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West Hartford, CT
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ORIGINAL

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VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

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FEB 26 2008

WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

RE: 37 BUENA VISTA ROAD

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107

POST REPORTING SERVICE
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HEARING RE: 37 BUENA VISTA ROAD
FEBRUARY 11, 2008

1 . . .Verbatim Proceedings of a hearing
2 before the West Hartford Town Council in the matter of an
3 application for installation of a sculpture on public
4 grounds at 37 Buena Vista Road held on February 11, 2008
5 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Hartford Town Hall, 50 South
6 Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut. . .

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10 MAYOR SCOTT SLIFKA: I am going to call
11 the 6:30 public hearing to order. Mr. Coursey, read the
12 subject matter?

13 MR. CHUCK COURSEY: Yes, Mr. Mayor.
14 Application for installation of a sculpture on public
15 grounds at 37 Buena Vista Road from Roxanne Stachelek,
16 Executive Director, West Hartford Art League.

17 MAYOR SLIFKA: This is a continuation of
18 the January 22 public hearing. Do you want to -- the
19 main reason -- we had bascialy gotten through the
20 substance that night, not that we wouldn't have other
21 questions this evening. But the primary reason we had
22 continued was so that this application could go before
23 the Town of West Hartford, West Hartford Historic
24 District Commission. And I know -- I think Mrs.

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1 Stachelek is going to address this in a moment, but we do
2 have before us the application for certificate of
3 appropriateness, which has been executed by the Chair of
4 the Commission saying that it has been approved as
5 submitted. And that -- it's in for the record now, the
6 West Hartford Historic District Commission has approved
7 the application as it stands right now.

8 Ms. Stachelek, did you want to make more
9 of a presentation at this point in time? I need you to -
10 - even if it's going to be one sentence we'll need you to
11 go on the record here.

12 I'm sorry; I forgot the roll call, so, Ms.
13 Labrot.

14 (Whereupon, roll call was taken.)

15 MAYOR SLIFKA: Okay, thank you, Ms.
16 Stachelek.

17 MS. ROXANNE STACHELEK: I was just going
18 to state that the Historic District Commission, like you
19 just said, did approve it. And I was going to read a
20 paragraph from the minutes, which have been taken from
21 me. Does anyone have a copy I can read from?

22 I just wanted to read from the minutes.
23 They said the "artwork would serve to enhance the area
24 and that public art is beneficial to the town. Further

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1 they agreed the artwork served to enhance this particular
2 area of the Historic District and fit into the natural
3 setting. The Commissioners agreed that in terms of the
4 materials, craftsmanship, and scale the artwork was of
5 high quality and design. They felt that the amount of
6 green space was appropriate and that it fit in with the
7 current streetscape."

8 So I just wanted to put that on the
9 record. And then I'm through, but I do believe we have
10 one more speaker.

11 MAYOR SLIFKA: That would get us back to
12 the public forum, and Power Booth is signed up. If I
13 could just have you state your name and address for the
14 record.

15 MR. POWER BOOTH: Okay. My name is Power
16 Booth. I'm the Dean of the Hartford Art School at the
17 University of Hartford. I live in Harwington, so my
18 address is 160 Plymouth Road.

19 MAYOR SLIFKA: Just for procedural
20 purposes, we have to suspend the rules to allow you to
21 speak. So it will take one second. Can I entertain --

22 MR. COURSEY: -- a motion.

23 MAYOR SLIFKA: Second? All those in
24 favor?

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1 ALL VOICES: Aye.

2 MAYOR SLIFKA: Those opposed? Motion
3 carries. Thank you, Mr. Booth.

4 MR. BOOTH: So even though I don't live in
5 West Hartford I do work in West Hartford and the
6 University of Hartford address is 200 Bloomfield Avenue.
7 I hardly ever use it -- 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West
8 Harford.

9 And I simply wanted to say that there is
10 no culture that has existed without the arts. And in
11 this case I heard that there was some criticism about the
12 bear relegated to the Stock Exchange. And the -- I
13 thought I might just say that the bear has a very ancient
14 tradition. In fact it was always associated with Artemus,
15 a Greek goddess, warrior goddess. And was associated
16 with the coming into maturity of young woman during the
17 high period of the Athens's democracy. And was -- emerged
18 again as a god that was called Artus in Geneva. And in
19 the 9th, 10th, 11th centuries it seems that it migrated
20 and became the basis for the Arthurian legends that
21 Arthur was named after, the God of Artus.

22 So there is this really remarkable
23 relationship to the bear. And although the bear in this
24 setting isn't going to change the world I'm thrilled that

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1 there is a commitment to building a piece of sculpture
2 that will enhance this area and be a place that kids can
3 respond to.

4 And the arts are very important in our
5 culture. It is in many ways, as the Dean of an art
6 school, I'm watching kids who are deeply engaged, deeply
7 passionate in their own talents and being able to
8 exercise those talents, and take them where they need to
9 go. And the inspiration of having artwork around us that
10 are strong and affect us is very important.

11 So that's my statement, and I thank you
12 very much.

13 MAYOR SLIFKA: Thank you very much. I
14 believe that concludes the public forum. I guess it
15 does.

16 So back to the Council, does anybody have
17 anything further? We did discuss it fairly lengthy at
18 the last one. Okay. Well, with that we will close the
19 public hearing.

20 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at
21 6:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Paul Landman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Connecticut, and President of Post Reporting Service, Inc., do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing record is a correct and verbatim transcription of the audio recording made of the proceeding hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that neither the audio operator nor I are attorney or counsel for, nor directly related to or employed by any of the parties to the action and/or proceeding in which this action is taken; and further, that neither the audio operator nor I are a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties, thereto, or financially interested in any way in the outcome of this action or proceeding.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 25th day of February, 2008.



Paul Landman
President

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