



Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2018
Approved September 20, 2018

President Scott Burns called the Annual meeting of the Black Rock NRZ to order at 7:03 pm in the Black Rock Library.

Scott asked Joe Ianniello to be acting Secretary for this meeting.

Board Members in Attendance:

Dave Barbour	Joe Ianniello	Christina Smith (ex officio)
Phil Blagys	Joe Larcheveque	Kate Spain
Scott Burns	John Marshall Lee	Kraig Steffen
Robert Foley	Karyn Leito	John Weldon
Courtney Hartl	Michelle Margo	Bruce Williams
Peter Holecz	Lazaros Papanikolaou	

Among others in Attendance

Steven Stafstrom, 129th District State Representative
Gail Robinson, President of ACCA
Peggy Ianniello, assistant to the secretary

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by John Marshall Lee, seconded by Peter Holecz, the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: John Marshall Lee

There has been no financial activity in the account since 2017 when we received \$449.03 from the Smith Spain campaign on November 27, 2017 leaving us with a balance of \$11,526.77. The last check we wrote paid for our Traveler's liability insurance of \$989. At that time we also released all funds due Black Rock Farmer's Market, but retained \$1,000 that we had initially provided to them to initiate the account. Our NRZ balance today stands at a total of \$12,526.77.

Traveler's will underwrite us again if we deem that necessary to provide another year of liability insurance. However, early news from Representative Stafstrom regarding NRZ indemnification may make a continuing expense unnecessary.

On a motion by Joe Ianniello, seconded by Pete Holecz a motion was made to approve the treasurer's report and was unanimously approved.

NRZ Leadership Committee Report: Joe Ianniello

- MGM Bridgeport Casino and Entertainment Complex Project.
 - In February the Leadership Committee unanimously voted to request the State to support "open bidding for the casino development in Connecticut".

Black Rock NRZ Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2018

Approved September 20, 2018

Black Rock and 2 other NRZs abstained. Black Rock abstained because the NRZ has not taken an official position.

- Members of the Leadership Committee visited the MGM casino in Springfield, Mass. They were very impressed. MGM is very active in the Springfield community, has a great policy for diversity of both employees and businesses, and the security is good using personnel and cameras.
- **Anti-Litter Campaign**
 - In 2017 the Leadership Committee partnered with the City in an anti-litter campaign named Park City Pickin' It Up. Working with Public Facilities many cleanups were done in NRZ areas. There were as many as 60 volunteers.
 - NRZ Leadership Committee and the City submitted a joint application for HUD CDBG funding to support the effort.
 - Massive cleanups will continue through 2018, but an effort is needed to stop the littering. Phase 2 will address this by:
 - ✓ Introducing a training program in elementary schools. A curriculum is being developed by a Public School teacher who is also an adjunct professor at UB
 - ✓ The program will be piloted in 3 schools and 3 neighborhoods
- **The Leadership Committee is Opposing Changes in Liquor Store Zoning**
 - OPED petitioned the PZC to change the liquor store zoning regulations. The present version of the petition was sent to the PZC in March 2017. The Leadership Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to the PZC requesting the petition be rejected.

Many community members and groups are also opposed. Among the opposition are a few thousand community members who signed a petition, the Cathedral Parish, previous and current BOE members, and the current Superintendent of schools.
 - The PZC has had many meetings since 2017 and has not acted on the issue.
- **Other activities of Note:**
 - A \$1M State Grant for the East End, East Side, Hollow, Mill Hill, South End, and West Side NRZs was issued about the same time as the \$500K State Gateway Improvement grant for Black Rock. The \$1M grant was used for sidewalk repairs in those NRZ areas. This project is nearly complete.
 - A ninth NRZ is being formed. It will be called the Enterprise NRZ and is in the area of St Vincent's Medical Center.

New Business:

Bylaw Change Voting Results: Joe Ianniello

There were 22 members of the Board of Directors eligible to vote. Twenty are elected members and two are ex officio members. Amending the Bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Directors.

All proposed changes were passed and the bylaws have been officially amended as of June 21, 2018. The amended bylaws will be distributed to all Members of the Board. The vote tally is shown in the table.

Black Rock NRZ Meeting Minutes
 June 21, 2018
Approved September 20, 2018

Bylaw Amendment	Number of Votes Cast			Percent of Directors Voting Yes
	Yes	No	Abstain	
One Ex Officio Officer Selection Process	21	0	1	95%
Clarify Quorum in Sections 2.07 & 3.05	20	1	1	91%
Eliminate Term Limits	19	2	1	86%
Increase the number of Executive Committee Members by 1	21	0	1	95%

One board member did not vote and is listed as abstaining.

Annual Elections of Members of the Board of Directors:

New Board Member: John Lee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, nominated Pierre Belizaire as a member of the Board. Mr. Belizaire is the Branch Manager of the People’s United Bank at Fairfield Avenue Stop and Shop in Black Rock.

There were no other nominations of new members, and Mr. Belizaire was unanimously elected to the Board.

John Lee also recommended all board members whose terms expired in 2018 be reelected. Acting Secretary Joe Ianniello placed into nomination for reelection Scott Burns, Robert Foley, Peter Holecz, John Marshall Lee, John Soltis, Kraig Steffen, and Bruce Williams.

Being no other nominations, the above listed members were unanimously reelected to the Board.

Annual Election of Executive Officers:

John Lee nominated Joe Ianniello to the Executive Committee. There were no other nominations and Joe Ianniello was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated Gerry Manning to the Executive Committee. There were no other Nominations and Gerry Manning was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated Phil Blagys to the Executive Committee. There were no other Nominations and Phil Blagys was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated John Marshall Lee to be reelected as Treasurer. There were no other nominations and John Marshall Lee was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated Joe Larcheveque to be elected as Secretary. There were no other nominations and Joe Larcheveque was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated David Barbour to be reelected as Vice President. There were no other nominations and David Barbour was unanimously elected.

Joe Ianniello nominated Scott Burns to be reelected as President. There were no other nominations and Scott Burns was unanimously elected.

Announcement of Regular Meeting Dates through June 2019. The meeting dates will be:

- Thursday, September 20, 2018
- Thursday, November 29, 2018
- Thursday, February 21, 2019
- Thursday, June 20, 2019 (Annual Meeting)

Black Rock NRZ Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2018
Approved September 20, 2018

Standing Committee Reports

- Standing Committee 1: Business & Economic Development. John Weldon
 - The Pedestrian Bridge to Fairfield Metro is in the permitting phase. There will be public hearings in 2019.
 - The Streetscape Improvements on Fairfield Avenue between the Town of Fairfield and Brewster Street are expected to go to bid in the fall.
 - Scott Burns, Courtney Hartl, John Walden, and BRCC members have started conversations with business owners to rejuvenate the Black Rock Business Association (BRBA).
 - Gerry Manning has been monitoring the construction at 326 Brewster Street. He obtained the plans approved by the City and passed them to Dave Barber. Gerry (via phone conversation) and Dave reported that Stuart Sachs, Chairman of the Bridgeport Historic District Commission, has been monitoring the building. This is in accordance with the Letter of Intent signed by the NRZ and the Developer and incorporated into the PZC and ZBA requirements for development on the two lots behind the Historic house at 344 Brewster Street.

- Standing Committee 2: Education. Scott Burns
Major tasks of this Standing Committee are complete.

- Standing Committee 3: Arts, Entertainment, & Culture: Bruce Williams
The Black Rock Art Guild (BRAG) continues to be very active having 15 to 20 art shows and poetry readings. To view their many recent showings go to their website (at Blackrockguild.wordpress.com) where visitors can get updates on the group and individual events in which BRAG members are participating.

A recent show was at the Fairfield University Bookstore where artwork was displayed and poetry was read about pieces of the artwork.

There was also a show at Harborview Market celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The Amistad sailing ship was at Captain's Cove and will return. Inter-city school students will live on the boat for 2 weeks and sail it to various colleges.

- Standing Committee 4: Zoning, Land Use, Development, & Historic Preservation. Scott Burns

There are Plans to move the Black Rock Post Office, now located at 2253 Fairfield Avenue, across the street to 2226 Fairfield Avenue, the former location of Dimitri Auto Repairs.

It is planned to house medical offices in the building after it is vacated by the Post Office.

- Standing Committee 5: Outreach & Communications. There is no lead person at this time.

Black Rock NRZ Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2018

Approved September 20, 2018

- Standing Committee 6: Quality of Life, Environmental, & Public Safety.
 - Quality of Life & Public Safety: Phil Blagys stated:
 - ✓ Black Rock Police Officer Robert Bruno did a great job as Grand Marshall of this year's Black Rock Day parade.
 - ✓ The year 2019 will be the 375th anniversary of the founding of Black Rock in 1644. A major effort is in process for a 375th year anniversary celebration next year.
 - Environmental: Kraig Steffen
 - ✓ Kraig discussed the activity being done at Capozzi Park at the Gilman Street entrance to Saint Mary's by the Sea Park. The revitalization of the park is ongoing.
 - ✓ Gail Robinson, ACCA president, reported the ACCA is acquiring waste boxes for disposal of fishing lines along the coast in Bridgeport and Fairfield. The concern is that discarded fishing lines can be a hazard to birds. There will be 1 to 3 boxes located in Black Rock.
 - ✓ Bruce Williams reported that the Long Island Sound Keeper will now be based at Captain's Cove Marina.
- Elected Officials' Reports.
 - 130th District City Council Member Christina Smith reported that the Mayor's Conservation Corps is looking projects for the 10 students in the corps.
 - ✓ Because of the limited time remaining for the meeting she will send out an email updating her activities.
 - State Representative Steve Stafstrom: The NRZ Indemnification bill was signed into law by the governor and will go into effect on July 1, 2018.
 - ✓ There was language added to the bill by New Haven that the indemnification requires the NRZ members to act within the scope of the NRZ's strategic plan and the action must not be reckless, willful, or wanton misconduct on the part of the committee members.
 - ✓ Representative Stafstrom provided a copy of the bill which the secretary will send to each Black Rock NRZ member.
- Black Rock History Project. Rob Foley would like help for his projects on the history of Black Rock. He is asking for financial support and for the NRZ to act as his fiduciary.

Prior to adjourning Scott announced that Stephanie Barnes resigned from the NRZ and he acknowledged her contributions as Board Member and a past NRZ president.

A motion by Kraig Steffen, seconded by Peter Holecz to adjourn, was unanimously approved. President Scott Burns adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Ianniello
Acting Secretary