

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Michael Corsello; Bruce Kimmel;
Thomas Livingston; Shannon O'Toole Giandurco;
Douglas Hempstead (7:06 p.m.)

STAFF: Brian McCann, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Susan Wallerstein, Norwalk Arts Commission

ROLL CALL

Ms. Melendez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the Roll.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled for this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present this evening who wished to speak.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – August 16, 2016

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. LIVINGSTON)**

OLD BUSINESS – Parking Authority Membership

Mr. McCann said that he reviewed the relevant sections of the statute.

Mr. Hempstead joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Kimmel suggested that the Parking Authority submit their proposed fees on or by November 1st. Ms. Melendez said that she would like to see a report showing their fees. She noted that apparently they changed their fees for the first time in a few years. Mr.

Livingston said that going forward it would make sense to see their fees in the initial budget cycle and any changes should go to the Common Council for approval.

Mr. Kimmel said that he was not pleased that a representative from the Parking Authority was not present this evening. Mr. Hempstead asked if the Common Council can cut their budget vs. reject their budget. Mr. McCann said that the Parking Authority is going to have to figure out how to make their budget work based on the capital budget. He said that he does not believe the City can micro manage their budget, but can reject their budget proposal. Ms. Melendez said that she hopes a representative from the Parking Authority will attend this meeting next month. Mr. McCann said that they were not available this evening. Ms. Melendez asked Mr. McCann to invite the Parking Authority to the next meeting.

Mr. Kimmel asked how other towns handle their parking. He noted that the City is willing to say no to the Board of Education and let them go back to the drawing board to revise their budget, but is hesitant to have that discussion with the Parking Authority.

Mr. Corsello noted that if the Parking Authority is run properly, it will be able to set rates in accordance with the market. Mr. Hempstead said that it would be prudent to put a safety valve in place. Mr. Corsello said that he wants to encourage them to run the Parking Authority in an efficient fashion.

Mr. Kimmel said that the Parking Authority needs to be controlled through oversight. He said that he never saw a detailed budget. Having a good idea of their capital expenses will help with the decision.

- ** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW OTHER CITIES ADMINISTER PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS – Arts Commission

Ms. Wallerstein explained that she has been the chair of the Arts Commission for the past three years. One of their goals is to establish the Arts Commission in Ordinance. She said by establishing the Arts Commission they would become eligible for CDBG funding.

Ms. Wallerstein reviewed the policy in the meeting packet and said that it carries the support of various City departments and commissions. She suggested reducing the number of commissioners from 11 to seven, which will also reduce the number of

members present for a quorum. Ms. Wallerstein said that she avoided creating a calendar because all events are on the Cultural Alliance calendar.

Ms. Wallerstein said that there should be representatives of the creative community on the Arts Commission.

The Committee members reviewed the proposed Ordinance and member roles and responsibilities and discussed revisions. Ms. Wallerstein said that the roles and responsibilities provide a roadmap that complies with the visual arts act. This is an informal document that has been tested for the past 18 months.

Mr. Corsello asked if the City is required to fund this and noted that they are proposing to compensate their Executive Director. Ms. Wallerstein said that they asked for an additional \$20,000 to engage a cultural affairs person, but that request was denied. Mr. Corsello said that it looks like the Commission is the only one who has any say over the Executive Director's salary. Mr. Livingston said that they can pay that person anything they want, but the City does not have to fund it.

Mr. Hempstead said that he sees the importance of getting something going, but it needs to be done right.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco asked Ms. Wallerstein if there is a deadline approaching. Ms. Wallerstein said that the request is in time for the operating budget. They have to submit their 2017/2018 budget predicated on revenue streams.

Mr. Hempstead said that he believes that everyone here this evening understands the importance of establishing an Arts Commission and that moving forward does not see a reason for not putting a placeholder in the budget.

Mr. Kimmel said that the one place Ordinance should be approved as soon as possible. Mr. Corsello said that once the entity is set up, would want the policies and by laws subject to Common Council review and approval.

Mr. Hempstead asked for a physical copy of the assets.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AS
AMENDED AND TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER
18, 2016
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services