

Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency
Monthly Board Meeting
February 2, 2009 - 6:30 PM
GBRPA Conference Room
525 Water Street - Suite One
Bridgeport, Ct 06604

DRAFT Minutes

Members Present:

Bridgeport: Patricia Fardy, Anne Pappas Phillips, Vice Chairman, Carolyn Taylor
Easton: Wallace R. Williams, Treasurer
Fairfield: Douglas Jones, Jill Kelly
Monroe: Raymond McPadden
Stratford: Laurie Goodsell, Secretary, Edward Ward
Trumbull: Frederick Garrity, Chairman

Members Absent:

Bridgeport: Carmen Hatton, Jose Pires
Easton: Peter Neary, planned absence
Fairfield: Michael Giaquinto, planned absence
Monroe: J. P. Sredzinsky, planned absence
Stratford: Laura Hoydick, planned absence
Trumbull: Paul Timpanelli, planned absence

Staff Present: Mark Nielsen, Executive Director
Linda Colello, Office Manager

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

Minutes

By motion made by Mrs. Fardy, seconded by Mrs. Pappas Phillips, the Agency voted to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2008 Agency Meeting.

7 members supported the motion

2 members abstained - Mr. Wallace Williams and Mr. Raymond McPadden

Communications and Announcements

1. Financial Report

Mr. Nielsen presented the Financial Report for the period July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. By motion made by Mrs. Pappas Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Fardy, the Agency approved the Financial Statement.

Vote was unanimous.

2. Request for Agency Member Profiles
Completed Member Profiles were collected and presented to Mr. Garrity.
3. Regional Council of Elected Officials Concept
Mr. Garrity and Mrs. Pappas Phillips gave an overview of the concept, purpose and advantages of the possibility of the Greater Bridgeport RPA becoming a Regional Council of Elected Officials. The concept of a RCEO would allow the CEOs to meet on a regular basis to discuss regional issues and set policy to bring before the full RCEO Board. Mr. Nielsen explained that the idea is being considered in response to state legislation that is promoting regionalism and providing incentives to RPOs that have direct involvement with the member CEOs.

Mr. Nielsen and Mrs. Pappas Phillips will prepare a milestone plan for the formation of a Regional Council of Elected Officials for the next meeting. A discussion period followed.

4. Status of Progress of Agency Planning Studies

Mr. Nielsen distributed the Status Report on the planning studies and activities included in the Unified Planning Work Program.

Regional Referrals

Stratford #138 - Proposed Zoning Regulation Amendment Special Case Approvals

By motion made by Mrs. Fardy, seconded by Mrs. Kelly, the consensus of the Board was that the proposal to require a Special Case approval for land use actions that meet certain size conditions would be a reasonable extension of the Zoning Commission's oversight of specific larger scale development projects and would provide greater control and authority over these types of projects.

8 members supported the motion

1 member opposed - Edward Ward

Westport #263 - Proposed Zoning Regulation Amendment Amend Section 20 Amendment #589/P&Z Application #08-142

By motion made by Mrs. Fardy, seconded by Mr. McPadden, it was the consensus of the Board that the proposed regulations would not result in any significant regional impacts and would provide the Westport Housing Authority with a positive and beneficial opportunity to provide diverse and affordable housing opportunity in the town.

Vote was unanimous.

Other Business

Mr. Nielsen distributed a proposed change to the GBRPA Bylaws. The change would include Article XI- Quarterly Meetings with Member Chief Elected Officials. He explained that in order for the Agency to be in compliance with Public Act 08-182 it would be necessary for the Greater Bridgeport RPA to meet with the Chief Elected Officials of the Greater Bridgeport Region on a quarterly basis.

By motion made by Mr. McPadden, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, the Agency voted to amend the bylaws to include Article XI - Quarterly Meetings with Member Chief Elected Officials. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Garrity informed members that member attendance is up and there is no longer a problem obtaining a quorum for the meetings. That being the case, since the full Board meets on a monthly basis, there is no need for the Executive Committee to meet monthly as well. Mr. Williams brought up the matter that the Agency Bylaws state the Executive Committee shall meet monthly. It was agreed that the monthly meeting agenda shall read as the Agency Board/Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Garrity also requested Mr. Nielsen to compose a letter to Mayor William Finch informing him that two Bridgeport members have missed a number of meetings and will be removed from the Agency as active members. The letter would also encourage the Mayor to appoint two new members as soon as possible.

Mr. Ward brought up several topics for discussion regarding the Public Information Session recently held in Bridgeport regarding the Jewish Home, the status of the Moses Wheeler Bridge and his desire for the Executive Director serve on the State of Connecticut Rail Commission's Task Force to investigate rail commuter parking.

By motion made by Mr. McPadden, seconded by Mrs. Fardy, the Agency went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

By motion made by Mr. McPadden, seconded by Mrs. Pappas Phillips, the Agency went out of Executive Session.

By motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Pappas Phillips, the Agency agreed to settle the claim with Mr. James Wang pending revisions to the wording in a letter sent from him through his attorney.

By motion made by Mrs. Fardy, seconded by Mrs. Pappas Phillips the Agency endorsed the **ICMA Resolution For a Legislative Body Relating To A 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan**. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Goodsell, Secretary