

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 6, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; David Heuvelman, Bryan Meek, Thomas Livingston, Barbara Smyth, Darlene Young

STAFF: Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, Transportation Mobility and Parking.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no action on this item.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of September 1, 2022 Meeting.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENERAL UPDATES

1. MLK Corridor Project Update

Ms Vonashek said they'd launched Phases 2 and 3 of the Wall Street with a "taste of Wall Street" to get community input. She said the project covered Wall Street between Belden and Brook, Burnell between Belden and Main and reconfiguring the intersection of Belden and Wall. She said they'd approved \$250,000 for design and they would be working with the library to host a second community event in November.

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She said that after going through the RFP process, they'd chosen FHI Studio for the Complete Streets project, noting that it was the same company working on the transportation master plan.

She said they'd met with the consultant from AKRF working on Affordable Housing Plan. She said the trust ordinance was in committee, and they'd been talking about a Housing Forum, to talk about affordable housing and what was needed for Norwalk.

She said that for the MLK Façade Improvement Plan they had earmarked \$750,000 from the MLK Corridor Initiative which they would marry with a loan program funded through GGP in the amount of \$500,000. She noted that some homeowners might have emergency repairs, and they were working with the Redevelopment Agency to build a short list of teams that are vetted to work for the city. She said that that would allow them to serve low-income homeowners. She said they were looking to launch the programs at the beginning of 20223.

She said part of it was a reimbursement program from the state. She said they were working with the construction manager at the state to ensure that they had everything in order and so they would not encounter problems when they submitted for reimbursement.

She reviewed the tree planting program, noting that they had planted 16 brand new trees on MLK between Washington and Lowe. She said they were interviewing companies for canopy assessment—and were finalizing a scope of work. She noted the assessment would look at coverage of trees and where need to plant, plant trees, and also inventory trees and monitor health and keep them healthy. She said they had just announced planting 54 trees on Wilton, over half of which were native.

She said that Parks and Rec was working with a consultant to build out playgrounds at two playgrounds. She said they were focused on bringing in more green space.

She said they had \$250,000 for trees in south Norwalk, she said they'd work with District B and the MLK team to identify locations and develop a plan. She said they were focusing on planting trees deeper into the community on residential streets.

She gave an update on using cameras to find people who were littering. She said they'd used cameras on Grey Rock Road to identify a license plate and ultimately found the dumper. She said there was also a large amount of dumping there, and they'd found a plane ticket and tracked it to the dumper who cleaned it up himself.

2. ARPA Update

- Business Development Center Ribbon Cutting

This section was covered in section 1.

B. TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING

1. Holiday Extravaganza

- Sunday, November 20, 2022, 3pm to 7pm: South Norwalk

Ms. Vonashek said this would be in front of 50 Washington and they planned to close Washington between MLK and Main. She said that Santa will make a big entrance, and they'd offer carriage rides, petting zoo, a petting zoo, a carousel, photos with Santa, and carolers. She said they'd have a tree lighting, and inside 50 Washington there would be a market fair, and information tables to inform about the services the city provided.

- Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 4pm to 8pm: Wall Street

Ms. Vonashek said that this fair would be on Wall Street on River between Burnell and Wall Street. She said this would have Santa, a laser show, merry go round and petting zoo. She said this was more geared towards adults and they were going to close Washington between MLK and Main, Santa will make a big entrance. Carriage rides, and a petting zoo.

Ms Young said her district was excited for these events, and that it was wonderful for the whole city.

- ### **2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter into an agreement with CDM Smith, Inc. for contract document modifications and construction administration services for the Hamilton Avenue Pedestrian Access Enhancement Project for an amount not to exceed \$59,000.00**

Mr. Yeosock gave the background on the project, noting that they'd wanted to do it years ago but didn't have the funding. He said now that they had funding, they wanted to go forward. He said that since things had changed, they needed to put it out for bid and have a consultant to do updated drawings. He said this was a sole source since this is the company that had drawn the original.

He said this was similar in design to the existing one, he said it was a little more circular because it went higher up the hill and needed to be ADA accessible. Mr. Livingston asked why they had to update the design. Mr. Yeosock said to ensure that there weren't code changes and newer more efficient items available for the heating. He said the funds would cover construction inspection and ongoing services.

Mr. Meek asked for the full budget for the staircase, Ms. Vonashek said it was \$700,000.

Ms. Smyth asked if there was artwork planned like the other stairs. Ms Vonashek said that they had set aside \$75000 for art. She said they'd work with the arts commission on placement of the art.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CDM SMITH, INC. FOR CONTRACT DOCUMENT MODIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE HAMILTON AVENUE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$59,000.00**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Grassilli
Telesco Secretarial Services