

MEETING MINUTES

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Thursday, December 11, 2008

12:00 Noon

First Floor Conference Room

30 Exchange Terrace

Providence, RI

1. Roll Call

Chairman Leslie Gardner called the meeting to order at 12:05 AM. Members present included Leslie A. Gardner, Guy Abelson, Councilman Luis Aponte, Rebecca Barnes, Merlin DeConti, Steve Durkee, Wilfrid L. Gates, Jr., Christopher Thomas, and Stanley Weiss. Members absent included Jennifer Cookke, Barry Fain, Greg Benik, Duncan Johnson and Councilwoman Josephine DiRuzzo.

Staff present included Deborah Melino-Wender, Executive Director.

Others present included Todd Turcotte, Capital Properties; Charles Meyers, Metropark; Charles Donovan, House Oversight Committee.

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Commission Minutes of November 13, 2008

The motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Capital Center Commission meeting of

November 13, 2008.

2.2 Acceptance of Design Review Committee Minutes of October 28, 2008 and November 3, 2008

The motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the Design Review Committee meeting of October 28, 2008 and November 3, 2008.

2.3 Acceptance of Financial Subcommittee Minutes of October 24, 2008

The motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the Financial Subcommittee meeting of October 24, 2008.

3. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director and DRC Chairman Wilfrid L. Gates, Jr., updated the Commission on the efforts to reduce pedestrian crossing at the highway intersection of Memorial Boulevard, by improving signage at the Francis/ Exchange intersection. Chairman Gates noted that the City has been particularly helpful with this effort.

4. Budget Update

This item was included with #5 below.

5. Options for New Structure for CCC

Chairman Gardner shared with the Commission members the letter she had received from the Mayor, in response to the Commission's budget concerns, offering office space and staffing support, as required. She said that she and the Executive Director had met with Thomas Deller of the Planning Department and that the Commission would remain independent and would not be considered a city organization at this time. She said that at such time as the Commission determined, the City could assume staffing responsibilities and that Robert Azar and Chris Ise would likely be assigned to the Commission. With respect to office space, Chairman Gardner reminded the Commission members that it had leased space from the Chamber of Commerce since its inception and the Chamber had been very accommodating in providing a temporary rent reduction during a previous budget crunch. She informed the Commission that the Chamber would like to have about two months notification once the Commission decides to vacate its space.

A brief discussion followed.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Executive Session

Pursuant to Par (1) Section 42-46-5 of the General Laws of the State of RI,

7.1 Personnel

At 12:20 PM, Councilman Aponte made the motion, seconded by Stanley Weiss to go into Executive Session pursuant to Par (1) Section 42-46-5 of the General Laws of the State of RI,

7.1 Personnel. In a roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Leslie A. Gardner, Guy Abelson, Councilman Luis Aponte, Rebecca Barnes, Merlin DeConti, Steve Durkee, Wilfrid L. Gates, Jr., Christopher Thomas, and Stanley Weiss. No one voted in opposition. The Executive Director left the meeting.

At 12:44 PM, Councilman Aponte made the motion, seconded by Christopher Thomas to go into open session. In a roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Leslie A. Gardner, Guy Abelson, Councilman Luis Aponte, Rebecca Barnes, Merlin DeConti, Steve Durkee, Wilfrid L. Gates, Jr., Christopher Thomas, and Stanley Weiss. No one voted in opposition. The Executive Director rejoined the meeting.

Councilman Aponte made the motion, seconded by Merlin DeConti to close and seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Durkee made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gates to notify the Chamber of Commerce that the Capital Center Commission would vacate its office space by the end of February 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Christopher Thomas

Secretary/Treasurer