

**Newburyport Redevelopment Authority**  
City Hall Auditorium  
February 24, 2016  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Tom Salemi called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority to order at 7:06 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Tom Salemi, Leslie Eckholdt, Bob Uhlig, Andy Sidford and Marian Levy. Carol Powers was also in attendance.

**3. Reorganization**

Tom Salemi nominated Leslie Eckholdt for the position of Treasurer. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Leslie Eckholdt nominated Bob Uhlig for the position of Secretary. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Leslie Eckholdt nominated Marian Levy for the position of Vice Chair. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Andy Sidford nominated Tom Salemi for the position of Chair. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The members will also act as liaisons to waterfront stakeholders. Leslie Eckholdt will continue to attend meetings of the Waterfront Trust. Tom Salemi will communicate with the Mayor and City Council and will work on negotiating parking rates. Marian Levy will coordinate programming with the Chamber of Commerce. Andy Sidford will be the contact for the Planning Department. Bob Uhlig will continue as a member of the Parking Advisory Committee when it again becomes active and will be the contact for the Department of Public Services. He will also oversee the physical layout of the lots.

**4. Parking Lot and Lighting Improvements**

The west lot is now well illuminated. Bob Uhlig will follow up on the next steps in the process of improving the lot.

**5. Program Activation for the Pop Up Park**

Leslie Eckholdt said she and Ann Ormond discussed serving food in the pop-up park. They believe it would be difficult to obtain permits and the effort would be very labor intensive. Tom Salemi said he wishes to pursue the activity. The NRA could make the area available to a food truck a few times per year. The vendor would be responsible for any permitting.

## **6. Old Business**

### **Harbormaster's Facility**

The Harbor Commission no longer wishes to place a trailer on NRA land during the construction of the new Harbormaster's facility.

### **2016 Goals**

At the January meeting Leslie Eckholdt distributed a list of goals for 2016. The item might be placed on the agenda for each meeting in order to track the progress in completing these goals by the end of the year.

### **Land Transfer**

Tom Salemi is beginning to work towards transferring the two feet between the boardwalk and the bulkhead to the Waterfront Trust. Carol Powers will work with him. She said she would not wish to transfer the property until an agreement has been reached on the sharing of costs and revenues.

## **7. New Business**

### **Property Improvements**

The members discussed the creation of additional public spaces. Bob Uhlig said he wishes to commit first to the refinement of the existing pop-up park. Umbrellas with bases and covers, along with an outdoor chess set and four large planters with trees are being considered as additions for the space.

A reconfiguration of parking spaces would allow for the creation of a second pop-up park in the northwest corner of the east lot. The Conservation Commission will be contacted concerning the permitting that would be required for the space. No grading or digging is planned for the area. The furniture that is being considered for the second park would cost approximately \$18,000.

Andy Sidford moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$34,000 for furnishings for the two pop-up parks contingent upon the development of a plan for the second park. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

James McCauley, 27 Storeybrook Road, said the cost of the first pop-up park was greatly inflated over the estimate because the AUL was not taken into consideration. The members responded by saying the additional cost of the park was not related to the AUL other than a root barrier being added under the clamshells.

Marian Levy and Leslie Eckholdt have discussed the public restrooms with Edith Heyck, the Waterfront Trust park manager. The City does not wish to expend funds on improving the temporary restroom facility near the Firehouse. The facility was closed early in October due to a concern about frozen pipes. No further action would be possible until more is known about the restrooms that will be a part of the new Harbormaster's facility. Carol Powers pointed out the City should enter into a written agreement the NRA for the use of the land for the restrooms and the storage of the floats. The brick shed should be included in the agreement with Not Your Average Joe's.

### **Somerby's Way**

Leslie Eckholdt and Wilbur Shenk met to discuss the possibility of the NRA and Waterfront Trust sharing the cost of landscaping Somerby's Way. Landscape architects would be contacted to provide quotes. Tom Salemi moved to proceed with the landscaping of Somerby's Way. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Park Use Application**

Ann Ormond said the Chamber of Commerce is interested in arranging carnival rides for children on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Andy Sidford moved to approve the request provided the necessary insurance is obtained. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **8. Secretary's Report**

Leslie Eckholdt said the next annual report due to the Commonwealth would cover the period between July 2015 and June 2016. Carol Powers will follow up on a letter that was received concerning a man who has not been able to work since falling on ice on NRA property. The City's insurance would cover the liability. The NRA received notice as an abutter about work that has been proposed to repair the ramp at the Black Cow.

### **9. Treasurer's Report**

Tom Salemi moved to approve a payment for minute taking for the February meeting in the amount of \$150, to the Chamber of Commerce for pop-up park staffing in the amount of \$1,225, to the Waterfront Trust for the NRA share of the park manager's salary and landscaping in the amount of \$648 and to National Grid in the amount of \$67.03. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **10. Council's Report**

None

### **11. Minutes**

Marian Levy moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2016 meeting as amended. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **12. Public Comment**

Sandy Small, 25 Oak Street, commented that the design tone of a future park was set with the selection of furniture for the pop-up park. She does not approve of a temporary solution being applied to a long-range problem.

### **13. Adjournment**

Andy Sidford moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the NRA will be scheduled for March 16 at 7:00 p.m.