

*~AD HOC REPORT~
Hat City Monument
Tuesday, January 19, 2016*

Chairman Joe Scozzafava called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee Members Ben Chianese and Nancy Cammisa. Also present were Andrew Wetmore and Thomas Saadi, Ex-Officio Members; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Steve Nocera, Director of Project Excellence; Sharon Calitro, Director of Planning; Andrea Gartner and Brigid Guertin, Members of the Heritage Hat Committee; and Margaret Mitchell, Member of the Public.

Mr. Scozzafava discussed the purpose of the meeting noting the request for \$50,000 City matching funds with Union Savings Bank pledging \$50,000 and the Hat Committee raising between \$25,000 to \$40,000 to cover the remainder.

Mr. Saadi noted Hat City Danbury Day takes place in the first week of December each year with appropriate ceremonies. A monument that would build a bridge to the City's hatting past has been designed and a fundraising plan has been made. The monument could be on municipal property near City Hall. A \$50,000 pledge from Union Savings Bank (USB) in conjunction with a request for a City match was noted with the remaining amount to be raised by the Committee. The \$25,000 to \$40,000 to be raised by the Hat Committee is an estimate, they will raise whatever the remaining amount will be including construction of the base and transportation to the site.

Mr. Saadi noted the City Council would need to approve the matching funds if the Ad Hoc Committee chooses to recommend it. The funds would be tied to the pledge of USB and would come from Fund Balance or Contingency, subject to the certification from the Director of Finance. Mr. Pinter concurred noting the Committee could offer a recommendation and add, 'if the funds are available' to the condition if so desired. The condition could also indicate that funds could come from Fund Balance or Contingency or not be specified, letting the Finance Director and the Mayor recommend the source of the funding.

Ms. Gartner discussed having the history of manufacturing be represented in the community. She reviewed the juried process in selecting the statue.

Mr. Wetmore entered Exhibit 1, the United Savings Bank letter into the record. He noted the statue was presented to the City Council at the first Hat Day last December.

Mr. Chianese inquired regarding the Hat Committee and was informed it is an independent committee and liaisons with the Friends of the Danbury Museum.

Ms. Calitro noted they were asked to see how this would fit in with Heritage Walk, the museum, etc. and discussed landscaping in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Pinter and Mr. Saadi responded to Mr. Chianese regarding decisions and details on location. Mr. Saadi added it would make sense to defer the location decision to Planning and Corporation Counsel. Mr. Saadi responded to Mr. Chianese stating fundraising by the Hat Committee may be accomplished via sponsorships, with the City, if funded, and USB listed on top of any such plaque. For the record, the target is mid-to late-July and the Hat Committee would not be returning to request any more funding from the City.

It was noted the funds from the City would be for the monument and base, not peripheral landscaping, etc. For the record, this is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant, and if for any reason there is less from USB, there would be corresponding lesser amount from the City.

A motion was made by Councilman Chianese, and seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, to recommend to the City Council a matching grant up to \$50,000 and that the Mayor, with the help of the Finance Director, will determine what accounts the funds come from, at the Mayor's prerogative. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Chianese, and seconded by Councilwoman Cammisa, that the Ad Hoc Committee be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Scozzafava, Chairman

Nancy Cammisa

Ben Chianese