

MINUTES OF THE NORWICH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
October 26, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Timothy Smith
Carol Maranda
Leland Loose
Anthony Jacobs
Marge Blizard
Tom Marien
Irv Weber

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sofee Noblick

OTHERS PRESENT

Konnie Morell

- I. Call to order – Chairman T. Marien called the meeting to October 26, 2009 meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- II. Determination of Quorum
It was determined a quorum was present.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the meeting September 28, 2009 –Correction under unfinished business, item c – Irv Weber should be replaced with Anthony Jacobs as person making motion. Motion to accept with correction, T. Smith, 2nd L. Loose. Motion carried with M. Blizard and I. Weber abstaining due to absence at last meeting.
- IV. Correspondence

None
- V. Unfinished Business
 - a. Update on 26 Shipping Street – the clean up is almost complete, funds almost expended. Can come off agenda if complete. T. Marien to confirm with Assistant City Manager, Jennifer Gottlieb.

VI. New Business

C. Maranda made a motion to amend the agenda under new business to discuss topic below, L. Loose 2nd, Motion carried unanimously.

- a. NCDC has been working towards creating an economic development plan. T. Marien passed out graphs and statistics which he received at the NCDC meeting showing grand list per capita other statistics regarding employers in which Norwich appears last. He also distributed a matrix developed by NCDC to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all the different entities. The information to complete this matrix will be gathered from a survey distributed by the NCDC. Discussion followed.

The last two meeting discussed goals. T. Marien has attended last two meetings. At last meeting goal appeared to be to have a legitimate economic development piece as part of City plan.

M. Blizard commented that many of the largest employers are essentially part time.

T. Marien stated that they will be refining these statistics to account for this discrepancy and others.

L. Loose felt that a statistic that showed jobs vs. residents would be helpful. He questioned the intent of this information.

T. Marien will bring back more information from these meetings as it becomes available. The goal is to have a more specific effort and to prioritize. He asked for input in completing the survey. The survey was began as a group and discussion followed:

The definition of blight was discussed and how it relates to the RDA's role as defined by the establishing ordinance/statute. The role of the RDA was discussed – economic development vs. addressing blight.

I. Weber felt that the main goal of the RDA is re-vitalization, not only addressing blight and feels that re-development plans should come from the RDA and not diluted amongst many agencies doing the exact same thing.

T. Marien feels there has been no leadership for many years now and leadership needs to come from the top as to the direction of development in the City.

T. Smith questioned that the Norwich State Hospital property is blighted and yet is not under the RDA's jurisdiction.

Page 4 of the survey was discussed and the RDA's main objective was debated. M. Blizard left at 6:20 p.m.

L. Loose asked about developing the state hospital property and felt that the City needed to make the decision about partnering with Preston.

The survey was completed.

Motion to adjourn T. Smith, 2nd A. Jacobs. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.