
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

20-Feb-02

Present

L. WALLACE, CHAIR
V. AMATO
R. BANTUM
R. BUTLER
M. DIMON
H. HENRY
A. KELLEY
A. MARINO
D. MITKOSKI
E. ROBERTS
J. ROBINSON

Absent

S. ENGLEHARDT, VICE-CHAIR
E. BOGDAN
B. PLUM
T. REED

Also Present

M. JOHNSON
T. ANASTASIO
C. BALDWIN
T. GOMES
MAYOR THORNTON
W. WARNER

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

Upon a motion by V. Amato, seconded by J. Robinson, minutes of the January meeting were approved.

T. Anastasio again presented his proposal for a Job Center at the Middletown Youth Center.

V. Amato questioned where money would come from to sustain the project beyond an initial CDBG allocation. T. Gomes, from the Mayor's Office, responded that the center received an annual contribution from the General Fund. V. Amato next noted that the 55% cited by T. Anastasio was a low "success" rate. T. Anastasio replied that, given the population served, 55% was a good rate. E. Roberts inquired what was considered a "non-success?" T. Anastasio replied that a failure would be one of the children ending up in the criminal justice system.

At this point, A. Marino moved to remove the proposal from the table and approve. The motion was seconded by H. Henry and discussion ensued.

H. Henry inquired how much of the budget was administrative? T. Anastasio replied all of it; the proposal was for salaries. L. Wallace inquired if attempts had been made to coordinate with the Bureau of rehabilitation services. T. Anastasio replied that one of the characteristics of the population served at the center was that they are often incapable of identifying and availing themselves of other services available in the community. The personal, intimate nature of the proposed program would bring the resources directly to them. L. Wallace asked if the CAC should set a precedent for paying for educational programs. A. Marino responded that activities such as this were City of Middletown activities that could be funded each year through CDBG monies. E. Roberts asked, so it is not seed money? A. Marino answered no, it is a city program.

V. Amato inquired what percentage of the children would be from Middletown? T. Anastasio replied 100%. There being no further discussion, the Chair asked for a vote. J. Robinson recused himself and abstained. The proposal was approved unanimously.

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Next the Committee discussed the proposal for the Old Washington Street Burial Ground. T. Gomes from the Mayor's Office presented information requested at the CAC's January meeting. Indications were stronger that Wesleyan would contribute \$10,000 to the project, but Vinal H.S. would not be able to build the fence, per a letter from the principal saying that the nature of the fence's material and construction did not correspond to Vinal's curriculum.

A. Marino again moved to approve the proposal, after taking it off the table, at the level of \$36,000. H. Henry seconded. Discussion ensued.

E. Roberts inquired what the bidding procedure would be. T. Gomes said they would take the low bid.

A vote was then taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, M. Johnson and W. Warner updated the Committee on the status of the Section 108 loan. W. Warner informed Committee members that a substantial article on the project had appeared in the Connecticut section of the New York Times.

E. Roberts asked if his mailout packets could be delivered to his council box in stead of through the mail. M. Johnson replied he would do so from now on.

M. Johnson presented the score cards. E. Roberts inquired how to decide what to ask in a 5-minute time window during the public hearing. Discussion ensued about where to place priorities on funding. M. Johnson reminded members that the score cards would only be one element to consider in the final decision and was not binding determinant in the allocation process.

Discussion turned to the offer of complimentary tickets from Oddfellows and other correspondence which had been coming to Committee members during recent weeks. V. Amato suggested including instructions in the application to the effect that all correspondence to the Committee should go through staff. A. Marino moved to do so. V. Amato seconded and the Committee approved.

H. Henry stated he felt strongly that the CAC should never accept gifts of any kind from applicants. E. Roberts said there is a law that places a limit on gifts at a value of \$50. A. Marino moved that the CAC bylaws be amended accordingly. E. Roberts seconded and the Committee approved unanimously.

M. Johnson then provided a financial report to the Committee.

A. Marino reported on the recent activity of the Applications Review Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Munro W. Johnson
Community Development Specialist