

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MEMORIAL BOULEVARD TASK FORCE
CITY HALL, 111 NORTH MAIN STREET
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
111 NORTH MAIN STREET
7:00 p.m.**

ATTENDEES: Chairperson Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Commissioner James Albert
Commissioner Peter Del Mastro
Commissioner Paul Murdock
Commissioner David Mills
Commissioner Janet Williams
Commissioner Frank Stawski

ABSENT: Commissioner Cheryl Thibeault
Commissioner John Soares

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairwoman Zoppo-Sassu called the Thursday, February 19, 2015 Special Meeting of the Memorial Boulevard Task Force to order at 7:15 p.m.

Cheryl Barb, 52 Belleden Gardens requested that when the Committee submits its report, that they include the benefit the surrounding trees contributes to energy efficiency.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

IT was MOVED by Commissioner Mills **and SECONDED** by Commissioner Stawski **to accept the February 12, 2015 meeting minutes.**

ITEM #3 – SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Mills reported that 3 events have been scheduled for the theater: April 11th at 7:30, Tribute to Queen, April 19th at 1:30, the Whiffenpoofs and May 4th the Bristol Brass and Wind Ensemble. The Sub-Committee will continue to work on obtaining events for the theater.

Commissioner Albert stated the Committee recently met this week and updated the Use Case Survey that was drafted in July/August 2014 (a copy of which is attached hereto). They discussed getting rid of the pool all together and making that a staging room for the performers. They also added a line item to the Use Case Estimates which include the gym and mezzanine. The Committee feels that this can be utilized as a black box theater or rented out. They also discussed utilizing the library as open event space rather than rentable space.

Commissioner Del Mastro discussed the model of the ten year projection that he and Commissioner Thibeault are working on. They need to obtain final numbers from all the sub groups to be able to finalize a report for the City Council meeting.

Chairwoman Zoppo-Sassu stated their sub-group discussed the organizational structure and thought the Palace Theater would be the best model to work off of because they had municipal involvement from the City of Waterbury and they phased out the theater over 10-15 years.

Chairwoman Zoppo-Sassu stated she discussed the fluidity of the report with Anwar as well as the costs. He gave her a draft report which stated that the City should start with renovating the theater. Phase I would include the elevator which is the ADA link to the building and the electrical and mechanical systems on the first floor. (electrical, heating and cooling and plumbing). The Committee members each gave their opinion on Anwar's draft report and were in agreement of his assessment. They also agreed that public safety is also a first priority.

Councilwoman Fortier, 163 Goodwin Street stated that she suggested at the last City Council meeting that the funds we receive from the closing of Bingham and O'Connell Schools be ear marked for the renovations of Memorial Boulevard School. This will be going before the next Board of Finance Committee and she asked that the Committee members attend the meeting to show their support. Chairwoman Zoppo-Sassu asked Noelle Bates, Corporation Counsel's Office the status of the closings. Noelle stated that their office was still in contract negotiations with Park Lane Group.

The Committee discussed scheduling another clean up prior to the next round of events that have been scheduled. Commissioner Mills stated that maintenance of the elevator was scheduled for next week. Roger Rousseau will make sure the crew gives it a thorough inspection due to the events that have been scheduled.

The Committee then discussed options for fundraising and suggested featuring Memorial Boulevard School on the Scott Haney show and the Nyberg Report. Members of the public knew the hosts of these shows personally and would inquire about conducting a segment.

ITEM #4 – NEW BUSINESS BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

No discussion.

ITEM #5 – NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 in Council Chambers.

ITEM #6 - ADJOURNMENT

IT was MOVED by Commissioner Mills **and SECONDED** by Commissioner Stawski **to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.**, and it was unanimously approved.

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chairperson
Memorial Boulevard Task Force

cc: Commission Members
City Council Members
Kenneth B. Cockayne, Mayor