



OLD TOWN HALL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
STAMFORD, CT 06901-2152

OLD TOWN HALL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Minutes of December 18, 2014

December 19, 2014

OTHRA Attendees

Harry Day
Maira Lyons
T.R. Molgano
Annie Summerville
Sandy Goldstein
Dudley Williams
Tim Curtin

Controller's Department

Karen Vitale
Eric Newman

Economic Development

Thomas Madden

Other Attendees

Attorney John Leydon
Attorney Mike Andreana
Marc Lyons, AFB Maintenance Co.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim Curtin at 8:41 a.m.

Minutes

On a motion by Annie Summerville, second by Dudley Williams, the minutes of the November 20, 2014 were approved unanimously.

Meeting Schedule for 2015

Copies of the meeting schedule for 2015 were distributed to the members.

Old Town Hall Annual Management Report

Marc Lyons of AFB Maintenance Co. distributed copies of his report to the members. He stated that the Comprehensive Maintenance Program implemented two years ago has saved the building from major capital repairs during the year. There have been no major breakdowns in equipment or systems. He has commenced a program of "sprucing up" areas of the building that get the most use. This includes painting, stripping and waxing floors and refinishing wood floors as needed.

Art Committee Final Report for 2014

During 2014 there were two art exhibits held in the public space, but due to lack of funding art exhibits were curtailed for most of 2014. No exhibits are presently planned for 2015.

Executive Session – Discussion of Tenant Issues, Leases, Financial Considerations and Action to be Recommended

At 9:20 a.m., on a motion by Dudley Williams, second by Harry Day and approved unanimously, the board went into Executive Session. Karen Vitale, Eric Newman, John Leydon and Mike Andreana were invited to participate in the Executive Session.

At 10:12 a.m. a motion was made by Moira Lyons, second by T.R. Molgano to come out of Executive Session and approved unanimously.

No motions were made or voted on in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Sandy Goldstein, second by Harry Day, to give authority to Tim Curtin, Karen Vitale and Eric Newman, to negotiate an Engagement Letter with the firm of Pullman and Comley for the services of Attorney Michael Andreana to assist the Board at planned meetings with U.S. Bancorp to close out their interest in the Old Town Hall Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by T.R. Molgano, second by Dudley Williams, to retain the accounting firm of O'Connor Davis to conduct the calendar year 2015 audit of the Old Town Hall Restoration Agency (OTHRA) and to provide accounting support to OTHRA

during negotiations to close out U.S. Bancorp's interest in the Old Town Hall Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Tim Curtin gave an overview of the City's efforts, over the years, to restore the historic Daugherty Murals that were painted in 1934 under the New Deal's Public Works Art Project, by renowned artist James Dougherty, a Stamford resident. The original set of seven murals were hung in the music room of Stamford High School. In 1970, workmen removed the murals from the walls of the room as part of a renovation of the High School. Painted on canvas, they were cut into 30 pieces and thrown into a dumpster with a heap of construction debris. A graduate of the school rescued the murals and eventually they found their way into the possession of an art restorer, Hiram Holzer, of Armonk, NY. After reassembling the murals, Holzer commenced a lawsuit, claiming ownership of the murals on the grounds of abandonment. The court ruled against him, at the same time ordering the City to pay "reasonable value" to Holzer for his services. The then Stamford Mayor felt the City could not afford this and forfeited the murals to the restorer. At that time, the six surviving murals were appraised by Sotheby's New York at a total value of \$1,250,000. The restorer eventually sold two of the murals to private collectors in California. The remaining four murals were bought back by the City of Stamford in 2003.

Since then, two of these murals have been painstakingly restored and placed on public view in Stamford. The first, *School Activities*, restored by Joseph Matteis, is on loan to the University of Connecticut/Stamford and was dedicated on December 11, 2005, at this new site on a wall in the library of the UCONN building in downtown Stamford. The second mural, *New England Tradition*, was restored by Matteis in 2006 and installed on a prominent wall in the Stamford public library (The Ferguson Library) in downtown Stamford. The dedication took place on January 17, 2007. Both of these murals have been mounted on half-inch thick aluminum backing and are portable should it be necessary to move them.

The third mural *Sports* was restored by Joseph Matteis in 2009 in the same format as the above two murals and was returned to an honored location at Stamford High School as part of the school's 135th year anniversary celebration at a dedication ceremony on November 18, 2009.

Funds are currently being raised to restore the fourth and final mural, *The World Outside* and an excellent space was located for it in Old Town Hall, the Stamford Room adjacent to the Sail Room on Level 1 of the building. After discussion a motion was made by Sandy Goldstein, second by Harry Day to approve the above described space in the Stamford Room of Old Town Hall adjacent to the Sail Room on Level 1. The motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Annie Summerville, second by Moira Lyons and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Curtin
December 19, 2014