voting results flyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need 1-2 volunteers to hang pictures • GOTV Opportunities
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Marion asked for volunteers to decorate the new office by hanging pictures. Frank Sentner and Janine McMahon volunteered to assist Marion.

Get Out The Vote – Youth Event

Aleena Durant provided an update about the youth-focused candidate forum on Saturday, October 28 from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Aleena asked everyone to distribute flyers to friends, neighbors and especially young people age 17+.

Aleena described the various tools that will be available and topics that will be discussed. The low voter turnout rate was discussed. Marion will send out a toolkit and asked meeting attendees to keep a count of their activities: pledges, surveys, and anyone registered to vote.

There was discussion about the difficulty of reaching residents who live in apartments. Mary Falvey suggested finding out who manages the buildings and asking for information to be added to newsletters or other resident portals.

Marion shared a flyer designed for each NRZ showing the voting results from the 2019 mayoral election; numbers are low. She encouraged attendees to get creative using postcards or video to deliver the message about voting.

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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 walked attendees through the layout of the website and pointed out important improvements such as the ability to select from 5 languages. Mary asked NRZs to provide high-resolution logos and pictures of activities from events in their areas to add to their individual pages. The goal is for the website to be live by mid-November after the elections</p>				
6:30 – 6:50 pm	NRZ Roundtable	NRZ Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform all of NRZs Activities • Encourage cross NRZ engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is happening in your NRZ? • What support does your NRZ need? • How can we partner?
<p>Northeast – Charles Teale Charles Teale gave an update on recent presentations at the NRZ by MDC, the Hartford Police Department, the City of Hartford, Riverfront Recapture, and the Hartford Library. He gave a brief overview and history of the combination of waste water and storm water and the attempts to mitigate the problems. Charles also gave an update about the pathway that will extend from Hartford into Windsor. The final presentation he mentioned was given by the Hartford Library about the Barbour Street branch.</p> <p>SoDo – Frank Sentner SoDo is working with the Red Cross to schedule a blood drive. They need enough volunteers to make it worthwhile. There is a link on the SoDo website to sign up. Ideally, they would like to have the blood drive in early December. Saturday, October 21 there is a neighborhood clean-up part of the Love Hartford initiative. The NRZ is working on its strategic plan and are hoping promised assistance from city planners will materialize. The SoDo Progressive Dinner is postponed until 2024.</p> <p>WECA – Lindsey Ewing The date for the WECA Progressive Dinner is March 2, 2024; it's the 18th year for the event. They are working to fill vacant board positions and have prioritized community outreach in their neighborhood. They're developing a flyer that can be left at apartment buildings. They worked with Hartford Next and assembled a Western Business Inventory. They are also working to plan a fundraiser by the end of the year. Also, looking into the tree ordinance because trees in Elizabeth Park have been cut down. Lastly, WECA is having a blood drive in April 2024.</p> <p>Clay Arsenal – Jeffrey Stewart Senator John Fonfara approached the NRZ and other organizations about recently passed legislation to develop Community Development Corporations. CDCs help with economic development and the legislation was aimed at specific areas including Clay Arsenal. Senator Fonfara recommended they apply for one. The NRZ was able to get assistance from the San Juan Center and Maria Sanchez Fund for a lawyer to create a CDC and they now have to get federal approval. They plan to mirror CT Statutes and work on blighted properties in the area. Jeffrey wanted to make the information available to other NRZs who may want to create a CDC.</p> <p>City of Hartford – Janice Castle A rent licensing program that impacts NRZs was passed by the mayor and city council. It requires property owners with 40 or more units to register with the city by October. The program calls for inspections by the Planning and Zoning Dept., Fire Department, Building Department, and Housing to make sure residents have quality, safe homes. Failure to comply with the registration will be a \$1,000 fine. If they don't register, an additional fine of \$100 per unit per day will be levied. Janice announced that the new Resident's Guide is available and provided additional information about city activities including leaf pick-up, the party in Pope Park, and the Halloween Party</p>				

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at City Hall.

Asylum Hill – Janine McMahon

In November, Janine will assume the role of Chair at the NRZ. Their annual gala on October 18th was a success. Janine gave updates on recent events and upcoming plans. They’ve discussed a monthly clean-up and the possibility of a Get Out The Vote campaign of their own, perhaps a Tic Tok challenge to reach out to younger voters. They are working with Food Share to plan a turkey giveaway around Thanksgiving. They are planning caroling in Sigourney Street Park in December.

CSSCON – Cheryl Zeiner

The proposed dog park at Barnard Park has been an important focus for the NRZ. They are hoping to collaborate with SoDo and Frog Hollow to voice their displeasure with the plan. Janice remarked the issue is not being actively discussed. While the issue is on hold, CSSCON is coming up with alternative uses for the space.

Hartford Preservation Alliance – Mary Falvey

Mary asked all NRZs to send her a list of endangered properties or spaces that are important to their neighborhood. She is compiling the 2024 Endangered List. They will not release the names of all the properties so they can work strategically with some owners.

Park Watershed – Mary Pelletier

Mary provided an update about the work Park Watershed is doing with MDC and its impact on the North and South branches of the Connecticut River and Gully Brook.

MARG – Cindy Fenton

At MARG’s October meeting, there was a long presentation and discussion with the chief of police where he outlined solutions to the staff shortage. CSOs will rotate to different areas of the city and officers with desk jobs will serve part of their shifts in the streets. HPD is working on a national accreditation. There is a neighborhood clean-up for Love Hartford on Saturday; they will also be in Pope Park. Their annual meet and greet is on December 21.

Frog Hollow – Marcus Orodenez

Frog Hollow is cleaning Zion Hill Cemetery this Saturday combined with a Dia de los Muertos celebration. From 11:30 am to 1:00 pm there will be food, crafts, a mariachi band, and altars where people can bring photos of their loved ones.

Upper Albany – Keisha Dickenson

The main focus for Upper Albany is the development of the old Salvation Army building off Homestead Avenue. They met with attorneys from the Prosperity Foundation to discuss. At Upper Albany’s October meeting, I Charles Mathews also gave an update on a project on Woodland Street and Albany Avenue which is currently an empty lot. The plan is for a mixed-use building that includes a sit-down restaurant and a bank.

Ascend Pipeline – Charles Teale

Charles told attendees that over \$60 million in federal and other funding was going to be used to establish “promise neighborhoods.” The plan is to develop 17 different organizations around the city. More information is available on the Ascend Pipeline website.

6:50 – 7:20 pm	NRZ Community Engagement Survey	Marion	Follow up from April 22, 2023 Community Engagement Workshop	What has been implemented? What have been the results? What additional support is needed?
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	<p>NSP Workshop Telling Your Story</p> <p>HNXT Updates</p>	<p>Kim</p> <p>Committee Report Chairs/Reps</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for Funding</p> <p>Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Committee • Communications & Marketing Committee • Development Committee • Program Committee 	<p>How can we tell our story to promote the NRZs?</p> <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>Marion refreshed everyone’s memories about the purpose of the Community Engagement workshop in April and asked that each NRZ fill out the survey she recently emailed. The purpose of the survey is to identify ways Hartford Next can be supportive of each NRZ and help with outreach. The questions on the survey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you done or what have you planned? • What have you implemented? If implemented, what was the outcome? • Were you able to achieve your goals? • What assistance do you need to continue to implement for future engagements and activities? <p>The results from the survey will be the beginning point for the Program Committee to use when putting together new trainings.</p> <p>Marion also reminded attendees about options for outreach such as postcards, video shorts, bulk mail, photo voice, etc. There is a need to educate city residents about what function NRZs perform and what they are. Hartford Next is working on training and resources to help NRZs with community outreach.</p> <p>Marion briefly described the storytelling workshop attended by Kim Gauthier and will send the summary and notes to everyone after the meeting. Workshops are sponsored by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and there is one coming up about being on a board that might be of interest.</p> <p>Marion noted that volunteers are needed for the governance, finance, program, and development committees. Anyone can volunteer; they don’t have to be a member of an NRZ or of Hartford Next to join a committee. She asked that the information be circulated to friends, family, etc. Names can also be forwarded to Marion. There was discussion about forming additional committees including an ad hoc committee. The topic will be continued at the November meeting.</p>				
<p>7:20 – 7:28 pm</p>	<p>Follow up and Assessment</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Continuous Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did we miss discussing today? • Does anything need to be documented and voted on? • How am I doing as a Board Member? • What went well? What did not go well? What needs to change? •
<p>No comments</p>				

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7:30 pm	Close			
Marion called for any other comments. Having none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.				

Objectives, Actions, & Decisions:			
Objectives	Action Steps	Accountability	Timeline
Outstanding Items			
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???

Submitted by Kim Gauthier, Hartford Next

Approved by _____ Date _____

DRAFT

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.**