

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
Minutes May 24, 2006

In attendance: Jan Marcus, Nat Norton, Erford Fowler, Tim Brennan. Absent Rick Taintor

Nat Norton recorded the minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:07. Jan discussed concern about not having a minutes recorder for the meeting. Suggested that Diana may consider contacting Dianne in the Planning office to cover in the event that Dianna and her usual replacement were both not available. Jan agreed to speak with Dianne.

Minutes from the April meet were read and approved by Nat Norton, Erford Fowler, and Jan Marcus. Tim Brennan abstained.

Nat distributed and read the financial report. Tim questioned the high interest rate for the NRA mortgage. Nat explained that our loan is a line of credit tied to prime.

Sign applications were reviewed.

Boston Chowda – Jan had discussed this one with Andy and all was in order. The application was approved.

Assist to Sell – This application was denied due to the business on a second floor.

A short discussion on the sign review process and the NRA's desire to turn this responsibility over the city followed to bring Tim up to speed.

Jan reported that the contract with Standard Parking was signed today. They will begin collecting parking revenues this Friday.

Erford left the meeting at 6:40.

Jan, Nat and Tim continued a discussion on the parking contract to bring Tim up to speed on the RFP process and the NRA's decision to hire Standard Parking.

Jan mentioned a call she received from Hildi Champion, a resident who was unable to get her waterfront questionnaire in on time, but wanted to offer any help she could to count results, etc. Jan inquired about the number of census mailers that were sent out, returned. Jan will check with the clerk to get an accurate count.

Discussion of the new signage suggestions was put over until next meeting.

Jan explained the need to move forward with a deed restriction on the two dirt lots. Jan explained the background and history of the work the NRA has done to move this forward. Nat provided Tim with a copy of the land survey. A discussion of the property boundaries followed.

New business items

Jan introduced the importance of moving forward with plans to hire a park planner.

July\August should have compiled a list of planners that the NRA could invite to bid on an RFP. Jan agreed to speak with Geordie to get a list from him.

Jan offered that this is also a good time to start the formation of a 'Friends of the NRA' to start with fund raising and awareness.

Tim offered his ideas of looking at underground parking in the west lot. Discussion followed with pros and cons of building under grade. Pros included potential funding from the state, less net loss of parking, cons included cost, safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48