

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HISTORICAL COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Dana Laird, Chair; Barry Belardinelli; Jordon Hensley; Elizabeth Golden; Tod Bryant; David Westmoreland; Doug Hempstead, Eric Chandler, Mark Jacobson

STAFF: Susan Gilgore

ABSENT: Lisa Grant, Diane Jellerette

OTHER: David Parker, Patsy Brescia

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laird called the meeting to order at 7:07.

Chair Laird moved forward to the presentation by Mr. David Scott Parker who was introduced by Ms. Brescia.

PRESENTATION FROM DAVID SCOTT PARKER - HISTORY OF THE MANSION

Ms. Brescia mentioned that Mr. Parker has been with this commission for the last 20 years and was instrumental in this \$13.5M project which is important to the city and the state with regard to historical structures like the Mansion. She said that he would present some of the history, photos and plans this evening to the group. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Parker.

Mr. Parker gave a verbal overview of the history of the mansion. When other cities were destroying their historical buildings, ours was preserved. He used a visual presentation to accompany his discourse. The preservation act of 1966 signed by President Johnson is the instrument that has helped us keep our historical building, Lockwood-Mathews Mansion.

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Underground pipes and systems will be installed where stonework is now and will be carefully replaced. The HVAC system will retard moisture that the building has suffered in the past. New windows will be installed. A sprinkler system is also planned not to effect current design of decorative structures in the ceilings. Wif-fi is being added for our computer age in the building. Other items are planned if funding allows.

Current archive area is a target area for change in the basement to create a reading section. A current basement area will be used as a meeting area for educational use and accommodation with its own outside entrance. The house had a two-lane bowling alley. The space is being considered as a reception area for various events at the facility. The gift shop cabinetry can be restored and continue as a gift shop which was originally the Lockwood kitchen. The new kitchen will have stainless steel to meet catering requirements using the current pass-through window structure. One of the windows will be turned into a door to accommodate this change.

The second floor will become office space used for the function of the mansion day-to-day function. Historical lighting is another area that has been researched to help acquire fixtures that are appropriate for the mansion. The visual showed the types of lighting that will be used.

The schedule of the project was the next slide which goes to the end of 2022. Construction would begin in January 2023. The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Mr. Livingston asked whether the mansion will be open during this process.

Mr. Parker stated that all items will be removed into an air-controlled environment for preservation.

Ms. Brescia stated that ideas are being sought to keep the mansion alive during the renovation period over the two years. Currently the group is looking for a place to relocate in the area. The volunteers are key to the future and having a place to work and stay a team is important. Textiles need to be maintained and there are some state funds to assist in maintaining the family clothing of the period.

Ms. Brescia stated that contractual commitment is trying to be held as prices are increasing. Pricing and inflation over the next few months will affect this process as the project moves forward. She reminded listeners to help in locating space at a reasonable cost for display and storage. There are constraints on the displays including safety and environmentally protected.

Chair Laird thanked Ms. Brescia and Mr. Parker for the input this evening.

Mr. Hempstead commented on the presentation by Mr. Parker.

Chair Laird returned to the agenda items for the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING MARCH 23, 2022

Mr. Livingstone stated under Old Business, Line 2 should read “there has not been an agreement”.

**** MS. GOLDEN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 23, 2022, MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTION**

AS NOTED.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS

a. Norwalk Historical Society; Diane Jellerette

No update as Ms. Jellerette was not able to access the Zoom meeting.

b. Lockwood-Mathews Mansion; Susan Gilgore

Ms. Gilgore congratulated all those involved in making the panels and the award received for the panels. There will be a tally of the admissions of how many visitors were generated by this process.

Education wise there have been several tours for students. There was a group from Yonkers, NY; another is expected from Winston Prep of 60 plus students and there have been 80 students between Carver and Wolfpit. Locally more students are anticipated as well as from Bridgeport students in the next couple of weeks.

The final production of “Making it Last” the exhibition on Sustainable Fashion Victorian America curated by Lynn Bassett and will open on May 19 with an open house at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to come.

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On May 25th exhibition on “A Century of Dolls” curated by Stacey Danialson which will include all vintage and antique dolls in the collection in the museum. That exhibition will take place in the Apricot Suite.

A Sunday Salon will be held on May 22 at 2 p.m., Victorian Couture: Dangerous Dies and Murderous Millenary by given by curator Debra Craft

Saturday, June 5, 10 a.m. there will be a scavenger hunt with all entities in the Park learning about going green and being aware of the environment. Recycling While Having Fun.

Ms. Golden asked if there were an age limit.

Ms. Gilgore stated that it is a very good family event with no age limit of participants. This is the third year and it has been very successful.

Ms. Gilgore commented that she is working on the Gala for Oct 15; tickets will go on sale shortly.

REPORTS:

Buildings

No new information was presented.

. Cemeteries

Mr. Hensley asked about car incident in the cemetery had an update

Ms. Laird stated that David, Mike and Diane are members of that church they will be addressing it.

FINANCIAL REPORT

No new information was presented

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OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

Mr. Jackson asked if there is an update on the old factory by Loehman's Plaza

Chair Laird inquired of Mr. Livingston. He had no information.

Chair Laird referred to the previous information and stated that there are 120 days for a response to the demolition.

Ms. Laird stated there are more demolition updates coming weekly from City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Mr. Jackson asked about the YMCA property.

Chair Laird commented it is owned by the Norwalk Hospital association.

Mr. Hensley commented that the addition on the hospital at this time may be side tracking the progress on the YMCA property.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. HENSLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MR. JACOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvina L R Decker
Telesco Secretarial Services

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