



NRZ Meeting 3.13.2024
Burroughs Community Center
Bridgeport, CT 06605

President Greg Simon called the Regular Meeting of the Black Rock NRZ to order at 6:35 Tuesday March 13th.

Board Members in Attendance

Greg Simon

Karen Saebo

Eri Sastre

Tim O'Connor

David Barber

Scott Burns (ex-officio)

Val Rossi

Peter Holecz

Treasurer's Report: Greg gave treasurer's report in absence of treasurer

NRZ Leadership Committee Report: No updates, but we are doing well with all our connections and getting a lot of community support.

Kevin Howard, representing Higher Collective, the incoming dispensary business on Fairfield Ave:

- Currently the business is expected to acquire final city permits in the next 3 days, and open their business in the 3rd quarter of the year.

- The team is creating a Social Equity Plan for our neighborhood. And at the meeting we discussed potential ideas.
- Higher Collective currently has locations in Willington, Killingly, New London, Torrington, & Hamden.
- Higher Collective additionally plans to have an open house to engage and educate the community about their business and products.

Standing committee updates:

Standing Committee 1: **Business Development and Land Use:** David Barbour reports:

- This committee is discussing what kind of projects they would like to take on.
- Ideas include:
 - Working on the impacts of a recent court ruling about historic properties.
 - The tree planting project
 - Attention to the adherence of local businesses to village district design guidelines
 - Addressing blight
 - Neighborhood signage that needs updating
 - Promoting businesses to those outside the neighborhood
 - Coordinate other NRZ planning efforts with traffic study in progress
 - Hold a design design charrette

Standing Committee 2: **Quality of Life:** Greg Simon and Eri Sastre provided updates on the ARPA projects:

- Nothing new to report on Dog Park
- The mural project progress was described
 - One mural location has been confirmed, the corner of Jetland & Fairfield Ave (the building that houses Roadrunner across from the municipal parking lot).
 - The next step is to identify a short list of artists that might fit each location
 - Over 50 artists are expected to submit, they are due Friday 3/15
 - We are looking for one more location in Black Rock

Standing Committee 3: **Outreach & Communications:** Greg Simon

- Greg is looking to recruit designer familiar with Square Space to help with the website

Standing Committee 4: **Environment:** No Update

- **Old Business**

Corridor Study: Val Rossi reports:

- The project is 14 months in, the team is drafting a design to present
- MetroCog/Fairfield Brewsetr Corridor study will meet with a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in person soon. Val will attend.
- After this meeting they will present the draft to the public.
- This may be a good opportunity to re-engage the parking committee.

AARP Tree Project:

- Money needs to be committed for trees by December

Open Discussion:

Scott Burns reports

- He, the EPA, and PT Partners were looking at a community change grant to reinvision Bostwick Avenue

Karen Zabo

- Suggested creating an NRZ internship for grantwriting

Motion adjourn: by Tim O'Connor, seconded by Peter Gallager

All in favor, none opposed

Meeting adjourned 8:11

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eri Sastre, NRZ Secretary