

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
City Council Chambers
April 13, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Salemi called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Tom Salemi, Leslie Eckholdt, Bob Uhlig and Andy Sidford. Marian Levy was absent.

3. Property Improvements

The lights have been installed and are working. The proposal for two additional pop-up parks will be on the agenda of the April 19 Conservation Commission meeting. Two bocce courts would be placed side by side at the end of the west lot nearest the Black Cow. Additional green space would be created at the east end of the lot near the embayment. In the northwest corner of the east lot, clamshells would be installed and furniture added.

Mike Hennessey has provided a proposal to install 400 perennials and 54 shrubs along Somerby's Way at a cost of \$13,450. The expense would be shared with the Waterfront Trust if both groups were to approve the proposal.

4. Pop-up Park

The planters have been received. Leslie Eckholdt said she is concerned trees would not survive the winter in the planters and suggested annuals and tall grasses might be used instead. Mike Hennessey was asked to provide a list of potential plant materials and their cost. Bob Uhlig responded that grasses would not provide shade and the trees were in effect to be treated as annuals in that they may or may not survive the winter. Trees might be used in two of the planters as a trial.

The purchase of a large chess set had been previously discussed. There is now a concern about the storage of the pieces and the large amount of space in the park the set would require. The idea was put on hold.

Consideration must be given to the maintenance of the park. It would be most efficient to include the park in the landscaping contract the NRA participates in with the Waterfront Trust.

5. Pop-up Park Programming

Metzy's received a permit for the operation of a cart on Inn Street, which has been objected to by some of the restaurants in the area. The City Council is seeking an alternative location for the cart. Tom Salemi was asked if the cart could be placed in the east lot. The NRA members supported the plan, but an agreement must be reached on operational issues, such as the removal of trash.

6. Wi-Fi

A discussion took place on the provision of Internet service as an additional way to activate the park. Comcast could assess the waterfront for the provision of an Internet connection but it is likely the cost would be high. Also, a lease with Comcast would be in effect for 12 months but the park is not in use year round. A solar-powered kiosk could be used to provide Wi-Fi and several charging stations. The provider of the kiosk is willing to reduce its cost from \$750 to \$599 per month for a six-month period. The sale of advertising space on the kiosk could help offset the cost. Tom Salemi will attempt to negotiate a lower rate.

7. Parking Agreement

The City Clerk requested the NRA extend the current parking agreement with the City through July 1 in order to give the City Council time to approve the proposed parking rates and include the increased rates in the new contract. The NRA members did not see a benefit to signing an extension to the agreement. They do not wish to be locked into the existing rates until July 1 if the increase goes into effect before then. They agreed to not extend the contract.

8. Parking for WBNP Remote Broadcast

Joe DiBiase described plans to broadcast a radio show from Oldies on May 28. He has requested permission to park a van to which the remote broadcast would be sent on NRA land. Andy Sidford moved to approve the use pending the submittal of an application and insurance information. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Survey

The Waterfront Trust has requested the two feet between the bulkhead and the boardwalk be transferred and the AUL be lifted from its property. The position of the NRA is that the survey must be recorded before these goals might be accomplished. An obstacle to the recording is the language about future conveyances that has been added to the survey. Carol Powers intends to contact Doug Bolick about the issue. Tom Salemi suggested the NRA might record a survey of its own if an agreement on the language of the Chandler survey is not reached in a timely manner. This would allow the NRA to proceed with the lifting of the AUL and the transfer of the land and help the Trust accomplish its goals. He will contact Scott Sutherland.

10. Secretary's Report

None

11. Treasurer's Report

Leslie Eckholdt reported the balance in the checking account is \$11,716.73 and the balance in the money market account is \$200,248.48

Tom Salemi moved to approve a payment for minute taking for the April meeting in the amount of \$150 and to the Waterfront Trust in the amount of \$1,012.50 for

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property management fees for January, February and March. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bob Uhlig moved to approve the purchase of six Adirondack chairs at a cost of \$4,188.90 and wood protector for five tables at a cost of \$150. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. Council's Report

None

13. Minutes

Tom Salemi moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting as submitted. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

14. Public Comment

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, said he agrees with the decision not to sign an extension of the parking agreement.

15. Adjournment

Andy Sidford moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.