

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at the Meeting Room, C.H. Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

These Minutes are subject to the approval of the Fairfield Hills Authority.

Present: Jim Bernardi, Michael Holmes, Ross Carley, Renata Adler, Thomas Connors and Andy Willie.

Absent: John Madzula

Also Present: Elizabeth Stocker, Director of Economic and Community Development; Bruce Herring, Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association.

Jim Bernardi called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Participation:

Bruce Herring, NVAA: The ground breaking ceremony for the NVAA is scheduled for July 29, 2013 at 6:00 PM. Members were invited.

Steve Singlak, Everwonder (everwonder) Children's Museum: **Steve Singlak** reported that an advisory board has been created for the museum. The next steps for the Children's Museum are 1) a feasibility study to see if the \$10 – 12 million dollars necessary for the project will be able to be raised; and 2) Museum Planning.

Renata Adler asked how the museum would pay for ongoing expenses. **Mr. Singlak** explained that fundraising efforts include the first year of operating expenses as well as the fact that the design of the museum includes a play space to bring in revenue. **Thomas Connors** asked for clarification from **Ms. Adler** that what she was asking was if the museum could self-fund. **Ms. Adler** also stated her concerns regarding the museum logo.

Acceptance of the Minutes: **Thomas Connors** motioned to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2013 regular meeting. **Ross Carley** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report:

- Upcoming events were discussed including a Big Time Rush Concert on July 22 and the Great Newtown Reunion on July 27. A jack o' lantern event is possible for October.
- Tree pruning will take place in the future on the Fairfield Hills campus.

Director of Economic and Community Development's Report (Elizabeth Stocker):

- Cleanup Grant – Project is on schedule. An approval is needed from the Connecticut Historic Office. A meeting scheduled
- Parent Connection – **Ms. Stocker** stated that they are awaiting financials from the organization.

- Other -
 - Streetscape work continues on campus.
 - DPW, Land Use, Engineering and Ms. Stocker met and there are trees available for planting on campus.
 - There is an inquiry from a national not-for-profit organization regarding the potential of using the campus for their organization. There is also a request from an international for profit college. Representatives from the college may tour the campus in August.

Old Business:

- Heroes Village: **Ross Carley** reported on the FHA Planning Committee meeting held July 9. Mr. Carley explained the Heroes Village concept as being potentially two phases:
 - 1) Build a restaurant in Stratford Hall;
 - 2) Build a hydroponic greenhouse on the site of Norwalk Hall. Plans are now to take down Norwalk Hall for the greenhouse instead of Stamford Hall since after walking through Norwalk and Stamford Halls, it was determined that Norwalk Hall was in worse shape.
 These projects could be done in this order or simultaneously.

Michael Holmes stated that there was discussion at the July 9 FHA Planning Committee meeting. **Mr. Holmes** stated that the Letter of Intent from Heroes Villages had not been accepted and that the committee is waiting for the developer to provide requested detail. **Renata Adler** stated that she did not think that the system for campus development request approvals works, and that it should be changed. **Ms. Adler** also noted her strong displeasure with the Heroes Village letter of intent. Discussion regarding the process ensued. **Jim Bernardi** reiterated the approval process and stated that the job of the FHA is to send requests onto other boards for further approval if they meet criteria as set forth in the Fairfield Hills Master Plan. **Mr. Bernardi** stated that even in the hypothetical situation of the FHA not liking a request, if it were to meet the FH Master Plan requirements, it should be sent onto the elected officials for their review.

Thomas Connors asked Ms. Adler what her vision was for Fairfield Hills. **Ms. Adler** stated that it should be a place for people to walk that is pretty with fresh air. She further stated that projects should be appropriate and high level, as well as attractive in look, not just conform to a plan.

Ross Carley motioned to reserve for six months, the parcels commonly known as Stratford and Norwalk Halls and their immediate environs for purposes of negotiations with Heroes Village. **Thomas Connors** seconded the motion. The motion passed with **Michael Holmes, Jim Bernardi, Andrew Willie, Thomas Connors and Ross Carley** voting in favor. **Renata Adler** abstained from the vote.

- The Fairfield Hills Authority budget was discussed.

Ross Carley motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Jim Bernardi** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.