

*~AD HOC REPORT~*  
*Still River Alliance*  
*Monday, November 18, 2013*

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Chairman Phil Curran called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013, in the Caucus Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Joseph Cavo and Thomas Saadi. Ex Officio Members: Jack Knapp, Michael Haddad, Greg Seabury and Fred Visconti. Also present were Laszlo L. Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Ed Siergiej, Still River Alliance; interested parties.

Chairman Curran introduced everyone present at the meeting and briefly explained the purpose of the meeting. The meeting was a continuation of the Committee meeting held on September 16, 2013.

Chairman Curran pointed out that as a result of the last meeting, Corporation Counsel was to draft an Ordinance. He opened up the floor to Attorney Pinter for further elaboration and an update as to the events since the September 16th meeting.

Mr. Cavo interjected and asked that a correction to the September 16, 2013 minutes be made. The last paragraph of the first page, "Mr. Cavo suggested a 9 member commission. Six Council members and 3 non-residents or people connected to the Greenway or at large members." Mr. Cavo said it should read: "Mr. Cavo suggested a 9 member commission. Six residents of the City of Danbury and 3 non-resident or people connected to the Greenway or at large members."

Attorney Pinter explained that a draft Ordinance was being presented to the Committee with the intention to formalize the process and to offer further protection for the Still River Alliance to operate as a commission. There was a desire for additional codification, more protections and more formalities. The Ordinance is patterned after some others that the City currently has in place that were adopted over the years. The Ordinance provides a purpose, the membership is to consist of ten regular members—six from residents, three non-residents and one City official, the terms of office are identified, staff is referenced to be the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as encompassing some common provisions. The Ordinance is designed to provide not only additional strength for the commission as a body that has the full codification and protection of the City, it also has certain other obligations on the part of the commission to comply with FOI, parliamentary and other procedures that may exist. The Ordinance can be adopted after a Public Hearing and following the usual protocol.

Mr. Saadi asked that a correction be made under provision "d", terms of office, the sentence after number 3, "at the expiration of the original term of office of the six original members, he or she shall be re-appointed or his or her successor shall be appointed for a term of three years." With the consensus of the Committee, Attorney Pinter will correct the language from "he or she shall be re-appointed" to "he or she may be re-appointed".

Mr. Saadi asked if there was another Ordinance that governs the appointing authority and the confirmation authority or does language need to be incorporated into the Ordinance before the Committee. Mr. Cavo directed Mr. Saadi's attention to the section of the Ordinance that addressed his concern.

Mr. Siergiej expressed concern with phasing the new format of the commission with the format that has been in place as well as any political impact. Mr. Cavo explained that the Mayor will entertain letters of interest from individuals. He did not believe political affiliation was a driving factor to being selected for the commission. Attorney Pinter did point out that there is a requirement through the Statutes to ensure equality with party representation on the various boards and commissions (a maximum of six from any one party).

*A motion was made by Councilman Cavo and seconded by Councilman Saadi that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the City Council as a whole that the draft Ordinance, Section 2-56-2, regarding the creation of the Still River Alliance Commission send the matter to a Public Hearing.*

*Mr. Cavo asked that the correction suggested by Mr. Saadi be made: under provision "d", terms of office, the sentence after number 3, "at the expiration of the original term of office of the six original members, he or she shall be re-appointed or his or her successor shall be appointed for a term of three years", CHANGE TO BE MADE from "he or she shall be re-appointed" to "he or she may be re-appointed".*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

*A motion was made by Councilman Cavo and seconded by Councilman Saadi that the Ad Hoc Committee be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously at 6:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Phil Curran, Chairman

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Joseph Cavo

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Tom Saadi



# ORDINANCE

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CITY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 2013

**Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Danbury:**

## **Sec. 2-56.2 Danbury Still River Alliance Commission.**

- (a) *Created.* There is hereby created the City of Danbury Still River Alliance Commission.
- (b) *Purpose; duties.* Said commission shall perform essential functions related to nature conservancy and community outreach in a variety of capacities on behalf of City departments and citizens. Said commission's activities shall include, but are not limited to, maintaining the Still River Greenway and promoting it to the Danbury community through events and programs involving passive recreation, nature appreciation and environmental education, and to this end may be aided by financial donations.
- (c) *Membership.* Said commission shall consist of ten (10) regular members, six (6) who shall be chosen from legal residents of the city, three (3) who shall be chosen from non-residents outside of the city and one (1) city official, for their knowledge, competence or experience in connection with nature conservancy, by the mayor subject to the approval of the city council.
- (d) *Terms of office.* The terms of office for said members shall be as follows:
- (1) Four (4) members for a period of three (3) years each.
  - (2) Three (3) members for a period of two (2) years each.
  - (3) Three (3) members for a period of one (1) year.
- Thereafter, at the expiration of the original term of office of each of the ten (10) original members, he or she may be reappointed or his or her successor shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.
- (e) *Receipt and disbursement of funds.* The said commission shall be authorized to receive and disburse local, state and federal funds and private monies for purposes within the jurisdiction and authority of the commission in accordance with standard municipal fiscal procedures.
- (f) *Other functions.* The said commission may undertake such other activities as deemed appropriate to recognize and encourage nature conservancy in the City of Danbury.
- (g) *Staff.* The staff of the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide clerical support services to the commission.