



NCDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes February 24, 2022

Via Zoom and at Foundry 66

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Jason Jones called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. A quorum was established.

Present: Jason Jones, Chris Jewell, Robert Staley, John Salomone, Chris LaRose, Angy Gardner, Stacy Gould, Rev. Benjamin Green, Swarnjit Singh, Mayor Peter Nystrom, Bryan Hayes, JP Mereen, John Harris, and Lynn Perry. **Absent:** Rebecca Alberts and John Mancini. **Other Attendees:** Kevin Brown, Lee Ann D'Ambrosio, Mary Riley, Devin Schleidt and Suki Lagrito. **Guests:** Melinda Wilson (seCTer) and Bill Kenny.

Mr. Jones asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting.

MOTION #1: Chris Jewell made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting. Swarnjit Singh seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. **Foundry 66 Report:** Mary Riley gave an update on Foundry 66. She reported that three new members had recently joined, and all were dedicated desks. She discussed the expansion of Midnight Aether in the Sunlight Building. Ms. Riley reported on the successful LEAD event held at Foundry 66 on February 4 with local Hispanic business leaders. She said that Foundry 66 will be collaborating with LEAD on future events.

3. **Global City Norwich Report:** Suki Lagrito gave the Global City Norwich Report. She said that GCN was moving ahead with plans on the Faces/Places/Spaces project as well as a new Working Lab Program and potential Vanilla Box properties. Ms. Lagrito also mentioned upcoming events including the Dominican Republic Flag Raising, a Black History Month event and a fundraiser for the Cape Verdean Festival coming up in May. Lastly, Ms. Lagrito said she was working to activate underutilized open spaces for public art in downtown Norwich.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Jewell gave the Treasurer's Report and updated the Board on NCDC's current finances. He said that NCDC is expected to receive administration fees for several projects in the next couple of months.

5. **President's Report:** Kevin Brown gave a quick refresh on the top priorities discussed at the February meeting. He reported that an RFP was recently posted for a general contractor to work with NCDC and assist with the projects approved for the NRP grants. He discussed the application process and that NCDC will most likely have more applicants than funds. NCDC has received three completed applications to date. By mid-May he should have an idea of how much additional funding from the City may be needed. Members of the Board asked questions about the criteria in the application for the NRP grants.

Mr. Brown gave a quick update on the development of the Business Park North. He discussed the Build Back Better Regional Grant application in conjunction with seCTer and the upcoming RAISE grant that he and Henry Resnikoff will be working on with two grant writers (consultants) familiar with the RAISE grants.

Next Mr. Brown discussed the current cannabis climate in CT. He noted that the CT licensing process is very complex and he is receiving several calls a day from multi-state operators. At the moment they are only interested in whether Norwich is zoned and about the utilities. He anticipates the City Council to vote on a resolution for a set of zoning ordinances next month. Stacy Gould noted that there will be a public hearing on April 4th regarding a the cannabis industry in Norwich. Mr. Brown confirmed that a second NCDC cannabis event would be held at the Cabaret Theater at Mohegan Sun on Thursday, March 10 from 6:00-10:00 pm. The event would address the technical issues around licensing, etc. NPU agreed to be a sponsor for the event and Mr. Brown thanked Mr. LaRose for NPU's support.

The Board discussed current and future developments and their potential impact on Norwich Public Utilities. Mr. LaRose assured the members that NPU has the capacity to meet the current demands and any future demands required by one or more cannabis growing facilities.

Mr. Brown gave an update on NCDC's Priorities of Work which he presented at the January 27 meeting. He noted that he and Mark Block have been working on the DECD grant for the Ponemah Mill Phase II development. Mr. Brown gave a brief update on NCDC's current lease and CAM expenses. He is working on an amendment to the current lease that will include a flat rate for CAM expenses in line with the current market rate. Lastly, Mr. Brown is working on a draft 2022-2023 budget proposal for NCDC.

6. Mr. Jones asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

MOTION #2: Mayor Nystrom made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Stacy Gould seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously at 9:03 am.

7. Jason Jones asked for a motion to exit Executive Session.

MOTION #3: Stacy Gould made a motion to exit Executive Session. Chris Jewell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously at 9:08 am. No votes were taken.

8. Jason Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Stacy Gould made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Jewell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Lee Ann D'Ambrosio
Executive Assistant