

**STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING - CAPITAL BUDGET
APPROVED MINUTES - TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017
4TH FLOOR CAFETERIA, GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BLVD., STAMFORD, CT**

Stamford Planning Board Members present were: Voting Members: Theresa Dell, Chair; Jay Tepper, Vice Chair; Claire Fishman, Secretary; Jennifer Godzeno and Michael Totilo. Alternates: William Levin and Roger Quick. Present for Land Use Bureau staff: David W. Woods, PhD, AICP, Principal Planner and Erin McKenna, Associate Planner. Other City officials present: Rodney Pratt, Board of Representatives-District 9; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Jay Fountain, Acting Director of Office of Policy & Management; Anthony Romano, Management Analyst-Office of Policy & Management; Ellen Bromway, Director of Social Services; Al Barbarotta, Board of Education.

Ms. Dell started the session calling for a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Mr. Tepper moved to hold the Special Meeting on January 31, 2017; Ms. Godzeno seconded the motion and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Godzeno, Totilo and Tepper).

**CAPITAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS FY2017/2024:
CAPITAL BUDGET 2017-2018 & CAPITAL PLAN 2018-2024**

Ms. Dell then opened the Public Hearing on the Capital Budget 2017-2018 at 7:05 p.m., and explained to the audience how the process of speaking was to take place. Ms. Dell called upon Ms. Fishman to read into the record the legal notice of this meeting, as follows:

**LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING BOARD
OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD**

In accordance with Section C8-20-5 of the Stamford Charter, the **STAMFORD PLANNING BOARD** will hold a **Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 7:00 P.M., Government Center Building, 4th Floor Cafeteria, 888 Washington Blvd., Stamford, CT; if weather conditions do not permit holding this Public Hearing, the alternate date will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017** to hear public comments on **the recommended CAPITAL BUDGET for the 2017-2018 and the CAPITAL PLAN 2018-2024**. Copies of the budget document are available in the Land Use Bureau Office, 7th Floor, Government Center Building, during regular business hours; on the City's website at www.cityofstamford.org, "City Departments drop down menu / Planning / Planning Board Draft Recommended Capital Budget 2017-2018 & Capital Plan 2018-2024"; and at the Public Hearing.

The meeting place is accessible to the physically impaired. Deaf and hearing impaired persons wishing to attend this meeting and requiring an interpreter may make arrangements by contacting the department of Social Services Administration Office at (203) 977-4050 at least four working days prior to the meeting.

Ms. Dell called the names for speakers from the original sign in sheet (*Attachment #1*) as follows:

1. Erin McKenna - Associate Planner, City of Stamford
2. Archie Elam - The Stamford Veterans Council & Commander, District 1 CT VFW
3. Chris Unger - The Stamford Veterans Council
4. Dan Stolzenbach - General Manager, Stamford Town Center
5. John Ruotolo - Vice President Operations, Stamford Downtown Special Services District (DSSD)
6. Alice Knapp - President, Ferguson Library
7. Christie Fountain - President, Glenbrook Neighborhood Association
8. Pamela Coleman - Chair, Stamford Historical Center
9. Al Barbarotta - Board of Education

- Erin McKenna introduced two-part projects that she hoped would encourage the Planning Board to increase the funding authorizations for: (1) Veteran's Park; and (2) Lione Park (*submitted 5 pictures - Attachment #2*). Both of these parks have considerable support from profit and non-profit agencies such as DSSD for Veteran's Park and The Boys & Girls Club for Lione Park. Ms. McKenna introduced Archie Elam, The Stamford Veterans Council & Commander, District 1 CT VFW, as well as Chris Unger, a member of The Stamford Veterans Council and requested time to talk about Lione Park after the Veteran's Park speakers finished, with Board of Representative, Rodney Pratt.
- Commander Archie Elam submitted a letter on behalf of The Stamford Veterans Council (*Attachment #3*) to the Planning Board and discussed Veteran's Municipal Park as potentially a focal point for the City of Stamford's citizens and visitors, whereas now, it is "a little bit dirty and grungy." Commander Elam argued that "from The Stamford Veterans Council's point of view, the proposed reduction from \$1.9 million to \$500,000.00 will have significant (and perhaps) unintended impacts:
 - There is a dollar-to-dollar match of funds between the private and public stakeholders. We have a terrific partnership and great support. This proposed reduction will signal to donors and stakeholders that the City has a limited commitment to the recognition of its veterans. This will limit the willingness and depth of their giving to and support for this very important project.
 - The cost of the project will be considerably higher if done in two parts. This segmentation will also raise risks in the areas of fundraising, overall support/perception of the effort and construction execution.

As a result, I am requesting that the Planning Board re-evaluate its earlier decision and restore the full amount to \$1.9 million.

- Chris Unger reiterated Commander Elam's points.
- Dan Stolzenbach, General Manager of Stamford Town Center, discussed the efforts that Stamford Town Center was undertaking to raise matching funds and from a business model, how important a functioning and beautiful park adjacent to the Mall is important from an economic benefits standpoint for the whole City.
- John Ruotolo, Vice President Operations, Stamford Downtown Special Services District, supported the similar efforts that the DSSD was doing to raise funds, which he stated was approximately 85% of their half.

[Staff received a letter from Mr. Ruotolo on Thursday, January 26, 2017 as follow up to his testimony at the Public Hearing. (*Attachment #4*)

- Alice Knapp, President-Ferguson Library, thanked the Planning Board for recommending the \$60,000.00 for computer upgrades but is requesting that the Planning Board include the request for new

flooring at the Harry Bennett Library if not for this year, at least for next year. Ms. Dell pointed out that the reason the Planning board did not recommend funding for the Harry Bennett Library flooring was due to the understanding that the life expectancy of the product they were requesting was 10 years instead of for 20-25 years which would make this either an Operations item or Short Term Capital. Ms. Knapp responded by assuring the Board that the proposed flooring will be functional for 20-30 years.

- Christie Fountain, President of the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association, submitted a letter on behalf of the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association (*Attachment #5*) in support of the \$300,000.00 that the Planning Board is recommending for traffic safety and mobility projects. The projects that the City can use these funds for will save lives and advance the City's "Safe Streets Program." Ms. Fountain pointed out that the Hubbard Heights Association is also sending a letter in support of these funds.

[Staff received the letter from Michael D. de Milt, President of the Hubbard Heights Association, also supporting these funds after close of business on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 before the Public Hearing and Dr. Woods will submit to the Board at the January 31, 2017 meeting. (*Attachment #6*)]

- Pamela Coleman, Chair, Stamford Historical Society, also thanked the Board for including funds in support of the Stamford Historical Society but requested more funds to address their parking lot that has been beaten up by the trucks during the move of the Hoyt-Barnum House to the Stamford Historical Society.
- Al Barbarotta, Board of Education, spoke briefly on the Board of Education's Short Term Capital request in which he stated that the Board of Education was meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to develop a new solution to the total funds requested. (Mr. Barbarotta submitted a letter from Earl Kim, Superintendent of Schools - *Attachment #7*.)

PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting of 1/10/17: After a brief discussion, Mr. Totilo moved to recommend approval of the Planning Board Minutes of January 10, 2017; Ms. Godzeno seconded the motion, and passed unanimously with eligible members present voting, 5-0 (Dell, Fishman, Godzeno, Totilo, and Tepper).

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Next regularly scheduled Planning Board meetings are:

01/31/17 - Special Regular Meeting

02/07/17 - Cancelled