

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, December 9, 2009

A meeting of the Capital Center Commission was held on, Wednesday December 9, 2009 in the 4th Floor Auditorium of the Department of Planning and Development, 400 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

1. Roll Call

Call to Order: Chairman Gardner called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

Members Present: Leslie Gardner, Wilfrid Gates, Seth Handy, Barry Fain, Glenn Kumekawa, Duncan Johnson, (arrived at 12:40) Christopher Thomas and Luis Aponte

Members Absent: Greg Benik, Stanley Weiss, Merlin DeConti, Guy Abelson, Rebecca Barnes and Josephine DiRuzzo

Staff Present: Christopher Ise and Robert Azar

2. Minutes

Approval of Commission meeting minutes of August 12, 2009. A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Kumekawa, to approve the meeting minutes of August 12, 2009. All voted in favor.

3. 2010 Monthly Meeting Schedule.

A. motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Gates, to accept the 2010 Capital Center Commission monthly meeting schedule. All voted in favor.

4. FY 2010 Budget

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Councilman Aponte, to approve the budget for 2010. All voted in favor.

5. New Business

Proposed developer documentation requirements for projects.

Staff explained to the Commission that the checklist will contain project categories and documentation requirements to aid developers in submitting the proper documentation when applying for modifications to approved projects. A discussion followed regarding the proposed documentation requirements and the level of review needed, either by staff or by the Commission. Councilman Aponte noted that there needs to be some level of review. Chairman Gardner asked Mr. Azar and Mr. Ise to draft a checklist that pertains to the Commission's requirements for review, which will then be remanded to the Design Review Committee. After the DRC reviews the changes and defines the categories, the DRC will send it to the Commission for approval.

Chairman Gardner suggested that a motion be made. Mr. Fain made a motion, seconded by Councilman Aponte, that the recommendations on the documentation requirements for applications of design approval and waivers, which will come from staff, be turned over to the DRC for consideration. The DRC's recommendations and developed documentation requirements will come back to the Commission for review and approval. The motion was. All voted in favor.

In response to a question by Mr. Gates, staff replied that the process of developing these requirements will take approximately one to two months.

Mr. Thomas suggested that the Commission should have something that can be looping electronically as opposed to paper. Mr. Fain asked how parcel six is coming along. Mr. Ise replied everything is running smoothly. Chairman Gardner requested that staff review the approved plan for Capitol Cove to make sure everything is in place.

Mr. Gates announced that Roger Williams National Park is beginning the process of rethinking itself, and a possible redesign of the whole park. Mr. Gates asked if the Commission would entertain a motion to express interest in seeing the project for the Roger Williams National Park extended to encompass the Moshassuck canal, and to incorporate those improvements into the Capital Center District. Councilman Aponte made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Gates. All voted in favor.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the city side plaza in front of Providence Station. Mr. Handy said he had concerns regarding the infrastructure, which is under the jurisdiction of the Capital center Commission. Mr. Handy suggested that a small group be formed to discuss this matter. Ms. Gardner stated the Commission should begin by researching who owns the garage and who is responsible for maintenance. Mr. Gates stated that all infrastructure in the Capital Center District, including bridges and railings, should be considered. Ms. Gardner said city coffers might be used for maintenance in Capital Center.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Christopher Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer