



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 Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Sandra Serrano Alvarado, Diane Hoffman, Scott Howland, Marietta Mattei, Peter Palmieri, Barbara Schlein, Carl Jordan

Commissioners Excused: Mary Solis, Chad McCulley, Charlene Webb, Agnes Orłowski

Guests: Land Trust President Andy Brand, SCSU Journalism Student

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He expressed sympathy to Ms. Schlein on the loss of her Father.

2. Review Minutes of 1/17/12

Pg 2, 2nd full paragraph, 2nd line, change Ms. Hoffman said to Ms. Schlein said

Ms. Schlein made a motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2012 as corrected.

Ms. Schlein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

April Cleanup - Mr. Howland said he has been getting emails regarding the April cleanup. The cleanup will take place on April 14th as part of Quinnipiac's Big Event. Mr. Howland asked Commissioners for suggestions on the cleanup location/s by our next meeting or via email. Some suggestions were Putnam Avenue, Skiff Street. Ms. Mattei, Ms. Serrano Alvarado, Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Howland will participate.

Earth Day April 21st – Mr. Howland sent in the Commission’s registration. Subcommittees need to be set up. Discussion followed. Ms. Mattei will head up the Orchid Award; Ms. Schlein will work on the Scavenger Hunt, Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Howland will work on the table.

Orchid Award – Borgnine Park was suggested for the civic award. Café Amici, and DJ’s Specialty Liquor at Arch & Fairview were suggested for the business award. Ms. Mattei said not too many businesses in the Arch Street/Fairview Avenue area make much of an effort. The owner of DJ’s Specialty Liquor takes a great deal of pride in his property. Ms. Schlein agreed that positive publicity in that area would be good. Ms. Hoffman also mentioned Hamden Plaza where they have put in nice plantings, boulders, etc., and they have done this year after year. Following a unanimous vote by the Commissioners, the civic award will go to Borgnine Park and the business award will go to DJ’s Specialty Liquor. We can send a letter of commendation to the Hamden Plaza Management.

Technology – Mr. McCulley couldn’t make it tonight but he spoke to Chris Sette of the Technology Commission who told him each Commission will get their own email address and will have more control of their postings on the web.

Home Depot – cleaned up at one point but this is an ongoing issue.

Tree Planting - Mr. Howland, Ms. Mattei and Ms. Roach met with woman from the Urban Resources Institute regarding their tree planting program. It was a very informative meeting and Mr. Howland said what New Haven has been doing is really impressive. They have been involved for 17 years, and last year planted 350 trees. 95% of the trees survive. It costs approx \$300 per tree from purchase to planting, but it all boils down to money. There will be a followup meeting early next month. New Haven budgeted \$300,000 for trees last year. They do pay some people for planting the trees, and UI pays \$150 per tree if they are under the power lines. They also get free labor from New Haven schools and graduate students from the Yale School of Forestry get training and then supervise the volunteers.

Andy Brand, the president of the Hamden Land Trust said at their last board meeting tree planting was discussed. Kath Schomaker mentioned that this Commission was meeting with URI. Mr. Brand knows Coleen and Chris from URI. The Land Trust is willing to partner with this Commission. They can write grants and get money for tree planting, particularly along streets. Hamden is 33 square miles in area. Public Works has a list of 400+ trees backlogged to come down because they are in danger of falling. The Land Trust is also focusing on regreening areas. The Land Trust Board would support Mr. Brand in getting grant money and working with the Commission to plant trees. Collective bargaining is also an issue. Mr. Brand would suggest contacting Quinnipiac. Ms. Mattei mentioned getting the Chamber of Commerce involved. Mr. Brand brought up doing something for Arbor Day, which is the week after Earth Day. If Mr. Brand can get a tree, and we can figure out where to plant it, we could do this as part of the Earth Day celebration. The next meeting with URI is scheduled for March 7 at 8:30 in the Mayor's Office Conference Room. New Haven takes requests, chooses a site and then they need five volunteers from the neighborhood to take care of the tree.

The Commission will try to get a tree planted on Earth Day.

4. New Business –

Mr. Howland was hoping Ms. Webb would be here because of her “how much patience should we have” issue.

Mr. Howland and Ms. Hoffman attended a Council committee meeting where an initiative for southern Hamden was discussed. At the regular meeting, there were 20 people from the neighborhood in attendance that wanted the Council to approve the street scape program. She was proud of the people that spoke and the Council did pass the streetscape program.

Mr. Howland thanked Ms. Roach for her excellent follow up.

Ms. Mattei mentioned the house on Benham Street with the leaning garage and the fact that it was found by the Town to meet building codes. Discussion followed. Ms. Mattei said she has complained about the Parkway Bridge over Benham Street, and several other areas including the Rosa Jones garden at Ridge and State Street. The raised bed in the traffic island is now all overgrown, junk trees, etc., Perhaps that is something we could clean up. Ms. Schlein will take a look at a structure. Ms. Hoffman will call the people who used to care for it, and perhaps that could be part of the April 14th cleanup. Ms. Schlein said she is willing to supervise.

Ms. Schlein mentioned the Advisor being thrown onto people's property or into the gutter causing a litter problem. Advisors are thrown from cars in some neighborhoods. Not every home in Town gets them, and delivery varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. Mr. Howland will find an Advisor and get contact information and make some phone calls. Ms. Schlein feels we could pressure them as a group. Perhaps the Management can focus on the delivery folks and give them direction.

Barbara walks every day and passes the cemetery which abuts her property. There was a huge dead cat near the entrance, probably for about a week. She called the cemetery maintenance number and was told they would take care of it. It took a threat to get action. Advisors are thrown from cars and not every home in town gets them, and delivery varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. Scott will find an Advisor and make some phone calls. Barb feels we could pressure them as a group. Perhaps they can focus on the delivery folks and give them direction.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

