MINUTES
Commissioners' Meeting
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
December 2, 2024
6:00pm, Community Center and via Zoom

Commissioner Mrs. Langalis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Attendees: Commissioners Andy Meyerson, Tammy Langalis, and Jody Sattler.
- Treasurer, Gil Kernan, and Property Manager and Beach Director, Bill Nollman

Minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting were approved by the 3 commissioners.

Art Center:
- The back deck on the river needs attention.
- Part of the railing of the fence that goes down the side deck needs attention.
- The seawall behind 143 William Avenue may need renovation/restoration.

Beach:
- Winterized; spring floor systems closed, no water.
- Replacing the old wood float with a new aluminum frame with composite top float (18x10).
- Irrigation Systems:
- Consolidating to one system for the baseball field, tennis courts, this property, and Pinkney Park.
- Benches:
- A couple of benches have been left out for people to enjoy at the beach.

Rowayton Avenue:
- Sidewalk work and repaving are complete.
- Old School Field:
- Writing a letter to the city to refurbish the field (owned by the city).
- Requesting new tree planting.
- - Hoping to get the speed limit reduced on a state road.

Community Center
- Getting bids on redoing the sewer underneath the building.
- Getting bids to repave the back lot and entrance.
- "It has to do with the plumbing for the bathrooms on both sides, the library and the underground."
- Bathrooms:
- Hired an outside company to clean the bathrooms.
- Bathrooms are public and get a lot of use.

Pinkney Barn:
- The Historical Society is looking to fix/repurpose their space and eliminate some of the rot.

Dog Park:
- Getting a bin with dirt for owners to fill in holes.

Wi-Fi:
- Upgraded and working well.
- Marty Roth spearheaded the project at Pinkney park.
- Vendors at the farms market and bazaar can use their phones.
- WIFI at Bayley Beach and the Community Center are being worked on

Construction Trucks Going Through Town
- Ongoing problem of construction trucks using local roads instead of highways.
- Trucks get off the highway in Norwalk and go back on in Darien, or vice versa.
- Many trucks ignore "no through truck" signs.
- 2007: Commissioners worked with Darien and Norwalk Police Departments and the Department of Transportation to prevent trucks from coming through town.
- Reached out to UPS, who agreed to stop sending trucks through town.
- Problem is now worse than ever.
- One person sees 15-20 trucks daily, using routes like Martin Luther King, Highland, Wilson, etc.
- One person contacted a company whose trucks were frequently seen, but the problem persists.
- Plan: Work with police departments and the state to enforce the rules.
- Reach out to companies and inform them of potential fines.
- Darien and Norwalk Police say enforcement is difficult if trucks have business in Norwalk but pass through Darien.
- One person suggests police presence to deter trucks.
- Trucks are supposed to use Martin Luther King to Fairfield Avenue, then Route 1 to exit 14.
- The state is willing to bus people, but the dump truck drivers just get on their cell phones and say hey, there's. A sting, go the other way.
- The state offered a sign with a truck and slash through it, but Norwalk police say the "no through truck" sign on Wilson Avenue is unenforceable because trucks can drive there.
- Trucks use local roads because there is no clear path south.
- The Fairfield Avenue bridge is now open.
- "Those trucks have to use that bridge. That should be our big pattern."
- There's a new state task force.
- MLK corridor decree had environmental implications, which helped get UPS to comply.

Noise and Pollution
- Speaker mentions a *New York Times* article about the health implications of noise from airports, suggesting the noise from trucks is similar.
- Speaker also mentions pollution and the wetlands.

Truck Traffic Issues
- Speaker recalls that when Rowayton Avenue was still installed 18 years ago, Arianne (Devon Klein) was cooperative, and the state of Connecticut and the Darien Police Commission were helpful.
- Tracy Mara was also supportive and wanted to be on the committee.
- Speaker notes increased construction and traffic due to more people and houses.
- Speaker suggests enforcing the speed limit and considering alternative routes for trucks.
- Speaker mentions an incident where a tractor-trailer truck nearly hit Joe and John's neighbor.
- Speaker recalls that traffic improvements on West End Avenue in New York only happened after a child was killed.
- Speaker suggests re-examining existing precepts that may have been forgotten.
- Jim Prair and the Shanahans are aware of the issue.
- Narrower roads, achieved through sidewalk projects, can help slow down traffic.

Friends of Bayley Beach Update
- The fundraising goal of $200,000 has been reached.
- The group is seeking steps to obtain a $25,000 grant, bringing the total to $277,000.
- The goal is to place the order for equipment by January for a spring installation.
- Additional funds are needed for other aspects of the project, such as fencing and wood chips.
- The total cost of the equipment and installation is $310,000.
- Ring’s End has offered to donate split rail fencing.
- The total donations needed are around $450,000.
- Volunteers could potentially help with demolition of the current ground.
- The speaker is seeking connections with construction companies for assistance with excavation.
- The speaker is asking for help with tasks that don't require qualified personnel.

- A property manager who is a builder with contacts will make a list this month to help with donations.
- Their names and numbers can be provided to help.

Rendering Details
- The rendering is finalized.
- The buoy book will have different colors, with buoy one listing names of those who paid $1,000 or more.
- The rendering includes the big mythos gate, fence, current playground, and wetlands with the appropriate border.
- The pathway to the little league is near the big rock landmark.

Playground Features
- Picnic tables, benches, and shady trees are planned, with the Nomad Tree alliance donating trees.
- The Explorer Dome is designed for 5 to 12 year olds, featuring a slide and spinner.
- A penthouse is designed for younger kids.
- There will be a sand pit for babies.

Water and Space
- The area is currently dead space with wood chips.
- Despite potential wetness during storms, the area generally stays dry.
- Flooding primarily comes from the creek.
- The water table is four inches below the surface, making it suitable for the planned features.

Construction Timing and Kayak Considerations
- Construction is planned to start in the spring.
- Kayak racks may need to be moved temporarily during the three to four week construction process.
- The construction process includes demo, grading, and building, with the actual build taking only two weeks.

Dumpster and Dismantling
- A dumpster will likely be needed for the old playground stuff.
- Complete dismantling.com was mentioned as a potential option for dismantling and removal.

Fundraising and Grants
- Lauren is following up with a woman from Complete Dismantling.
- Josie and Tony have offered their property down by the beach for fundraisers.

- A second grant for landscaping in the next fiscal year is being considered, with a January submission deadline.

Permits and Lighthouse Replica
- Ted will handle the city hall permit process.
- Greens Ledge has offered to raise money for a lighthouse replica as a learning experience for kids.
- They are raising money for a beach landing craft to take people from Bailey out there.

Traffic Issue
- A "do not enter" sign is requested from public to Raleigh Avenue due to traffic issues.
- This is a city issue.

- A person mentions that if someone is waiting to turn right and nobody is waiting to turn left, people might mistakenly turn into oncoming traffic.
- Jim Travers' email was sent to someone else.
- There's a small triangle on the back road to the highway in durian that indicates where to go around an intersection.
- The speaker will take a picture of a similar triangle and send it to Jim.
- Someone suggests posting the picture with what they're looking for.
- The playground was shown at the fall festival.
- There are more kids in town now, and the playground is packed.

Treasurer Report
- Doug Hillman's reports are mentioned.
- Revenues are below 50% of the June 30 fiscal year.
- The community center sewer line is funded for $90,000.
- The playground grant is $20,000.
- $14,000 is budgeted for something that has taken years to get estimates for.

The next meeting of the six taxing district is scheduled for January 6th, 2025, at 6:00 PM.
- They will discuss meetings for the public budget hearings and other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.