

CAPITAL CENTER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, May 14, 2014

A meeting of the Capital Center Commission (CCC) was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 in the 1st 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, Greg Benik, Michael McCormick, John Sinnott, Seth Handy, William Kite and Martha Werenfels

Members Absent: Duncan Johnson, Barry Fain, Guy Abelson, Sam Bradner, Luis Torrado, Councilman John Iglizzi, and Chairman of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal & Planning

Staff Present: Christopher Ise

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM, Chairman Sherman presiding.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2014

Ms. Werenfels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sinnott, to approve the meeting minutes. All voted in favor

3. Francis Street Parcels (Parcel 15)

Chairman Sherman gave an update on the status of the proposed parking lot on Parcel 15. He stated that he received a letter from Richard Licht, dated 3/31/14, stating that the State is not subject to Capital Center regulations. The letter also stated that Parcel 15 is not within the District. Chairman Sherman explained that the Commission's attorney rendered an opinion, in a letter dated 4/28/14, stating that the State's legal counsel overlooked the Ordinance that added Parcels 14 and 15 to the District. He noted that the parking lots were put out to bid. Chairman Sherman stated that he sent a follow-up letter, dated 5/5/14, which reiterated the position of the Commission that the Francis Street properties are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. He received a letter from Richard Licht, dated 5/31/14. Chairman Sherman asked the Commission for ideas. Mr. Benik suggested litigation. Mr. Handy recommended talking to the City Solicitor. Chairman Sherman thought it should wait until the new (city) administration. Mr. Gates remarked that it may be worth proceeding with the legal route; possibly seek an injunction which would delay the project until the new administration takes effect. Chairman Sherman suggested putting RIDEM, NBC and CRMC on notice.

Former Chairman Leslie Gardner suggested meeting with the Providence Journal Editorial Board. Chairman Sherman stated that he would continue to offer to work with the State on this issue and to keep litigation in mind.

4. AMTRAK/Providence Station Plaza

Chairman Sherman gave an update on the plaza. He read an email from Steve Devine at RIDOT, dated May, 8, 2014, stating that they are working with AMTRAK and that the job would be done in phases. AMTRAK is planning to do an exterior renovation of the station building next year. He noted that RIDOT is still negotiating the maintenance agreement with the City.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM.

Barry Fain
Secretary/Treasurer