

## CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 12, 2014

A meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. Municipal Building, 444 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903.

#### 1. Roll Call

Members Present: Deming Sherman, Wilfrid Gates, Duncan Johnson, Barry Fain, Seth Handy, William Kite, Martha Werenfels, Sam Bradner and Luis Torrado

Members Absent:, Michael McCormick, John Sinnott, Guy Abelson, Greg Benik, Councilman John Iglizzi, and Chairman of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal & Planning

Staff Present: Jason Martin

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM, Chairman Sherman presiding.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2013

Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gates, to approve the meeting minutes. All voted in favor

#### 3. Election of Officers - Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

Mr. McCormick was reappointed as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Fain was elected Secretary and Treasurer. The motion was so moved by Mr. Fain and seconded by Mr. Kite. All voted in favor.

At this time, Chairman Sherman welcomed Sam Bradner to the Commission, noting his transition from the Design Review Committee to the Commission.

#### 4. Design Review Committee Advisory Member Appointment

Mr. Gates made a motion to appoint Melvin Bilezerian to the Design Review Committee of the Capital Center Commission with a term to expire 6/18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fain. All voted in favor.

#### 5. Amend Capital Center Commission By-Laws - Section 6: Quorum

Chairman Sherman recommended amending the By-Laws to include language that excludes Ex-Officio members from the quorum. Mr. Gates made a motion, seconded by Ms. Werenfels, to amend Section 6 as per the Chairman's recommendation. All voted in favor

#### 6. Other Business

Chairman Sherman gave an overview of some ongoing projects.

1. *Amtrak/Providence Station Plaza* – Chairman Sherman stated that he spoke with Steve Devine from RIDOT and they (the State) and Amtrak are working out some issues relative to the project. Amtrak is objecting to the proposed drop-off on the north side of the Station, which would bring cars closer to the building. He added that the State is separating out the actual plaza project which is going out to bid in April. Phase 1 will address the south side, and Phase 2 will address the improvements on the north side. He mentioned that Steve expressed his frustration with Amtrak, adding that the State wants the project to proceed. A brief discussion followed regarding an assessment of a DID-like organization to help maintain the Plaza. Mr. Handy inquired about a maintenance plan.
2. *\$40 Million Bond / Intermodal Transit Center* – Chairman Sherman stated that there is a proposal to construct a new intermodal transit center over the Amtrak tracks and Parcel 6C. He explained that a stakeholders meeting was held that included Capital Properties, Amtrak, City and State. The question was how this fits in with the Design and Development regulations for Parcel 6. Indirectly related to Kennedy Plaza, Chairman Sherman noted that the Downtown

Parks Conservancy is in the process of raising funds for a new entrance to Burnside Park related to the Kennedy Plaza project.

3. *State House Parking Lot* – Chairman Sherman mentioned David Brussat's January 9, 2014 column which gave a raspberry to Governor Chafee for allowing the expansion of the State house parking lot without approval from the Capital Center Commission. He added that he had lunch with Mr. Brussat and educated him about the CCC process. Chairman Sherman spoke about a complaint from a property owner on Prospect Street about the parking lot lighting which was shining into his windows. An adjustment of the hoods on the light fixtures resolved the problem. Also, trees were taken down which allowed more light spill.
4. *Francis Street Lots* – Chairman Sherman stated that parking occurs on the vacant Francis Street Lots (Parcel 15) at times. He spoke with Richard Licht regarding this issue, and was informed that the State is preparing plans for parking on the lots. Chairman Sherman explained that the property was subject to the CCC's jurisdiction. Mr. Licht disagreed. Chairman Sherman asked the Commission what course of action should be taken. A discussion followed. Ms. Werenfels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gates, to send a letter to the State regarding this parking issue. All voted in favor.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Ray Rickman regarding the status of the proposed planting of the Nelson Mandela memorial tree.

A Providence Business New article mentioned that an ice sculpture garden is coming to Providence next Decembers and Station Park is mentioned as a site.

## **7. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

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Barry Fain  
Secretary/Treasurer