

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
Minutes from the meeting held on January 25, 2006

In attendance: Nathaniel Norton, Jan Marcus, Mary Lou Supple, and Carol Powers

Guests: George Rolf, women representing Tangorra wedding planning company

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. Signage was discussed first. The owner of Tangorra Wedding Planning presented an application for a sign. A motion was made and seconded and the application was approved.

The minutes from December 21, 2005 and January 4, 2006 were reviewed. Jan noted that she would distribute her notes from the meeting held with John Moak on January 4, 2006 in addition to the minutes. The Minutes from December 21 were approved. Approval of the January 4, 2006 Minutes was deferred to the February 22nd meeting.

Jan let Nat know that she had received an invoice from Diana Lord, a check was issued, and Jenn Wilmot will give the check to Diana.

Nat noted that he was still working on the land survey. He said he had expected it to be completed sometime between January and February; however there had been some setbacks. Jan suggested that the amount of space available now on the waterfront needed to be tallied, in order to see if Mayor Moak's ideas for parking were even realistic.

Mary Lou then brought up the article From *The Daily News* on January 25, 2006 about the NRA survey that incorrectly described the second survey choice in a sidebar. She said that she had spoken to Stephanie Chelf, the reporter, and John Macone, the Editor of *The Daily News*. A correction was

going to be made. Jan suggested that a "letter to the editor" be sent in about the topic as soon as possible. The letter would serve two purposes, first it would be a correction, and secondly it would also allow for the story to be seen again by readers. A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize Mary Lou to draft the letter to the editor and distribute it to members for comment. Authority members agreed that the letter should be signed by all members of the NRA, but that anyone who was not at the meeting to vote would have the opportunity to request their name be removed from the signature line.

Nat then presented the treasurer's report for both the months of November and December. He made a note that interest rates had risen. Nat suggested that the NRA begin to make \$10,000 quarterly principal payments rather than the usual \$5,000 payments. Nat said that he had spoken to the bank and there was a possibility of a reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ % from the present percentage rate. Jan noted that parking income may not remain as stable as it had been due to changes in the economy such as the rise in gasoline prices, as the gas price has increased parking use has decreased. Nat suggested that a goal be set and the group should come up with a plan per year or per quarter to hit the mark of more than \$40,000 per year. It was suggested that the next payment made would be \$10,000, but the matter would be discussed further at the February meeting when all members of the NRA are present.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to present a gift of \$250.00 to The Children's Hospital of Boston in memory of Phil Powers. It was also noted that Diana Lord wishes to be included as a donor.

Applications for signage were then discussed. The replacement of a window at The Dragons Nest was discussed. A question about the manufacturer of the windows and the mullions were brought up as a concern. A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve with the contingency that the Historical Commission also approve the window with particular interest in the window mullions.

The application for signage for Pen and Paper was discussed. Mary Lou noted that the sign was already up. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the application.

An application for use of the waterfront was discussed. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is sponsoring a walk on April 1, 2006 and they want use of the west lot from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Jan noted that the request form stated that a \$50.00 fee was charged for parking lot use, and that changes on the application form need to be made. A motion to approve the application was made, seconded and approved, with no charge to be assessed. .

The waterfront questionnaire was then discussed. The questionnaire was completed and Jan noted that there were great improvements made especially in the background and additional information section. Although an official deadline was unknown by the City Clerk's office, Jan suggested that it be in by February 1, 2006. A motion to approve the printing of the questionnaire was made, seconded and approved. Nat said that he would tabulate the results to be ready for early March. Mary Lou had received a quote of \$680.00 for the printing of 8,000 copies of the survey. Nat suggested that 8,500 copies be made just to be safe.

The RFP was discussed. Jan made a note that Rick had suggested a change to the name from consultant to contractor. Jan had re-written the piece; however more edits were made. Carol suggested adding a clarification of the contractor's job description.

Nat suggested changing the collection hours due to the large crowds drawn in at night by the local restaurants. His suggestion was to change them to 10-8, since the early morning hours were not usually too busy. It was also noted that during Yankee Homecoming and other festivals the hours may need to be changed. Jan will do another edit and e-mail copies to the committee members. The Final draft will be ready for the February meeting.

Nat said he would get the mailing addresses of some parking vendors and mail them a copy of the RFP. George Rolf, who attended the meeting, then reported about the activity he had seen while surveying cars. He noted that one winter weekend when the weather was particularly nice there had been a huge increase in waterfront parking, more than 90 cars in each lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.