

**East Side Partnership
Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2005
Minutes**

Present: Jim Grunberger, Paula Callari, Janet Chukinas, Jeanne Carrillo, Vasilios Sotiropoulis, Timur Satayev, Rushton Young, Peter Athanasiadis, Harry Seitaridis, Bill Aloupis, Scott Kaluczky, Lou Casolo, Mani Poola, Jeff Zolluccio, Fran Sessa, Joe Sessa, Anne Rich, Elizabeth Whittaker, Carmen, Domonkos, Diane O'Connor, Sister Claire Edwards, Tom Hunter, Seth Weinstein, Cyrus Taheri, Bill McKale, Juan Paniagua, Marie- Louis Cutrone.

The meeting held at the Holiday Inn Select was called to order by Chair Jim Grunberger at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 19, 2005 neighborhood meeting were approved.

Finance Report: Carmen Domonkos reviewed that finance report as distributed.

Urban Transit Way Phase II – Myrtle Avenue: City of Stamford Engineers Mani Poola and Lou Casolo presented the preliminary plan and an overview for the Urban Transit Way Phase II. The proposed project will widen Myrtle Avenue between Elm Street and East Main Street. The city welcomes community involvement, and wants to have a balance between transportation and community needs.

Phase I of the plan will end on Jefferson Street at Elm Street and is fully funded, and the bid will be posted in the spring of 2006. The city is in the process of buying the properties that need to be taken. This project will begin next year and take 2 years. The city is trying to schedule Phase II to begin immediately after Phase I is complete.

The Phase II initial plan for Myrtle Avenue is a four-lane corridor with designated turn lanes and four bus turn outs. In the initial plan there will be some full property takings, including the Subway property, Deyulios Sausage Company, and 928 East Main (Casablanca location). They plan to reduce the amount of full property takings. It will take approximately one and a half years before finalizing the design. There are currently between 7000 and 8000 cars traveling on Myrtle Avenue daily and the goal of the project is to ease and alleviate traffic congestion. No one will lose access to their property during construction which should take two nine-month seasons. Public hearings on the project will be held and the city plans to have a program to meet with each property owner. Since on-street parking may be eliminated, the city is investigating building a municipal parking lot.

Executive Director Activity Report: Diane O'Connor requested members for subcommittees. The following volunteered: Nominating Committee: Paula Callari,

Communication Subcommittee: Anne Rich, Fundraising Subcommittee: Jim Grunberger and Bill McKale, Zoning Subcommittee: Timur Satayev and Vasilios Sotiropoulis.

A fundraising letter to residents will be mailed this week. The sculpture garden has been 80% planted, the remainder will be planted in the spring. Painting of the East Main railroad bridge will begin next week. Diane will meet with the DOT Rail for an inspection of their property. Lafayette Street has been repaved.

Cove Neighborhood Association is supporting the passing of a front-lawn parking ordinance along with the ESP. A Home Down-payment Program workshop is being sponsored by the ESP on November 30th. We are working with The World is Our Neighborhood to provide school supplies and shoes for needy children at Rogers School. Four ESP Board Members donated a total of \$1000 for Nature's Classroom, a fifth grade camping trip for students of Rogers School.

Day Laborer Update: Juan Paniagua continues to work with day laborers on the East Side. He is trying to teach laborers that there is a better opportunity to get employment by using the designated pick-up site rather than on East Main. His research has shown that contractors picking up laborers at Dunkin Donuts, BevMax and Blockbuster made prearrangements with laborers to meet there.

Neighborhood Plan Update: Jeanne Carrillo reported that she sent Tom Bruccoleri, City of Stamford Transportation Planner, the comments and recommendations that the ESP Board compiled. Tom said that he would forward them to TPA Design Group.

Newsletter: Janet Chukinas reported that the next ESP Newsletter will be sent out in December. She requested the group to send any news items to her by the end of November. Seth Weinstien, developer of the Glen View House project, said that he would provide a rendering of the condo project for the newsletter.

The next Neighborhood Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Janet Chukinas, Secretary