

**CITY OF NORWALK
LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Thomas Livingston, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Beth Siegelbaum; Doug Hempstead; Chris Yerinides; Greg Burnett (6:25 p. m.)

STAFF: Alan Lo, Building and Facilities Manager

OTHERS: James Giuliano, Consultant

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at 6:03 p. m. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public came forward.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Norwalk High School

1. Norwalk Common Council referred the following item back to Committee on February 13, 2018:

“Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with Silver Petrucelli + Associates for architectural design services for the 2018 Norwalk High School improvements project for a total not to exceed \$97,500.00, which includes an allowance of \$25,000 for design services relating to the preparation of a State grant application for 2019 reimbursable work. Acct. # 09185010 5777 C0610”

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SILVER PETRUCELLI + ASSOCIATES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE 2018 NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$97,500.00, WHICH INCLUDES AN ALLOWANCE OF \$25,000 FOR DESIGN SERVICES RELATING TO THE PREPARATION OF A STATE GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2019 REIMBURSABLE WORK.**

Mr. Lo stated that the Norwalk High School’s School Governance Council, prepared a study identifying programmatic and aesthetic improvements for Norwalk High School. Parallel to this effort, the Norwalk Board of Education initiated a district wide Facilities Improvements Study to identify system wide needs. Mr. Lo stated that the City allocated \$1,500,000 as part of the City’s 2017-2018 Capital Budget for improvements at Norwalk High School.

Mr. Lo stated that after the approval of the budget in April of 2017, the school facilities improvement team, consisting of City staff, Norwalk Public Schools staff and members of the Norwalk High School,

School Governance Council met to review both the Board of Education's Facilities plan and the Norwalk High School's Governance Council's report to identify reimbursable projects and non-reimbursable projects.

Mr. Lo stated that the school facilities improvement team decided to identify a number of projects that were not reimbursable and start work on them before or during the summer of 2018.

Ms. Lori Sackowitz came forward in support of the item. She stated that the School Governance Council wishes to inspire Norwalk High School students and provide them with a 21st century education while raising test scores and Norwalk's desirability as a place to live.

Ms. Sackowitz stated that Norwalk High School looks like a drab and dreary building. Water stains run down the walls of the exterior. The curb in front of the school needs to be repaired. She stated that there are lights in the building that do not work. She stated that rooms of the school are so hot during warm months that they cannot be used by the students. Ms. Sackowitz stated that the Wi-Fi in the school is spotty, and it can be difficult to get cell phone service. She stated that there are not enough electrical outlets.

Ms. Sackowitz stated that many infrastructure improvements are needed at Norwalk High School. She stated that there is no elevator to the choir room. There are broken bleachers in the gymnasium. The sound system in the auditorium needs to be upgraded or replaced. The rigging systems are antiquated and problematic. Ms. Sackowitz stated that the auto-mechanic room needs to be re-purposed as a multi-use space. She stated that there are many leaks in the roof. The courtyard is closed to students and it is an eyesore. The cafeteria needs to be redesigned.

Ms. Sackowitz stated that the outside of the school, other than the science wing is ugly. The view from the street is dirty, uninviting, and uninspiring. Inside of the school paint is fading and peeling. There are cracked walls.

Ms. Sackowitz stated that the lawn and ball fields, tennis courts, and track & field have always been maintained by and should be funded by the Recreation and Parks Department.

Mr. Burnett arrived to the meeting at 6:25 p. m.

Mr. Livingston stated that he would like to see a comparison of what is included in the Facilities Improvement Plan and what is included in the Norwalk High School's School Governance Council plan.

Mr. Burnett stated that improvement of the turf fields appears to be a priority among parents at Norwalk High School. He asked Ms. Sackowitz if the turf field repair was a higher priority for parents than the painting of the exterior. She stated that parents with children involved in sports may prioritize the turf fields, but that the larger community would prioritize the painting of the exterior.

Mr. Lo stated that it would cost approximately \$3.2 million for cladding of the building. The cladding might last for 30 - 40 years. He stated that if the building were to be painted once every ten years, the total cost of painting over a 30 year period would be \$1.5 million. He stated that the painting would be less expensive, and he recommended that the building be painted instead of cladded.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services