

**City of Norwalk
Ordinance Committee
Regular Meeting
September 18, 2018**

Attendance: Eloisa Melendez, Chair; Tom Livingston, Doug Hempstead; Chris Yerinides; Beth Siegelbaum; Doug Stern

Staff: Attorney Brian Candela

1. Call To Order

Ms. Melendez called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public Hearing

Discuss and vote on Chapter 12, Article I, Section 12-1 of the Norwalk City Code.

Ms. Melendez opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Ms. Melendez closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

3. Public Hearing Discussion

Mr. Livingston indicated that discussions were held with Attorney Candela prior to the ordinance committee meeting concerning revisions to the ordinance. Revisions were made to simplify the ordinance and ensure that it was consistent with Connecticut General Statutes Section 30-91.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve the amendments and send it for consideration for Common Council approval.

The motion passed with six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

Tod Bryant – Morgan Avenue – stated that he spoke at the last meeting and was not included in the minutes. He provided an email with a copy of what he had spoken at the last meeting. He indicated that he would like the content of this email to be reflected in the September 4, 2018 and September 18, 2018 minutes.

Comments on Innovation district

Subject: Comments on Innovation district

From: Tod Bryant <tod@norwalkpreservation.org>

Date: 8/21/2018 5:19 PM

To: Eric Rasmussen <kerasmus@me.com>, Eric Rasmussen <tech@norwalkpreservation.org>, Daryn Reyman-Lock <daryn.reyman@gmail.com>, Marija Bryant <MarijaB@aol.com>, Lee Levey <llevey.architect@worldnet.att.net>, Suzanne Betts <shbetts@gmail.com>, Georgette blau <gblau@onlocationtours.com>, wendye pardue <wendye1@optonline.net>, Carolann Falasca <cafalasca@gmail.com>, Charles Harris <charris@harrisschmid.com>, "Randy Briggs" <randolph@briggs.net>

Directors,

Just wanted to let you know what I plan to say at the Ordinance Committee tonight in regard tot the proposed Innovation District. My remarks may or may not be in the following order.

1. We understand that the intent of this proposal is to incentivize certain kinds of beneficial development for the Wall Street Area, however we have some deep concerns about it.
2. I sit on the steering Committee of the 2018 POCD and that document, which is supposed to be a blueprint for development in Norwalk, is still in process. Why is this proposal being brought forth now, before the plan is finished? Wouldn't it be more effective to complete the city-wide plan and use the planning decisions in it for Wall Street as a basis for any incentives?
3. I believe that there is a federal program that Norwalk has qualified for that would provide similar incentives. Does this proposal take that program into account? it is not mentioned in the document.
4. Incentives are heavily weighted to new projects and provide nothing for the businesses that have worked so hard to maintain a presence on Wall Street. They have kept it alive against all odds for years and they should not be ignored.
5. Incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings are far less than those for new construction. They lack criteria, such as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation for work done on those buildings.

May I speak for NPT?

Tod

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Tod Bryant
President
Norwalk Preservation Trust
Cell - 203-246-4743
Office - 203-853-7495

Rob Fahey – 66 Center Avenue – he owns Plumbing Works and was worried that contractors would be displaced due to the Innovation District due to zoning changes. He indicated that he wants there to be room for everybody and all businesses in the area.

5. Acceptance of Minutes

- a. On Page 4 - change conjunction to congestion
- b. On Page 5 - change Neiderlan to Neiderland and redetected to rejected
- c. On Page 9 - Insertion of Tod Bryant into the minutes next to Maria Bryant and include the content of the 8/21/18 email
- d. On Page 11 – remove “not the Redevelopment Agency”

6. Old Business

Ms. Melendez and Mr. Livingston recommended tabling a further discussion on the Innovation District until more information was obtained and more questions were answered by the Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Hempstead also indicated that he was looking for additional answers to questions and more information from the Redevelopment Agency as well.

Mr. Hempstead moved to table the Innovation District until the next meeting.

The motion passed with six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

There was no new business discussed this evening.

8. Discussion Item

There was no discussion items this evening.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Melendez moved to adjourn

The motion passed with six (6) in favor and zero (0) opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

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