

On Thursday January 26 NCDC Board members and guests met at the Spa at the Norwich Inn for the Annual and Monthly Board of Directors meeting. The theme for this year's meeting was:

“Working Together For a Better Tomorrow”

The message came through loud and clear - working together paves the path to success. Projected on a big screen before and after the meeting were a multitude of images and quotes about working together towards a common end. Executive Director Robert Mills and Board President Kent Baker both spoke to team building and working together as a unified city. Their messages were that NCDC wants to partner with groups to make doing business in Norwich easy and asked other organizations see the benefits of employing this approach.

Jason Vincent, a planning consultant from Planimetrics, spoke enthusiastically to the question “Why Norwich.” His message noted that Norwich is a beautiful area rich in history but leaders and citizens can not focus on what Norwich **was** - the focus needs to be on what Norwich **can be**. The opportunities presenting themselves are endless - many of the City's historic assets are in good condition, there has been an unprecedented growth in the 20-30 year olds population, there is richness to Norwich's cultural diversity and the wonderful festivals and activities held here could be a great draw for visitors - he urged the community to continue working together. Jason noted that indicators are positive for good growth in part because of the physical assets, but also because of open minded leaders who are receptive to change. Don't ask “Why Norwich” ask “Why Not Norwich!”

Jim O'Shea of Achievement Unlimited of CT spoke to board members and guests about the importance of keeping the NCDC Strategic plan on track. He spoke to how NCDC can keep moving forward if it develops its strategies with the future in mind and is able to monitor and adjust them as needed, they can contribute to the City's success. Mr. O'Shea showed the video 212 Degrees. “At 211 degrees water is hot, at 212 degrees, it boils. And with boiling water, comes steam. And with steam, you can power a train.” His point was “the extra degree is the definition of success.” As a community team if we all give an extra degree, great things can happen.

And it does seem that Norwich Community Development Corporation is gathering a full head of steam. In addition to launching its Revitalization Programs this year, assisting the City win a Vibrant Communities Initiative Grant and working with tribal leaders on the Uncas Leap site with another state grant, they have welcomed four new members to their Board. Ms Dee Boisclair is the Director of Financial Services at Backus Hospital and CEO of Backus Home Health Care. Dr. Leland Loose has 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry and is a retired Pfizer employee involved in the development of significant products such as Spiriva. Mr. Michael Rauh has been named citizen of the year in Pawcatuck for his efforts to revitalize their downtown and is currently the President of Chelsea Groton Bank. Ms Donna Wertenbach is President and CEO of the not-for-profit Community Economic Development Fund and is a team player in the statewide lending community. NCDC staff is looking forward to working with these truly talented individuals.

The Executive Board of NCDC also saw some significant changes this year. Kent Baker remains President, John Bilda moved into the Vice President position, Anthony Joyce took over as Treasurer, Frank Blanchard became Secretary, and Miria Toth is the Assistant Secretary. Other returning Board Members are: Peter Nystrom, Alan Bergren, Thomas Collins, Stanley Israelite, and Charles Whitty.

Chief Fusaro of the Norwich Police Department said: “ I found it very productive and informative and came away with several great ideas.”

If you would like some additional information about the meeting please check out the following links:

For a link to Robert Mills Presentation click [HERE](#)

For a link to Marcia Marien's Presentation click [HERE](#)

For a link to Jason Vincent's Presentation click [HERE](#)

For a link to Jim O'Shea's Presentation click [HERE](#)

For a link to the opening image and quotes slideshow click [HERE](#)

For a link to the ITC slideshow click [HERE](#)

For a link to the 212 Degrees, alternative version click [HERE](#)