

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
Police Station Conference Room
March 16, 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, Andy Sidford and Marian Levy. Carol Powers was also in attendance. Leslie Eckholdt and Bob Uhlig were absent.

3. New Business

Brewfest Application

Tom Cusick presented the application for the Brewfest and said the plans are much the same as they were last year. The event, which is a major fundraiser for Yankee Homecoming, will be held on July 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. under a tent in the east lot. The appropriate insurance will be obtained and security and restroom facilities will be provided. The tent must be anchored in compliance with the AUL and must not disturb the geotextile fabric that will be installed in the proposed pop-up park in the east lot. Andy Sidford moved to approve the application. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wi-Fi

Tom Salemi said a resident suggested to him the NRA provide Wi-Fi on the waterfront. A solar powered kiosk that includes charging ports could be leased for six months at a cost of \$750 per month. The monthly fee was a concern to the members, who will look into ways to provide Internet access at a lesser cost.

Parking Garage

A garage with 204 spaces has been approved. This might allow approximately 100 parking spaces to be removed from the waterfront. The decision makes it possible for the NRA to move forward with plans for the waterfront.

4. Old Business

Parking Agreement

Tom Salemi met with Mayor Holaday about the parking agreement with the City. The current agreement is set to expire at the end of April. The Mayor supports an increase in rates to \$1 per hour. She requested the agreement with the NRA be extended until July 1 to allow time for the City Council to approve the rate increase. The extension of the hours for paid parking has not yet been discussed.

Pop-up Park Programming

Bob Uhlig contacted Newburyport Charitable Causes, which organizes the annual Bocce Bash. The event this year will be held on June 18. The proceeds from the event would be used to construct two bocce courts by the berm in the west lot. The edging would be lightly mortared in order that the courts might be moved to a new location at a later date. The courts must be in compliance with ADA and Conservation Commission regulations.

Tom Salemi moved to accept the funds raised for two bocce courts provided all regulatory reviews are met. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Secretary's Report

None

6. Treasurer's Report

Tom Salemi moved to approve a payment for minute taking for the March meeting in the amount of \$150, to Beacon Electrical Sales in the amount of \$45.83 and to Leslie Eckholdt in the amount of \$5.55 for miscellaneous expenses. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Council's Report

Carol Powers said the NRA does not have to pay taxes because it is a government agency. She will contact the City and Not Your Average Joe's about written agreements for the use of NRA land.

8. Minutes

Marian Levy moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting as submitted. Tom Salemi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Public Comment

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, reported the brick shed has been damaged, mostly likely by weather.

Peter Fitzsimmons, 7 Arlington Street, said in his opinion clamshells make a bright surface that is uncomfortable for walking. Mike Hennessey said the shells will break down during winter conditions and their color will fade with time.

City Councilor Jared Eigerman thanked the NRA for writing a letter urging that the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee be reconvened.

Sandy Small, Oak Street, pointed out that in the projections for the parking garage, the amount to be paid to the NRA is shown to increase only by \$2,000 when the rates double.

10. Adjournment

Andy Sidford moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.