

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority

5/23/07

7:00 pm

Present: Nat Norton, Tim Brennan, Erford Fowler, and Patty Dorfman

Absent: Rick Taintor

Public Comments:

Bill Harris was in attendance representing the Custom House. He discussed how the Custom House was considering doing lawn events to enhance their revenue, which is on NRA land. The Custom House is now working on a business plan and Mr. Harris said that he would return at a later date to report on the state of the building.

Sign/Façade Applications:

Kaya – Mr. Norton noted that the application met dimensional requirements and they were removing and replacing the existing sign. Mr. Sidford had also signed off on the application. Ms. Dorfman motioned to approve the sign application and Mr. Brennan seconded. It was approved 3-0.

Waterfront Use Applications:

MGT Club – Anne Dodge requested to set aside parking spaces on the east lot so that about 15 classic cars can park there for the day on 6/9/07. Mr. Norton told her that each car would be charged \$5 as usually and he would instruct the parking attendant to section off an area. Ms. Dorfman motioned to approve the application and Mr. Brennan seconded. It was approved 3-0.

NRA Activity:

Mr. Norton reported that he viewed a film on the history of the waterfront redevelopment as an event that was held during Preservation Week. He said that he would try to get a copy so that other members could watch it.

Parking Lot:

Ms. Dorfman said that she was contacted by a landscape architect that was volunteering to clean up the Heather Lynne Memorial. She said that she would also direct her to contact the Waterfront Trust in case the memorial is located on their property. All members agreed that it was allowable to allow her to clean up the site if it is on NRA land.

Mr. Norton reported that Standard Parking would start charging the following weekend. Standard Parking presented a contract amendment to their previous contract which

would extend their contract time and will allow them to charge for parking all day on Fridays since many cars are already parked there by the time the attendant has arrived.

(Mr. Fowler arrived.)

Mr. Fowler said that the installation for the fencing has not been finalized with the DPW for the Brew Fest. He also questioned the location of the toilets. He was told that the group has redone their plan and the toilets were now to be located within the fenced area. Mr. Fowler said he would speak with Barry Connell to make sure they have spoken with the Police Department and that they have the all proper permissions to hold the Brew Fest in the NRA lot.

Mr. Fowler mentioned giving NRA members names to the Standard Parking attendants so that they could inspect the premises at any time.

Mr. Fowler also said that he would follow through with Rick Taintor regarding the proposed signage for the parking lots.

Minutes:

Mr. Fowler motioned to approve the minutes of 4/25/07 and Ms. Dorfman seconded. The motion passed 3-0 with Mr. Brennan abstaining.

Ms. Dorfman motioned to approve the minutes of 3/28/07 and Mr. Fowler seconded. The motion passed 3-0 with Mr. Brennan abstaining.

Park Design:

Mr. Norton suggested not drawing money from the line of credit prior to signing contracts with the Cecil Group since the NRA will be receiving parking income on a regular basis that would cover the monthly park planning bills. Mr. Fowler said that the entire contract amount is required to be on hand and not just available through the NRA's line of credit. Mr. Norton said that he would check with the auditor to be sure.

Parking Attendant Contract:

Mr. Norton said that this year, Standard Parking would still submit weekly reports to the Planning Office, however, they would only be doing once a month deposits directly to the NRA account. He also said that SP was still looking for some sort of storage shed. Mr. Norton said that he would speak with Not Your Average Joe's, the Harbormaster, and the Custom House. He also said that they have decided against using tennis tape in the parking lot because of the grading and plowing that needs to be done throughout the year. The contract amendment also included language that would add an automatic renewal option if agreed upon by February.

Parking Lot Cont.:

Mr. Fowler said that he spoke with Joe Spaulding who was hired to regrade the lots. Mr. Spaulding said that he was having a hard time getting around the cars that are already parked in the lot by the time he arrived. Mr. Norton suggested that he cone off an area so that the work could be completed by Memorial Day, as promised. Mr. Fowler also said he would speak with Sheriff Cousins to see if he could get the prisoners to clean the lot. Mr. Norton then suggested having a coordination meeting with the Waterfront Trust.

Meeting Schedule – Mr. Norton said that he would notify the Mayor of the revised park meeting schedule.

Media Policy:

Ms. Dorfman said that a media policy was an idea that would allow the public to be apprised of the NRA's progress. She also suggested that the NRA issue benchmark press releases. Ms. Dorfman said that she felt comfortable deferring any inquiries to someone, such as the chair, so that there is a consistency in messaging. Mr. Fowler disagreed and felt that members should be allowed to speak freely. Mr. Brennan thought this was fine as long as it was clear that they weren't representing the whole group. Ms. Dorfman thought that the NRA would be more effective if there is an appearance of cooperation within the group. Mr. Fowler said that he believed that he had an obligation to say how he feels about particular matters.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Fowler suggested somehow notifying seniors that if they are over 60 they can park in the East lot for free.

Mr. Norton said that he spoke with the manager of the sculpture park about possibly using the same concept to extend the sculpture area into the NRA lot.

Mr. Fowler suggested considering food vendors although he has always been opposed to them in the past. He thought it was a good way to raise revenues. Mr. Norton said that the Waterfront Trust and local restaurants were opposed to this idea in the past. Ms. Dorfman also suggested having a farmers market or art exhibits to raise revenue. Mr. Norton suggested getting the Cecil Group to include some ideas in the park planning.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Sincerely,

Dianne Eppa
Note Taker