



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Scott Howland, Carl Jordan, Peter Palmieri, Diane Hoffman, Barbara Schlein, Jack O'Donnell, Sandra Serrano-Alvarado, Dakibu Muley

Commissioners Absent: Charlene Webb, Marietta Mattei

Others in Attendance: Pam Roach, Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of October 18, 2010 Sandy/

Add to Page 2, The Commission sent a thank you note to Curt Leng for attending the Commission's September meeting and providing the Commission with answers to prepared questions and other information.

Page 2, last sentence change pastor's name to George Manukas

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18th as corrected. Ms. Serrano-Alvarado seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

Cleanup

Mr. Howland thanked Commissioners who helped with the Wintergreen Avenue cleanup.

Mr. O'Donnell, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Schlein and Mr. Howland worked with volunteers

from the Dunbar Hill Civic Association and picked up 17 bags of recyclables! Mr. Howland said the last two cleanups have been amazing. Council representative Mike Colaiacovo suggested the Wintergreen Avenue area. Ms. Hoffman said a woman saw them cleaning and called Mr. Colaiacovo and complained that a bunch of idiots were out there cleaning and left all the trash bags behind. Mr. Howland said this was probably one of the best cleanups we had. The three folks from Dunbar Hill Civic also did a great job.

Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that his bulk trash has been out since approximately October 20th, the metal parts are gone, but the rest is still there. Ms. Roach took his address. Mr. Jordan also reported bulk out at Central and Gordon

Status of Replacement Commissioner

A replacement for Mr. Prete has not been chosen to date.

Annual Report

Mr. Howland said Ms. Mattei is not here, but he recalls her saying she would work on the annual report of the Commission. Commission members whose terms have expired should send resumes for reappointment to Ms. Tobin in the Mayor's Office.

Mission Statement

Regarding any changes to the Commission's Mission Statement – Mr. Howland said last month we discussed commitment, focus, etc. If we decide not to do the concerts, we should discuss this with Mayor Jackson. Ms. Roach said that the Solid Waste and Recycling Commission has three people that would be willing to help, but probably not willing to take on a whole cleanup. They also have a former member who might help. Ms. Schlein felt we should sponsor one cleanup and let others do the remaining concerts. Do we do one, or do we do them all and ask for help. Mr. Howland has a different view. Two years ago we had some real concerns. We met with Ms. Coleman, and now he feels it is a 50/50 situation, and he didn't feel the Commission has been exploited. Ms. Hoffman agrees. She also feels the Commission should do more to publicize itself. Perhaps we should take better advantage of Earth Day, etc.

Mr. O'Donnell said he had a commitment, and would be willing to do all of the concert cleanups, but he had extenuating circumstances and was unable to attend. He feels the concern is that only two or three people turn up each time. The cleanups only last 2 hours, 7:30 to 9:30. Ms. Roach had an email response from Ms. Coleman with the history of the concerts and the cleanups, explaining that the Arts Commissioners are really busy the evening before. The Arts Commission is a very active group, sponsoring many events throughout the year in addition to the summer concerts.

This is an 11 member Commission. Mr. Muley, speaking for himself, said he had tried for a couple of years to get on a commission, and this was assigned to him. It isn't something that he asked for. He grew a little concerned about the issues of commitment and he tries to participate as much as possible. He struggles in the summer and when you see him, he is usually with his son. He feels it is burdensome at times. He does a lot of volunteer work through his fraternity, through his job, etc.

Ms. Serrano-Alvarado added that her son is out of school only in July and August. She doesn't mind doing the cleanups, but it takes away from the special times with her son. She thinks as part of the Clean & Green Commission, she is committed to doing the cleanups.

Ms. Hoffman agrees that it is a big commitment Concert cleanups, regular cleanups, Earth Day participation, Brooksvale Day, etc.

Discussion followed: Mr. Muley said perhaps we can do two concert cleanups, and ½ of the commissioners could do one and the rest do the other, and you would only have to do one week. Mr. Muley said his fraternity will co-sponsor the June cleanup. Mr. Howland said Quinnipiac will sponsor the April event, and the Dunbar Hill United Church of Christ will sponsor May.

Commissioners voted on whether to keep the concerts as they are now, with the Commission doing cleanups after all four, or taking just some of the concerts. Commissioners voted 5 in favor of keeping all four concert cleanups and 3 do only some of them.

The Commission will ask the members of the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission to help at the cleanups.

Ms. Hoffman feels we should really look at our mission statement. It really doesn't say much about cleaning up. She also mentioned that the Commission should follow up on the blighted property addresses we got. Earth Day is the education part of the mission statement.

Ms. Schlein said the Hamden Land Trust is running a wild yard project, and they look for public or private properties in Hamden that use native plants and are organic. She had her picture in the Chronicle with her garden. She feels we should publicize the green aspect of the Commission.

4. New Business

Miss Hoffman would like to nominate the area for rest and prayer along the Canal Trail for this year's public space Orchid Award. Mr. Jordan said the person that did that did a lot of work for the community.

Ms. Schlein brought up Café Amici for the business award. Miss Hoffman said there were some business on Dixwell Avenue also, so she thinks we should think about that more.

Mr. Hoffman Diane was hoping we could divide up the responsibilities for Earth Day. We have the Orchid Award, the Scavenger Hunt and we have to man the table. She felt there should be subcommittees for these three items. Ms. Roach gets the 12 questions from exhibitors. Ms. Schlein said she will take the scavenger hunt. Ms. Hoffman will bring a breakdown of instructions for each item.

Pickers & Pokers

Mr. Marchand, the Town's Community Development Director has a HUD grant. The funds have to be used in the designated areas of the Dixwell Avenue corridor south of Putnam Avenue, and State Street south of Ridge Road and Davis Street. He will have to provide HUD with before and after pictures. He would like a list of what the Commission needs and he will purchase them. Commissioners would like 11 pickers, 11 pokers, cotton rubberized work gloves (a dozen men's and a dozen women's), heavy black 35 gallon bags, and good quality white bags for recyclables.

Ms. Hoffman mentioned raising money for Clean & Green by selling Eco Tulips (organic bulbs). She will check out the web site.

Ms. Roach thanked Commissioners for coming out to Brooksvale Day. She will look for giveaways for the Commission's table for Earth Day, that will get people's attention.

Mr. Howland said, for January we hopefully will have annual report. Ms. Hoffman will get the information on the Eco-Tulips. April 9th weather permitting is the first cleanup with the volunteers from Quinnipiac. We have a sponsor for May and we will let them pick the May cleanup date. We will do the same for Mr. Muley's fraternity for a June cleanup.

Mr. Muley distributed coupons for a fundraiser for a MLK celebration at a New Haven elementary school. Unos in Orange will donate 20% of each bill if diners use this coupon.

Mr. Howland's term as chair is up in January. He is willing to take on another term, but if someone else wants the job.....

5. Adjournment

Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Muley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk