

MINUTES OF NORWICH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING  
June 15, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Timothy Smith  
Anthony Jacobs  
Tom Marien  
Leland Loose  
Soffee Noblick  
Carol Maranda  
Irv Weber

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rabbi Arian  
Marge Blizard

OTHERS PRESENT

Konnie Morell, Attorney  
Claire Bessett, New London Day

- I. Call to Order – Chairman T. Marien called the June 15, 2009 meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Determination of Quorum  
It was determined a quorum was present.
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a) **Minutes of the meeting April 27, 2009**-Motion to accept T. Marien, 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Jacobs, motion passed. I. Weber abstained.
- IV. Correspondence

None

V. Unfinished Business

**a) Update for 26 Shipping Street Clean-up**

Review of the letter awarding clean-up bid #7175 to Stamford Wrecking Company and project bid schedule.

**b) Review of Potential Consultants for RDA**

**c) Redevelopment Plan for Shipping Street Area**

T. Marien suggested discussing above 2 items and new business item together as they all relate.

City Council is now discussing doing a big plan for the entire City which includes waterfront area hence the Monti presentation at the last Council meeting. T. Marien thinks that it does not make sense to continue to develop a plan for the Shipping Street area if the Council is going to pursue developing a comprehensive plan for the entire City and agrees that the Council should be developing a direction for the City and be willing to make the hard decisions i.e., spending money and taking property by eminent domain to make things happen.

T. Marien asked for comment from the members.

L. Loose commented that the majority of the land is not City owned and development direction should be directed by property owners.

T. Marien agrees that a plan is needed and property owners need to be agreeable to selling at a reasonable price for land that is virtually worthless due to environmental issues, railroad ROW issues, etc. He doesn't feel that the RDA should go in one direction if the City is going in another.

T. Smith felt the Renaissance presentation did not show any end results, just ideas. T. Smith questioned why this agency exists.

I. Weber stated that the problem with the RDA is that there is no follow thru. There has been argument about whether the RDA should be pro-active or re-active. Originally the RDA was much more pro-active and put things together and put things in motion.

Discussion followed on eminent domain.

T. Marien stated that the RDA was formed to do the West Side project. They had staff, an executive director and funding that for the most part came from HUD. The City acquired the property for that project either by purchase or eminent domain.

I. Weber felt that the RDA is now held back by political issues and the Council does not use the RDA in the proper way.

T. Smith feels frustrated that the RDA's time, work and ideas are not appreciated, especially when the presentation made to the Council was along the same lines as what the RDA has been trying to accomplish. The RDA is equipped to assemble properties, apply for funding, carry out a plan then hand it off to the re-developer. It has to be consistent with any plan the City has.

T. Marien feels that if the real issues are not addressed, which are; Are you going to assemble the land and are you going to put money behind it? then the plan will not work. He suggests that the Agency write a letter to the City Council endorsing a plan being developed and implemented and the RDA will continue with their plans for Shipping Street as long as both are not contradictory to each other. Agency members agreed that T. Marien should write this letter.

VI. New Business

**a. Renaissance Downtowns LLC Proposal to City Council**

Discussed in conjunction with old business, see above.

VII. Citizen Comment

None

VIII. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn S. Noblick, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Smith,  
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p. m.