



## NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING

A subcommittee of the State Neighborhood Revitalization Advisory Board and others met Monday, July 19, 2022, at 9:30 AM. The [agenda](#) and other information are available at <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/IGPP-MAIN/Services/Neighborhood-Revitalization-Zone-Program>.

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### Board Members or Designees:

Janice Castle, [Office of Community Engagement, Hartford](#)  
Jennifer Edwards, [Social Equity Council](#)  
Mike Gilmore, [Waterbury Development Corporation](#)  
Marion Griffin, [Hartford NEXT](#)  
Martin Heft, [CT Office of Policy & Management](#)

### Others:

Rebecca Augur, [CT Office of Policy & Management](#)  
Maureen Goulet, [Capitol Region Council of Governments](#)  
Debi Martin, [LISC Connecticut](#)  
David Morin, Parkville NRZ  
Bruce Wittchen, [CT Office of Policy & Management](#)

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Bruce Wittchen asked everyone to introduce themselves and provided a brief overview of the purpose of this subcommittee and goal of this meeting.

### 2. Discussion: Revitalizing the NRZ Process – How to begin this fall?

- Update [Community Organizing Handbook](#) (2000) & [Strategic Plan Guidelines](#) (2005)?
- Training: NRZ statutes, organization best practices, etc.?
- Funding and other non-training capacity development: what do NRZs need/want?
- Needs assessments of individual NRZs (each has different needs)?/
- Reintroduce the state Advisory Board to NRZs: one by one, city by city?
- Other?

There was a discussion of compiling information to provide to the people of NRZs so they can know what is required of an NRZ, how to run meetings, and any other things that can help NRZs accomplish their mission. A subgroup will get together to decide what should be included.

There was a discussion of municipal oversight of NRZs to verify NRZs are doing what is required of them and it was suggested that municipal staff occasionally attend meetings

unannounced. It was noted that Hartford's NRZs must submit all documents to the City Clerk as required to be eligible to receive city funds.

There was further discussion of the need to provide information to and oversight of NRZs, acknowledging that NRZs are led by volunteers. The two needs are related and the previously discussed subgroup should consider both. The group also discussed the possibility of establishing different levels of expectations for NRZs depending on what they are interested in doing. The intent is to raise the standard for NRZs receiving public funds or otherwise getting greater authority, not to relax the standard for other NRZs.

The group discussed approaches used in different cities for managing NRZ funds. In Hartford, Hartford NEXT can act as fiduciary for NRZs and another option is for an NRZ to partner with a local nonprofit that can serve in that role. There also was a discussion of a city acting as fiduciary, but it was noted that doing so could be problematic if the NRZ and city are not in agreement.

There also was a discussion of differences between fully in-person, hybrid, and fully remote meetings – each has advantages and disadvantages. The technology and staffing needs of hybrid meetings were noted. The subgroup should also make recommendations regarding this.

The subgroup should discuss these topics in the coming weeks and prepare recommendations for how to proceed. The subgroup will bring recommendations to this group in mid-August in preparation for a meeting of the full state NRZ advisory Board on 9/8. Everyone was asked to send any further suggestions to Bruce Wittchen, who will organize that subgroup meeting.