

MINUTES
Commissioners' Meeting
SIXTH TAXING DISTRICT, City of Norwalk
February 8, 2023
6:30 p.m., Community Center and via Zoom

Commission Chair Mrs. Langalis called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Attendees – Commission Chair, Mrs. Langalis, Commissioner Mr. Igneri, Assistant to the Treasurer, Doug Hillman, Rental Coordinator, Bill Nollman, Assistant Property Manager, Eric Holter.

Minutes from the January 11, 2023 meeting were approved by Mrs. Langalis and Mr. Igneri.

New Business

Trees at Ambler Lot – Mrs. Langalis described the background of the Ambler Parking Lot – it was built 17 years ago on property the district received in a will from the Ambler family for the purpose of building a parking lot. Now that the lot will be renovated to increase parking spaces by 18 and provide significantly better traffic flow, 21 trees must be cut down to do the project. The following people from the City of Norwalk were present to discuss the tree work: Chris Torre, Paul Sotnik, Tom Livingston, Lisa Shanahan. About 60 trees (of varying species according to the City ordinance) will be planted across the District's properties to replace the cut-down trees: Community Center, Bayley Beach, and Pinkney Park, by a professional landscape company. Paul Sotnik stated that this project plan is a good case study for the City of Norwalk to show how the ordinance for tree removal can be followed properly. Mr. Livingston mentioned that the City of Norwalk will be spending \$1 million on new tree plantings, and that Paul Sotnik can be reached via email at psotnik@norwalkct.org if someone has an idea of where to plant trees. Mr. Rob Frazier mentioned that the Norwalk Tree Alliance is offering to plant a tree in someone's front yard free of charge. The trees at Ambler Lot will be marked tomorrow that they will be coming down and allows 10 days for anyone to protest. Mrs. Langalis asked that a note be put up along with the markings that the District will be replanting trees as part of the project. Paul Sotnik agreed to this idea.

Revaluation of the properties in Norwalk was discussed by Mrs. Langalis.

Pinkney Park Barn Restoration – Mrs. Livingston said how the barn was built about 250 years ago and a discussion was had about restoring it. Gene Salvatore talked about its historic value and ideas for work to be done and materials used. Gene also suggested having a storage unit put in place so that the barn can be used and displayed as a historic landmark. Mr. Igneri is the Commissioner with oversight of Pinkney Park, and he will form a group to discuss ideas for a restoration project of the barn.

Old Business

Bayley Beach Playground – Mrs. Morrell said that a committee has been formed by the Rowayton Parents Exchange (RPE) to explore options for renovating the playground at Bayley Beach. Mrs. Morrell stated that the fence, mulch, and slides all need work as well as some other areas. The RPE has come to the conclusion that rebuilding the playground from scratch is most likely the best solution. Mrs. Morrell asked if they would be allowed to expand the playground beyond the kayak racks, and did mention major fundraising would be required. The size of the playground now is 4,000 square feet, and they may look to add another 2,000 square feet. Commissioner Langalis mentioned that The District does not want to lose any trees in such a project. Commissioner Langalis and Commissioner Igneri asked the RPE to come back with a proposal, and that if money will be requested from the District to do so one year ahead of time. Once re-built, the District will maintain the playground.

A resolution was read and approved by Mrs. Langalis and Mr. Igneri for the District to receive a \$37k grant from the State for Renovation of the Frank E. Raymond Museum and Boathouse at Pinkney Park. The grant request was written by Mrs. Wendell Livingston several years ago, and since The District is the owner of the property, it must be the recipient of the grant. The funds (less attorney fees) will then be remitted to Historic Rowayton.

Pinkney Park Porches – This project has gone well and will be finished this week or next week.

Art Center Interior Wall – Project moving along fine. It was mentioned that the support for the porch may be weakened and Mrs. Langalis asked no one be allowed on the porch until it can be properly looked at.

Commissioner's Report

Mrs. Langalis – The Train Station waiting for replacement window. Mrs. Langalis asked Eric Holter to have a look at the fence at the train station by the house on Arnold and see what can be done.

Mr. Igneri – Nothing further than what was already discussed.

Assistant to the Treasurer, Doug Hillman

The finances look good and are in alignment with budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Mr. Igneri mentioned the budget for 2023-2024 is being worked on and will be presented March 1 at the Annual meeting.

Assistant Property Manager, Eric Holter

Gene Salvatore did a good job fixing the soffit at the Community Center, the guys are splitting wood and residents can pick some up at the Community Center lawn if interested. Composting has been going ok.

Beach Director, Bill Nollman

Doug Hillman mentioned that stickers will be ordered next week, and a discussion was had about accepting credit cards, zelle, or venmo for payment. Mr. Hillman mentioned he is interested in automation and making efficiency changes in the future, just not this year as it is 2 months away. A discussion was also had about putting the license plates on the stickers again. Mr. Hillman said he appreciates the comment, and it will be discussed.

Rental Coordinator, Bill Nollman

Rentals have been busy.

Next meeting

March 1, 2023 – Annual meeting and Commissioners' meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.