

MINUTES OF MAY 25, 1977 SPECIAL MEETING

14th BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

A SPECIAL MEETING of the 14th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, was held on Wednesday, May 25, 1977, pursuant to a "CALL" issued by PRESIDENT FREDERICK E. MILLER, JR., under the provisions of Section 202 of the Stamford Charter.

The meeting was held in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives, Second Floor, Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Conn.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. by PRESIDENT FREDERICK E. MILLER, JR.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Frederick E. Miller, Jr.

ROLL CALL: The CLERK of the Board, SANDRA GOLDSTEIN, called the Roll. There were 24 members present and 16 absent. The absent members were:

Mildred Perillo	Handy Dixon
George Hays	Leonard Hoffman
Ralph Loomis	George Ravallesse
Alfred Perillo	Marie Hawe
James Loboza	John Fox
Mildred Ritchie	Joseph DeRose
Jeremiah Livingston	George Baxter
Christine Nizolek	John Sandor

The PRESIDENT declared a QUORUM.

CHECK OF THE VOTING MACHINE: President Miller tested the machine and it was found to be in good working order.

CALL OF THE MEETING:

"I, FREDERICK E. MILLER, JR., PRESIDENT of the 14th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, pursuant to Section 202 of the Stamford Charter, hereby Call a SPECIAL MEETING of said Board of Representatives for:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1977 at 8:00 P.M.

in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Representatives, Second Floor, Municipal Office Bldg., 429 Atlantic St., Stamford, Conn. for the following purpose:

To consider and act upon a resolution amending the total area requirement of St. John's Park as specified in Public Act No. 184."

MR. MILLER: I will now call on MR. COSTELLO, Chairman of our own URC Committee.

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MR. COSTELLO: It's rather unusual to be speaking about the Urban Renewal Committee at 8:00 p.m. I'm usually speaking about 1 a.m. in the morning. The only people listening then are the people who have insomnia. Tonight we're not even on the radio anyway, so I know we'll get home early.

On May 23rd the Urban Renewal Committee met with members of the Urban Renewal Commission, the Mayor, and members of his Cabinet. Present from Urban Renewal was: Director Jim Hibben, Chairman Edith Sherman, and Vice Chairman Norman Gluss.

From the Mayor's office we had: Mayor Lou Clapes, Nancy Mitchell, and Bob Wise. Present from the Urban Renewal Committee were: Bill Flanagan, Jack Schlechtweg, Lathan Wider, Ralph Loomis and myself.

Monday evening, most of the discussion was centered on the reduction of St. John's Park. Probably the ONLY thing I missed that evening was bringing Fred Miller's gavel. It seemed that everyone wanted to get in "their two cents" at once.

On everyone's desk this evening there should be two papers, one titled: "St. John's Park"; the other "The Veteran's Memorial Park". I think it states in one that the Veteran's Park will be much larger than the old one was in size. That's not our main discussion this evening.

The present size of St. John's Park is 25,947 square feet. When reduced, it will be 17,657 feet. In taking this park I'd like to make it clear we're NOT removing a football field or tennis courts, or any form of recreation from the City. We are removing a part of a street that's -- well, cars just go round and round and it can't be used for any form of recreation.

Now, the main reason, as I understand it, for the reduction in the size of the park is that it'll be connected to the Elm Street widening. I said, it's like a puzzle; you're just putting the pieces in beforehand.

The vote of the Committee was 5 to 0 to reduce the size of the park. That was UNANIMOUS. There was only one (1) member absent that night. The Mayor is also in favor of cutting the size of the park.

I have a resolution here from Zolton Banyus, the lawyer for Urban Renewal. It's quite lengthy. "Amending the total area requirement of St. John's Park as specified in Public Act 184.

Whereas the City of Stamford, Connecticut -- (see copy of resolution 1097)

Mr. Miller: Thank you. A motion has been made on behalf of the Committee by MR. COSTELLO. Is there a SECOND to that MOTION? MOVED and SECONDED by SEVERAL.

MR. FLANAGAN: At the direction of -- by the UNANIMOUS vote of the Urban Renewal Committee of the Board, I have prepared a resolution which is on your desks, which states the feelings of the Committee. I think from the comments of some of the Board members it probably reflects their feelings, too, about the TAKING of this Park. It is titled: "Requesting the Urban Redevelopment Commission to continue legal action to increase the size --

MR. MILLER: MR. FLANAGAN, I don't like to interrupt but, really, we have ONE MOTION on the floor.

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MR. FLANAGAN: We had hoped that we could introduce a companion resolution.

MR. MILLER: You really have to do one at a time. But, I think it is clear to everybody that it is the intent of the committee to FIRST introduce the resolution prepared by MR. BENYUS. Hopefully that will be passed. After that is passed THEN, on behalf of the Committee, this other resolution which MR. FLANAGAN mentioned, and which has been reproduced and placed on everyone's desk, it would be hoped that the Board would THEN pass this SENSE-OF-THE-BOARD resolution.

MR. FLANAGAN: MR. PRESIDENT, could I then speak to MR. COSTELLO'S motion?

MR. MILLER: You may.

MR. FLANAGAN: One of the reasons, actually the principal reason that came out in our discussions with the Representatives from the Urban Redevelopment Commission, AND from the Mayor's office was that in the last Public Works funding, an application was put in for the Elm Street widening to be paid for by federal public works funds.

The reason that it was NOT done, and, of course, several projects were approved for Stamford, including the Public Works Garage, the reason that it could not be done last year was that there was a question of the title and the taking of the park itself. Without having a clear act from the General Assembly that would permit the taking of the corners that jut into Grove St., and Main St., the widening could not be taking place.

If, as the Urban Redevelopment Commission had hoped, they had been able to settle with the adjacent landowners, there would not have been a problem; we could have received funds, and the project could have proceeded without using any of the City's funds.

By doing this, even tho the Urban Redevelopment Commission is still attempting to increase the size of the park, (at least to approximately existing size), by approving this NOW it will enable the bill to go through this session of the General Assembly.

If it does not, we will lose any hope of getting Public Works funding to accomplish this, and this is a sizeable piece of money, and is something that we, on the Committee, after much discussion felt that it was the fiscally responsible thing to do for the City -- in the City's interest -- to approve this resolution and, as I started to say, with a direction from this Board to the Urban Redevelopment Commission, that they continue to try to increase the size of the park beyond the 17,000 square feet.

I really hope that -- I know that none of us like to see park land diminished. The Commission has increased Veteran's Park considerably and I hope that we'll act favorably upon this tonight.

MR. BLOIS: I have a couple of questions which I would like answered by somebody. First of all, I'm looking at a report here made up by some person, I don't know whom.

It says: "St. John's Park - effect of taking". Is anyone familiar with that? I think we all have one on our desk. Could I ask first, who made this up?

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MR. MILLER: MR. COSTELLO, do you know who made up these two papers here, one St. John's Park? The Administrative Assistant tells me they come from URC.

MR. COSTELLO: Right. From LOU CURTISS.

MR. BLOIS: Are we to believe that we are working on actualities and not suppositions tonight?

MR. COSTELLO: To the best of my knowledge.

MR. BLOIS: In other words, the URC or the City of Stamford has the right to take a road into its possession, dig it up, and do what it pleases?

MR. MILLER: I don't know if he cares to respond.

MR. BLOIS: MR. MILLER, I think it's very important that we know, because they're telling us we can get up to 30,628 square feet in that park. We're down to 17,657. Now, if we're going to approve on suppositions, that's something different, but I would just like the Board to be aware of this.

I'm not against what's taking place here because it's a necessity to benefit the City. That's fine! I don't want to be led down a street of no return.

MR. COSTELLO: There's up to 30,000 feet under question. That property's in litigation right now. That's all I can say. They hope to return it to over 30,000 feet, but it's in litigation.

MR. FLANAGAN: I think, and I don't want to shade anything here at all, but what we had presented to us is a minimum of 17,000 square feet. They are not representing any taking from the Main Street bed at all. It is the feeling, and it was the feeling of the Commission and everybody that was here last night, that at the very least, their title will run to the center of Main Street.

That's the least, which would then add 7,568 feet, which would bring the park up to 25,225. But, we're being asked to vote on the ABSOLUTE worst condition that exists. It is even presented to us in a manner that would appear -- because if you look at the maps that come in here, it's actually a right-of-way that belongs to the street; that is, for a sidewalk or a future widening of the street, sometime or other.

It's true all through this intersection. You can see it on both sides. It's represented by a solid line within two dots following it, and then, a solid line. Let me just say that the 17,657 effectively will be larger by another 3,000 feet, because the area that will be part of the roadway will actually be in grass, so that you'll look at a park that's more than 20,000 square feet.

But, the 17,000 square feet is the absolute worst condition; that's without getting anything out of Main Street, or getting anything from the sidewalk area, or ANY of the other land that they probably will get.

MR. BLOIS: Are we required to have a minimum of 30,000 square feet in St. John's Park when it's completed?

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MR. FLANAGAN: We won't have after -- if we approve this and the General Assembly approves the change. The 30,000 square feet was based on Public Act 184 which was passed in 1969 and that's what required the increase to 30,000. We are asking that it be reduced to 17,000 because we don't know how the litigation will come out.

MR. BLOIS: Weren't we informed that that park should be 30,000 square feet, within the last week or two weeks?

MR. FLANAGAN: Not to my knowledge.

MR. BLOIS: Excuse me, I have a couple of more. What happens to the traffic pattern when we take the road bed up? Has anybody got a clearer picture of that?

MR. FLANAGAN: As it stands now, the road bed will NOT be taken up until the litigation is settled. What they're asking for, to be approved right now, is to take off the corner that goes over into Grove Street, and also the part as you come down Main Street from Clark's Hill, so that the intersection can be straightened out.

Actually, the part of Main Street in front of Scalzi's will remain the same until litigation has been resolved.

MR. BLOIS: The only thing that I'm trying to point out is, if we do one right and do two wrongs, I don't think we're going to accomplish anything. We have a traffic pattern that is a main artery.

If we're going to bottle-neck ourselves in there because we're going to rip up roadways and make streets one-way streets, I think there should be a better solution to the problem that exists there. I don't believe this Board is cognizant of the fact that that possibly could be a one-way street.

I don't think this was explained in detail to the members that are sitting here, and I think maybe a little explanation would go a long way.

MR. MILLER: Thank you, MR. BLOIS.

MR. COSTELLO: It's possible there could be a one-way street coming down Main Street and stay one way that way. That is a one-way in front of Scalzi and the Eagle's Club now. I don't see any great uproar here that we're getting into.

MR. MORGAN: I'd like to address this to MR. FLANAGAN or MR. COSTELLO. Could you tell me what the status of the pending legislation is in the General Assembly? Has the House passed it but not the Senate? Where does it stand?

MR. FLANAGAN: To the best of my knowledge, and I can leave the floor and verify it with members of the commission that are here, but it was presented to us. A bill was put in the hopper in February at the request of the Urban Redevelopment Commission because there are deadlines in putting these things in; and it was requested by Senator Strada to introduce the bill, which would amend Public Act 184.

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MR. FLANAGAN: (continuing) This has not been formally done yet. It's being held in abeyance for approval of a resolution from this Board, because Senator Strada did not, I think rightfully, did not want to go ahead on his own without -- because there was some question raised in the press and by the Mayor, etc., about whether or not this was the proper thing to do.

So, what's happening now? It will be acted upon in this session if we approve the resolution. The Senator will see that it's done. It's a kind of bill that would normally go through if there's no opposition from anybody in the town, and if it's not done now, the danger to the city is that on the additional public works funding that President Carter has approved we -- because we had an application in last year -- we are in a priority position.

They're not considering any brand-new things, but we have a priority position with the Elm Street Widening and the Public Works act. If it's approved by the General Assembly, that takes the cloud off of the construction. It doesn't change the fact that the Urban Redevelopment Commission is still trying for either the 30,000 square feet or a -- it's probably 25,000 square feet -- but if we don't pass the resolution, the Senator will not put it -- will not have it acted upon in Hartford.

If that's not done, there'll be a cloud over the title and HUD won't approve the project and we won't be able to get the funding this year.

MR. MORGAN: To follow up on this, if I may, there are two houses in the General Assembly and there are only a few days left for them to be in session, so, do you have any assurances (1) that it can get through both houses; and, secondly, do you have somebody -- do you have similar assurances in the State House that it's going to be expedited there as well?

I'm glad to see this passed, but, if we're spinning our wheels because they're not going to act in Hartford, what's the point of meeting tonight?

MR. MILLER: We are meeting, MR. MORGAN. I don't know --

MR. FLANAGAN: Not to address, and cause, MR. MILLER was a member of the House -- I think that this sort of bill, since it was placed in the hopper on the agenda last February; it's not something that just came up the last minute there.

In respect to my opponent of the last election, I think that the protocol works in both houses -- it's such that on an item like this, it would go through. I have that much respect for our Senator from the 27th District.

MR. BLUM: I attended part of the meeting between the URC Committee and the Commission and I've had some exceptions to this. But, since that night I've heard something new. The story is, now, if we don't accept this, this

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MR. BLUM: (continuing) would have some effect upon the exits 7 and 8. Why is this being thrown in tonight, and it's effect on 7 and 8? I'd like to have MR. FLANAGAN explain what effect, if we didn't pass this tonight, it would have on 7 and 8?

MR. COSTELLO: And you said: "this is a puzzle that must be started". Well, maybe you like to play puzzles, MR. BLUM. I don't know. Now, in my opinion this has a bearing on the Elm Street Widening. Eventually, you wouldn't have to widen the park because you can't have a big bottle-neck in traffic there, and I said one pertains to the other. That's all I said.

MRS. COSENTINI: I would like to ask either MR. COSTELLO or MR. FLANAGAN, or whoever, to clarify a few things for me. To follow through on MR. BLOIS' questioning -- the possibilities as I see them are (1) that we would end up with a minimum of 17,000 feet which is less than is currently there if we cannot touch any part of Main Street -- if litigation says that we cannot touch any part of Main Street.

The next choice is that we can have 25,000 feet if we have half of Main Street; and the last choice would be to have ALL of Main Street and then with no access to Scalzi's and the other establishments on that road. Are those the three options? Is that correct?

MR. COSTELLO: Those are the three options as stated on the paper here.

MRS. COSENTINI: Is MR. BLOIS suggesting that -- first of all, I think he was asking -- Why is it when we own a city street we have to be in litigation at ALL to do what we want to do with the street? I think that's the question that MR. SCHLECHTWEG gave me some answer to. Maybe you could elaborate on that, Bob.

In other words, if it's City property, why can't we dispose of it as we see fit? What claims do the stores there have? Would you explain that?

MR. COSTELLO: The way I understand it is that they own half of the -- they have claim to half of the street.

MRS. COSENTINI: They own half of the street?

MR. COSTELLO: Well, they claim -- that's what's in court now. You know, it goes back. The URC has worked on this for at least a couple of years, because I remember in the last Board that they were involved with this same thing.

You have to go back to when Main Street was formed as a U.S. Highway. How was it done? It was probably between a couple of stone walls and there is always a question when a street is abandoned, whether the land reverts to one owner or the other, or goes to the center line which is the normal case.

Now, maybe to clarify a little bit on what we're saying about the three options and MR. HIBBEN did whisper in my ear. I should have remembered, but

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MR. COSTELLO: (continuing) the 30,000 square feet would allow ingress and egress to the Eagles and egress from Scalzi. That was the way the park was planned. They would NOT be land-locked. You would have two lanes up to Scalzi's boundary and then one going to Scalzi so that they could get out, and they could get in from the other side.

What I'm asking for in this companion resolution is, that we, and hopefully, they, can get the whole 30,000 square feet. But, from a practical standpoint, the Urban Redevelopment Commission in the opinion of the Committee should not settle for anything less than essentially the square footage they have in the park, right now, which is either 25,000 -- well, they'd come up with 25,225 instead of 25,947 -- so there'd be a small reduction --

But, as I pointed out the plan has a ten-foot strip all the way around which is part of the roadway but which will be grass. It's a sidewalk area. They have it on both sides of the street, but effectively it will never be a sidewalk.

MRS. COSENTINI: What would be our position in litigation if we had our resolution say at 25,000 or would that just cause too many delays to the Urban Redevelopment Commission if they -- I mean would it strengthen our position in court if they knew that it would be a hassle that we would -- that THEY would have to find that 25,000 square feet someplace?

MR. COSTELLO: We won't be able to get the money. The problem is one of timing and accepting the money that -- apparently the last hundred million dollars that was approved by President Carter -- we have a good shot at getting the money for the Elm Street Widening from the Public Works funding.

There are other fundings that they are looking for, too, but that will give us this essentially free. But, time is of the essence because if it's not approved cleanly -- I mean they've tried for 2 years to do it the other way around and now they're in court on two items and they won't be settled.

MRS. COSENTINI: One last detail. Which way will the traffic go on those main arteries, with or without assuming that they just have their little ingress and egress situation? Is it going to be two-way traffic or one-way traffic on those main streets? Do either of you know?

MR. MILLER: Is anyone able to respond to that? MR. FLANAGAN.

MR. FLANAGAN: Coming down Clark's Hill on East Main Street right now the park goes into East Main Street and chokes it down into a one-way street, (this way). By removing the curb line (right along here) by removing this part of the Park which will then give you two-way traffic -- at actually 32 feet, for 3 cars. We can have somebody standing for a left turn here.

Elm Street will then be widened all the way and it will tie in with the railroad here. So that leaves Elm Street all the way through up to the, beyond Grove Street up to the Fire Houses being 2-way and with a healthy island right in here and we'll just turn around and go into Tresser Boulevard. This straightens out the intersection, that's a major cross intersection coming down the hill, and onto Tresser Boulevard and Elm Street and turning onto Tresser Boulevard, (right here).

It's a major intersection with 30 feet between curbs at each of these streets so you have -- and 33 -- 33 -- so you have room for one out of three cars,



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MR. FLANAGAN: (continuing) standing for the light, or turning. Now, I'm not a traffic expert, but you drive around Stamford a lot and right now you come around this thing and -- but you go around the Park and you have this much of the park jutting into Main Street. This has to be removed to straighten it out and this is something that we discussed in the Board a couple or three years ago when we allowed New Hope to move over into the section, cause that's why it's so tight in here.

Because New Hope needed the additional land to come up with a parking space before they could get a certificate of occupancy, so we granted them that. We granted them an easement to come into the street, knowing that eventually we would take off this part of the park.

Now, if this is added on, (right now the boundary of the park is right along here), if this is added, and this is subtracted, and this is subtracted, this is what is in contention in the court now; the center line of Main Street would come along here and that should become part of the park.

That will still allow 22 feet for them to come in and out. At some point in time you're going to allow Scalzi to come down off the park and turn in; you have to choke this down. It can't be 10 ft, 11' so they don't go out of this the wrong way, but there's a possibility of allowing some Clark's Hill Traffic to go into Scalzi or any of the other places and then go out onto Grove Street and Main Street.

Now, the ten-foot strip that I'm thinking of - as you can see, the red and green here; there's a ten-foot margin which is listed up here. It's a street line. It's the same over here. That would actually be a potential sidewalk there.

The engineers have said that this part of the park becomes part of the roadway. They're not going to use it as part of the roadway cause the curblin is way out here; so you really pick up --

R. Harris this afternoon -- when I asked them about it, about the 3,700 sq. ft. additionally here, but you can't count it. This worst possible case has been presented of the 17,600. This is a case of making it worse than it actually is.

MR. ZIMBLER: Thank you, MR. PRESIDENT. Just some reflections on what we're doing here tonight and why we're doing it. I suppose if we don't pass this resolution tonight and consequently delay the Elm Street Widening and don't get all those federal dollars that just wind up in Washington by themselves and whatnot, but if we don't get this I suppose it will be a question of cutting off our nose to spite our face and we'll be solving nothing. But, anyway, what bothers me is that once again, as has happened any number of times in my recollection with different phases of the Urban Renewal project, is that once again here we're passing legislation literally with a gun at our heads and with one eye on the calendar, saying: "this must be done; there is no time to go into it any further; this is here; this must be done;" and if we don't do it, the sky would fall.

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MR. WIDER: I want to refer to a question asked by MR. MORGAN about the short period of time and inform him that Senator Strada called me, in the Mayor's office, and asked that this resolution be acted on by THIS Board so that he could put it in for passage during this term; so, it wasn't something that we just did because the Urban Redevelopment asked for it; it's because Senator Strada asked for it.

I see from information the other night that they stand to lose some of the money that's appropriated under this administration if we don't act and get this out of the way tonight.

MR. CONNORS: Through no fault the Urban Redevelopment -- I know the Eagles right at the present time (which I happen to be a member of their Fraternal Order of Eagles), they did have a right-of-way to that access road and through no fault of Urban Redevelopment they closed it off.

Now, right at the present time they're in litigation with the City of Stamford and I don't know whether it's Urban Redevelopment or somebody's mixed up in it. They feel they should have a right-of-way not only one entrance for a front.

Now, does Urban Redevelopment own that property where Carl Stucco used to be, which is a drop of about 6 feet from the Fraternal Order of Eagles property? Now, why can't they consolidate, get together, talk things over and give them an entrance and an exit; as I say, you can't blame Urban Redevelopment for the one entrance and exit that they're getting on Main Street and I don't blame them because they intended to build a big building there.

They were going to put a commercial building up. At the present time who's going to take it now? I mean this way they're hamstrung. And I feel that -- I say Urban Redevelopment's getting blamed for a lot of things, but Urban Redevelopment is not responsible for this deal.

I'd say the City of Stamford, whether the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Zoning Board, somebody was wrong when they cut off that access road. When they eliminated that access road rather than build a playground, they were very, very wrong.

MR. SIGNORE: I MOVE the question.

MR. MILLER: Is there a SECOND to that? We'll MOVE on MOVING the previous question. All those in favor say AYE, all those opposed NO. The MOTION is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The record will indicate that MR. MORGAN is now present. MR. ZELINSKI and MR. CONNORS are now present. We have 24 members present.

The question is on adoption of the resolution read by MR. COSTELLO amending the total area requirement of St. John's Park as specified in Public Act #184. All those in -- MR. ZELINSKI.

MR. ZELINSKI: At this time would it be appropriate to make an amendment to the MOTION?

MR. MILLER: No! We're voting on the MOTION and we've MOVED the question. All those in favor say "AYE"; all those opposed NO. The MOTION is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 24 members of the Board being present. The resolution has

RESOLUTION NO. 1097

AMENDING THE TOTAL AREA REQUIREMENT OF ST.  
JOHN'S PARK AS SPECIFIED IN PUBLIC ACT #184.

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford, Connecticut Urban Redevelopment Commission is presently engaged in the execution of the Southeast Quadrant Urban Renewal Project, Project No. Conn. R-43; and

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the execution of the Southeast Quadrant Urban Renewal Project, it is necessary to widen Elm Street and a portion of East Main Street; and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish this, it becomes necessary to eliminate 5,000 square feet from the easterly side of St. John's Park and 6,000 square feet from the westerly side of St. John's Park; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature enacted Public Act No. 184 in 1969 which was subsequently concurred in by the Board of Representatives thereby enabling the Urban Redevelopment Commission to proceed with the aforementioned severances, provided the total park area would not contain less than 30,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, certain land under the road-bed of East Main Street was to be acquired to accomplish the 30,000 square foot requirement; and

WHEREAS, the abutting land owners to that portion of East Main Street have objected to its taking; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Redevelopment Commission believes it in the best interest of the City of Stamford to move forward with the Elm Street and East Main Street widening prior to the resolution of the pending litigation; and

WHEREAS, in order for this to be accomplished, it is necessary to request the State Legislature to amend a certain portion of Public Act No. 184 as it relates to the total area of St. John's Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, as follows:

That the portion of Public Act No. 184 relating to St. John's Park which requires a minimum land area be changed from 30,000 square feet to 17,000 square feet, thereby causing the provision to read:

"Said St. John's Park shall, after the taking, contain not less than than 17,000 square feet."

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MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you MR. PRESIDENT. In fairness to the members of the Board I didn't know whether this should be a companion resolution; I just felt that the Committee certainly felt strongly about this and many of the members that were here and attended the meeting and spoke to it, felt strongly about it.

On your desks you have a copy of a resolution that was prepared at the direction of the Committee requesting the Urban Redevelopment Commission to continue legal action to increase the size of St. John's Park. It reads as follows:

"Whereas the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford  
(RESOLUTION 1098)

MR. MILLER: Is there a second to that MOTION? MOVED and SECONDED.

MR. ZELINSKI: Thank you. I arrived late and I was wondering if I could just discuss a small point regarding this resolution that MR. FLANAGAN proposed? The matter is the monument itself at St. John's Park. I have spoken to several people, among them "Old Sarge" Tony Pia, and there is concern as to the monument itself, that is the rehabilitation of it.

The joints are deteriorating and the mortar is disintegrating and it should be cleaned. There is also concern that with the increased traffic flow because of the widening around the monument it could cause damage that that would run for more expensive repairs.

I was wondering if MR. FLANAGAN would entertain an AMENDMENT to his resolution stating that somehow the monument can also be fixed up at this present time because it is deteriorating?

MR. FLANAGAN: I believe in the CD Grant that was done three years ago the monies for the improvement of St. John's Park included that, and I'll check it --

MR. HIBBEN informs me that the plans that the Commission have developed for that park include restoration of the monument. They're talking about \$125,000 in improvements.

MR. MILLER: MRS. COSENTINI.

MRS. COSENTINI: When you really look at what we're going to be doing there. We're going to make really a major intersection and it seems to me that the park is not going to be very accessible to people except to just go whizzing by it.

I would hope that if we can expand it that there could be some effort made for some kind of a light or something to make access possible to it from the people in the apartments across the street from it at least.

It's a shame. We really are setting up a little circle for cars to go running around and I think it's too bad, although I understand the necessity.



RESOLUTION NO. 1098

CONCERNING LEGAL ACTION OF THE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ST. JOHN'S PARK.

WHEREAS, the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, has passed Resolution No. 1097 requesting that Public Act No. 184 be amended to reduce the minimum size requirement of St. John's Park to 17,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Urban Renewal Committee of the Board of Representatives that the size of St. John's Park can be increased above this minimum if the Urban Redevelopment Commission vigorously defends this position; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Representatives desires that the finished area of St. John's Park be as large as the present park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT is is the sense of this meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, that the Urban Redevelopment Commission of the City of Stamford should take all reasonable legal action to assure that the finished size of St. John's Park will be substantially larger than the 17,000 square feet minimum requirement; and

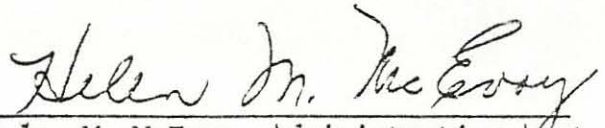
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Mayor and to each member of the Urban Redevelopment Commission.

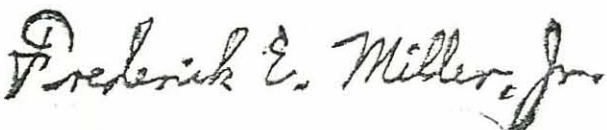
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MR. WIDER: I'd like to call for a question, MR. CHAIRMAN.

MR. MILLER: SECOND to that MOTION? We're voting for MOVING the question. All those in favor say AYE, all those opposed NO. The MOTION is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. We're now voting on the resolution read and presented by MR. FLANAGAN requesting the Urban Redevelopment Commission to continue legal action to increase the size of St. John's Park. All those in favor say AYE, all those opposed, NO. The MOTION is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with 24 members present.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to properly come before this meeting, the CHAIR declares the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

  
Helen M. McEvoy, Administrative Asst.



Frederick E. Miller, Jr., President  
14th Board of Representatives

DP:et al.

MAYOR  
LOUIS A. CLAPES



BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

FREDERICK E. MILLER, JR.

PRESIDENT

JULIUS J. BLOIS

MAJORITY LEADER

S. A. SIGNORE

AUDREY M. COSENTINI

CO-MINORITY LEADERS

Sandra Goldstein

CLERK

HELEN M. MCEVOY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

TELEPHONE: 358-4024

358-4025

CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06901

MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING

429 ATLANTIC STREET

May 26, 1977

RESOLUTION NO. 1097

AMENDING THE TOTAL AREA REQUIREMENT OF ST.  
JOHN'S PARK AS SPECIFIED IN PUBLIC ACT #184.

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford, Connecticut Urban Redevelopment Commission is presently engaged in the execution of the Southeast Quadrant Urban Renewal Project, Project No. Conn. R-43; and

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the execution of the Southeast Quadrant Urban Renewal Project, it is necessary to widen Elm Street and a portion of East Main Street; and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish this, it becomes necessary to eliminate 5,000 square feet from the easterly side of St. John's Park and 6,000 square feet from the westerly side of St. John's Park; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature enacted Public Act No. 184 in 1969 which was subsequently concurred in by the Board of Representatives thereby enabling the Urban Redevelopment Commission to proceed with the aforementioned severances, provided the total park area would not contain less than 30,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, certain land under the road-bed of East Main Street was to be acquired to accomplish the 30,000 square foot requirement; and

WHEREAS, the abutting land owners to that portion of East Main Street have objected to its taking; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Redevelopment Commission believes it in the best interest of the City of Stamford to move forward with the Elm Street and East Main Street widening prior to the resolution of the pending litigation; and

WHEREAS, in order for this to be accomplished, it is necessary to request the State Legislature to amend a certain portion of Public Act No. 184 as it relates to the total area of St. John's Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, as follows:

That the portion of Public Act No. 184 relating to St. John's Park which requires a minimum land area be changed from 30,000 square feet to 17,000 square feet, thereby causing the provision to read:

"Said St. John's Park shall, after the taking, contain not less than 17,000 square feet."

At a Special Meeting of the 14th Board of Representatives held on Wednesday, May 25, 1977 the above Resolution No. 1097 was passed UNANIMOUSLY with 24 present and voting. Attached is a companion Resolution No. 1098, also passed UNANIMOUSLY with 24 present and voting.

By

*Helen M. McEvoy*

Helen M. McEvoy, Administrative Assistant  
Board of Representatives, City of Stamford, Conn.

HMM:MS

cc: Town Clerk Lois PontBriant  
Urban Renewal Commission  
Mayor Louis A. Clapes  
Senator Wm. Strad et al

MAYOR  
LOUIS A. CLAPES



BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Mayor and to each member of the Urban Redevelopment Commission.

At a Special Meeting of the 14th Board of Representatives held on Wednesday, May 25, 1977, the above Resolution No. 1098 was passed UNANIMOUSLY with 24 present and voting. Attached is a companion Resolution No. 1098, also passed UNANIMOUSLY with 24 present and voting.

By

*Helen M. McEvoy*  
Helen M. McEvoy, Administrative Assistant  
Board of Representatives, City of Stamford,  
Connecticut

HMM:MS

cc: Town Clerk Lois PontBriant  
Mayor Louis A. Clapes  
Urban Renewal Commission  
Senator Wm. Strada  
et al.