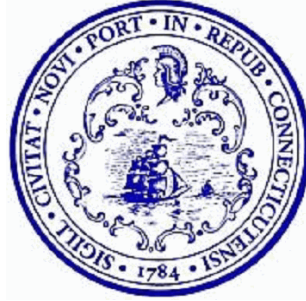


City of New Haven

165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 946-6483 (phone)
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 4, 2024

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

City Services and Environmental Policy

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2024-0174](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF DICKERMAN STREET AND SPERRY STREET AS “RUTH HENDERSON CORNER” IN PERPETUITY, FOR HER LOVE, COMMITMENT, GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN THE DIXWELL NEIGHBORHOOD.
- 2) [LM-2024-0175](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF GOFFE STREET AND WEBSTER STREET AS “RICARDO TORRES JR WAY” IN PERPETUITY TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE VIBRANT LIFE OF RICARDO TORRES JR TO THE PEOPLE IN THE DWIGHT COMMUNITY AND CITY-WIDE
- 3) [LM-2024-0055](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY INTERESTS REQUIRED FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE WINTERGREEN AREA PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
- 4) [LM-2024-0095](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY INTERESTS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL.

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk located at 200 Orange Street, Room 202, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Thomas R. Ficklin, Jr., Troy Streater, Amy Marx, Kiana Flores, and Caroline Tanbee Smith.

1. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF DICKERMAN STREET AND SPERRY STREET AS “RUTH HENDERSON CORNER” IN PERPETUITY, FOR HER LOVE, COMMITMENT, GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN THE DIXWELL NEIGHBORHOOD.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Hon. Troy Streater, 428 Dixwell Avenue, presented this item. Affectionately known as “Grandma Ruth,” Ms. Henderson has been an unwavering pillar of support and inspiration within the Dixwell community since 1955. Her career achievements include being the first African American EKG Technician graduate from Grace Hospital and attaining a Master of Social Work from Springfield College, a testament to her unwavering dedication to personal and professional excellence. Throughout her career, Ms. Henderson has made significant contributions to various organizations including Yale New Haven Hospital, Our Kids within the Department of Social Services, New Haven Board of Education, Forbes House, Scanterbury/Hannah Gray Home, Cornerstone, and Grant Street Partnership.

Ms. Henderson earned her endearing title of “Grandma Ruth,” due to her the countless lives she touched with her love and mentorship to over 600 grandkids. Ms. Henderson’s extensive involvement in local initiatives such as Dickerman Street Block Watch, Police Reivew Board, and various church and youth programs underscores her commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all residents.

Douglas Hausladen, Executive Director for the New Haven Parking Authority, 115 Water Street, spoke in support of this corner naming and discussed his experience working with Ms. Henderson.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

2. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF GOFFE STREET AND WEBSTER STREET AS “RICARDO TORRES JR WAY” IN PERPETUITY TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE VIBRANT LIFE OF RICARDO TORRES JR TO THE PEOPLE IN THE DWIGHT COMMUNITY AND CITY WIDE.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John Alston, Fire Chief, 952 Grand Avenue, presented this Ricardo Torres, Jr. Way corner naming. Chief Alston spoke on behalf of New Haven Fire Department and the people who have worked to make this possible. Spoke in support of this item.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Chief Alston confirmed there will be a flag raising and memorial service to accompany the corner naming to commemorate and honor his life and service to the NHFD.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 2, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

3. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROGRAM AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY INTERESTS REQUIRED FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE WINTERGREEN AREA PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer, 95 Soundview Terrace, reviewed how this \$669,600 grant from Connecticut Department of Transportation will be used to implement pedestrian improvements along Wintergreen Avenue by installing sidewalks along Wintergreen Avenue, Springside Drive, and Wilmot Road. These sidewalks will connect Common Ground High School, Brennan-Rodgers School, Brookside, Rockview, and Westville Manor to the city's sidewalk network. Discussed how due to the narrow width of the Wintergreen Avenue bridge over Wintergreen Brook, a separate pedestrian bridge is needed to provide safe passage for pedestrians. This requires the acquisition of a small parcel of land from the Congregation B'nai Jacob Cemetery. Appraised at \$28,000, which is the amount the city would offer for the property.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Zinn discussed how if the cemetery does not agree to sell the city the property, the city could take the property. This process would require another hearing before the Board of Alders. Reviewed how this property does not have bike lanes, but it is ADA compliant.

In response to Alder Marx, Mr. Zinn reviewed how they won't know how many trees they will need to remove for several months until they get into design and know how many trees will need to be removed to make room for the bridge.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Mr. Zinn discussed how there is significant lead time required for prefab bridges and looking into 2025.

Director Hausladen, 115 Water Street, spoke in favor of this item. Discussed the importance of connecting West Rock with the rest of the city by sidewalks.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 3, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

4. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL AND ACQUIRE PROPERTY INTERESTS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHORELINE GREENWAY TRAIL.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Giovanni Zinn, City Engineer, 95 Soundview Terrace, presented this item reviewing how the two grants totaling \$9.3 million would be used for the New Haven Shoreline Greenway. The grants will come from the United States Congress Congressionally Directed Spending Program (\$7 million) and Connecticut State Bond Commission (\$2.3 million). Discussed how the 4+ mile path will unite the Farmington Canal Greenway with the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

Reviewed how the trail will run through the city connecting the two existing trails and ending at the East Haven town line. Discussed how a small area of one private lot will need to be purchased.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Zinn confirmed that the owners of the private property needed have already signed the purchase and sale agreement, agreeing to accept the \$4k for the small area needed. The remaining part of the trail will run through public owned property. Discussed how they will handle the bridge in the area.

In response to Alder Marx, Mr. Zinn reviewed how it will take 18-24 months of construction to complete this section of the trail. Reviewed how the trail will come down Water Street to connect Long Wharf and State Street.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Mr. Zinn confirmed the trail will be paved. Discussed how maintenance will be like how the other trails and streets are maintained. Spoke about how interconnectivity in the city is important and at the forefront of their decisions.

In response to Alder Ficklin, Jr., Mr. Zinn discussed how they do not issue an annual report. Reviewed how they have had success obtaining grants to complete work in the city. Spoke about how the Engineering Department has been working with GIS and will consider ways they can better disseminate information regarding the projects they are working on throughout the city.

Rishabh Mittal spoke in favor of extending the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

Douglas Hausladen, Executive Director for the New Haven Parking Authority, and Matthew Lieber, 18 Hampton Road, East Haven, Vice President of Shoreline Greenway Trail nonprofit organization, running currently from East Haven to Madison, spoke in favor of extending the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

Director Hausladen reviewed how the Shoreline Greenway Trail organization is a volunteer organization and is looking for New Haven volunteers. Invited committee members to the trail walk scheduled for 9:30 am on April 20, 2024.

Mr. Lieber discussed how the Shoreline Greenway Trail organization supports and encourages connecting residents to the shoreline.

In response to Alder Marx, Director Hausladen reviewed how this section of the trail is a very good trunk line with additional work needed on the branches to connect businesses to the trail.

Mr. Lieber discussed how pedestrian safety is the primary point, which will enable better access to more scenic areas.

Aaron Goode, 702 Quinnipiac Avenue, spoke in favor of this project. Discussed how this extending the trail will make the city's shoreline more accessible and known to residents. Suggested wayfinding signage and historical plaques to maximize the positive impact of this trail.

Mr. Zinn discussed why the location for the trail was chosen. Reviewed how if other areas were chosen, it would have required taking a lot more property including people's front yards and some entire structures. Spoke about wayfinding signage can be very helpful to assist people in finding scenic locations and then getting back to the trail.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 4, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. Alder Kampton Singh moved to amend to remove reference to Wintergreen Area Pedestrian Improvements Project and replace with Shoreline Greenway Trail, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. All the Alders spoke in favor of the amendment. The motion to amend was unanimously approved, and the amendment passed. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed, as amended.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:31 p.m.

Alder Troy Streater moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 7:46 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:

<https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II