

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES**

*16-March-2005*

**Present**

L. Wallace, Chair  
S. Englehardt, Vice Chair  
B. Plum  
V. Amato  
D. Mitkoski  
A. Marino  
L. Caditz-Peck  
E. Noglow  
A. Watson  
E. Roberts  
J. Robinson  
R. Bantum  
A. Kelly  
E. Bogdan

**Absent**

H. Henry

**Also Present**

M. Wackers  
Presenters are listed in the Minutes

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:05PM and immediately opened the Public Hearing.

The first presentation was from St. Luke represented by Robert Spencer to do a study called Middletown 2020- Planning for a demographic wave. This study would do a demographic analysis for the City's aging population in order to help develop a responsive and responsible plans to address a rather significant demographic shift that we are already on the early edges of. L. Wallace asked can't this be acquired by studying Census data? Robert Spencer answered that Middletown needs to collect specific information that is analyzed by a professional. L. Wallace asked how did you get the funding figure you requested? Robert Spencer answered that he contacted various consultants. J. Robinson stated that the Senior Center was doing a similar review for the Senior Center and asked if this is a duplication of efforts? Robert Spencer replied that that study is specifically for the Senior Centers needs, this proposed study is City wide and could be useful various City departments and local non-profits.

The second presentation was from Positive Solutions represented by Norman Bishop for the PSI Job Training Program. PSI's job training program will work with a minimum of 15 people who are very low income, HIV positive or who have AIDS over the next year teaching them the basic computer skills so they can fit into today's job market. PSI plans to launch a data archival storage training program in June 2005, which will complement the computer training. Students will begin with the basics - Word and Excel - on the six computers PSI has in its classroom. Each computer job running session will run for 4 weeks. At the end of the four weeks a participant may choose to enroll in the data archiving program for another 2 weeks or go out into the job market with the help of a PSI job coach. The computer training program will use the "ViaGrafix Multimedia Training" curriculum so when a student misses a session she/he can come to the classroom and make up the work. Program participants will come from other PSI programs and area agencies. L. Wallace asked what is the data storage program? Norman Bishop answered that this is an opportunity to take paper archives and digitize them. This is a service that Positive Solutions would like to offer for doctor offices. John Robinson asked will this program be for Middletown residents? Norman Bishop answered that all the participants are Middletown residents. John Robinson asked will HIPA regulations cause a problem for data storage program at doctors offices? Norman Bishop replied that HIPA would not be a problem because the work is done at medical offices in a secure fashion. Louis Caditz-Peck asked how much is the grant you have secured? Norman Bishop answered that the grant amount is \$2,500. L. Wallace asked is there a demand for this service? Norman Bishop replied that for the most part people do not know that this is doable. The need is there but they need to be taught that this is a viable option to storage of paper records. Louis Caditz-Peck asked how long will it take to raise the balance of the funding?

Norman Bishop replied that realistically we can get the project running with some CDBG funding and hope to generate revenue to continue forward.

The third presentation was from Nutmeg Big Brother Big Sister represented by Susan McGann for the Wesley Elementary School-based Mentoring Initiative. Wesley Elementary School-Based Mentoring Initiative: Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters (NBBBS) will implement a public service project benefiting at-risk and disadvantaged children of Middletown. Children from Wesley Elementary School in Middletown will be matched with volunteer mentors from Middletown High School and Wesleyan University. The volunteer mentors will offer individual mentoring, attention, guidance and friendship and provide the positive role model that these children need so desperately. We hope to have 25 active matches by the end of the 2005-2006 school year with 13 being supported by the Middletown CDBG funds. In the School-Based Program, screened volunteer college and high school students provide mentoring to the children during the school year. All mentoring is held at the elementary school and is supervised by staff from NBBBS. The mentoring is held for 1 hour every week. There is no unsupervised outside contact between the mentor and child. Based on the success of a similar NBBBS program between Wesleyan University volunteer mentors and Farm Hill Elementary School, we feel this program will also provide much needed services to Middletown. The Principal has expressed the need for the Program in the school and has said many of the children in school would benefit from having a mentor to talk to and provide them with individual attention. This project is a new initiative for NBBBS. We currently have the support of both Wesley Elementary School and Middletown High School. Wesley Elementary School is particularly excited about the program. They have many children at Wesley that would benefit and hope to see it implemented as soon as possible. Linda Wallace asked how is this different from the Chamber of Commerce program? Susan McGann replied that it is the same but uses Wesleyan University and High School students and does not involve the business community directly. Susan Englehardt asked why do you need \$10,000 to hire a director to do this? Susan McGann replied that teachers have other responsibilities so we need someone dedicated especially at meeting times. Louis Caditz-Peck asked what activities will be done? Susan McGann replied that the activities will include basketball, chess, checkers, games, and lunches, which all require staff supervision. L. Wallace asked what \$636 was earmarked for in the budget? Susan McGann replied that that was for insurance. John Robinson asked would this type of program be covered by the Schools insurance? Susan McGann replied that it was not. Evan Noglowlow asked why is only one school chosen for this program? Susan McGann replied that the locality and need dictated that this was a good choice. Louis Caditz-Peck asked can these activities happen outside of the school-based program? Susan McGann replied that these kids could graduate to the community based program.

The fourth presentation was from the Department of Parks and Recreation represented by Wes Downing, Superintendent of Parks for Palmer Field Handicapped Accessible Press Box. Make public facility (press box) at Bill Pomfret Field at Palmer Field Stadium accessible for people with disabilities. Palmer Field was last renovated in the late 1980's prior to the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Vincent Amato asked are there people who make a living in the press who are handicapped. I can see making the field accessible not just the press box. Wes Downing replied that there are handicapped reporters. Susan Englehardt asked how are other City accessibility type projects financed? Wes Downing replied through the City budget and CDBG funds. Andrew Kelly asked can you get the City's public works department to do this? Since it is an elevator that is needed, it requires an outside contractor and vendor. John Robinson stated that this should be in the Parks and Recreation Department capital spending budget. Avery Watson asked could the press box be relocated? Wes Downing replied that it could not, all the controls and audio-visual hook-ups or equipment are located there. It would probably cost more money to relocate it. Susan Englehardt asked is the press box used regularly? Wes Downing replied that it is used often since events need to use the score board or public announcement system.

The fifth presentation was from Eddy Shelter represented by Gerald Dillenbeck for Bathroom Renovations. The Eddy Shelter's capacity is 30. These thirty people share seven bathrooms. All seven bathrooms have been difficult to keep clean and vulnerable to mildew. However, last year the City of Middletown provided \$23,250 in CDBG funds to completely refurbish four of these bathrooms. These were done very successfully, needing only exhaust fans at this time. The Connection, Inc. leveraged an additional \$1,700 for a total cost of \$24,950 to date. This request would allow us to refurbish the final three bathrooms, and add exhaust fans to all seven baths. These remaining three bathrooms have walls that present both hygienic and aesthetic concerns. This is a problem anywhere, but particularly in an emergency shelter. With many of

our population susceptible to disease and mental disorders, we need bathrooms that are low maintenance and easy to clean. The sinks need to be replaced, tubs need new faucets. Finally, all seven bathrooms are susceptible to moisture problems without window-mounted exhaust fans. These fans would also help cool and dry the bedrooms in very hot/humid weather. We are proposing a full vinyl wrap of three bathrooms, and installation of seven exhaust fans. Vinnie Amato asked that the previous CDBG grant was not completed promptly. Gerald Dillenbeck replied that since the State, from whom they lease the building, are not responsible for repairs. The state did offer to do the work voluntarily but it was the lowest priority. Vinnie Amato asked how many bathrooms were done last year? Gerald Dillenbeck replied that four were done.

The sixth presentation was from Gilead Community Services represented by Barry M. Simon for the Rehabilitation Center Technology program. The mission of Gilead is to help create independence for people who are suffering from a chronic mental illness. Part of a person's independence is their connection to the outside world and their ability to be empowered to advocate for themselves. We propose a technology grant for Gilead's Social Vocational Rehabilitation Center in order to enhance the recovery-oriented social, vocational, and recreational rehabilitation activities the Agency offers to over 200 adults with psychiatric disabilities. Benefits for clients include self-advocacy and empowerment by developing vocational skills, educational opportunities, social skills and communication through e-mail and the Internet. Gilead Community Services' clients have little or no access to computer technology. The Center currently has four older Pentium 1 computers, which clients use to practice, typing as a vocational skill, produce a monthly newsletter and print out newsletter labels as well as send letters to the legislature. These computers are no longer able to use modern software and are not able to sustain a connection to the Internet. Newer computers in the staff offices of the Center are used by clients on a limited basis, with staff supervision, to access the Internet and e-mail. A new computer lab with five desktops will be solely dedicated for client use and will be networked and connected to the Internet and printer separately from the staff computers, which will free up access. John Robinson stated you don't need a powerful computer. Barry Simons replied that a faster computer was needed. Avery Watson stated that \$9,000 for five computers seemed expensive. Barry Simon replied that their IT person stated that less expensive equipment could be found, but with 200 clients, durable equipment needed to be purchased.

The seventh presentation was from Mercy Housing represented by Sister Patricia McKeon for Increasing Shepherd Home Resident Effectiveness project. Shepherd Home is an 80-year old, four-story masonry building, located on the Connecticut Hospital campus, and is used as the location of the only transitional living program for homeless single adults in Middlesex County. That program utilizes the first three floors of the building to provide a 70-bed residential facility with staff office space, a dining/multi-purpose room, and various common activity rooms. The facility is owned by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its Connecticut Valley Hospital, which leases the building to the City of Middletown. The City has asked Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation (MHSC) to manage and operate a transitional living program for single adults within the building. During the hot, humid summer, residents have no place in the building to which to retreat from the heat. No room in the entire building is air-conditioned. In this hot, sweaty, humid environment, it is hard to maintain one's health if one has emphysema, asthma, or high blood pressure. In this hot, sweaty, humid environment it is hard to think, much less to effectively study for training classes and/or educational courses. Based on contractor estimates, \$20,000 will be needed to adequately air condition the dining hall/multi-purpose room on the ground floor of the building. John Robinson asked does CVH have any responsibility? Sister Patricia McKeon replied that the City actually owns the buildings; CVH is only responsible for structural problems. Vinnie Amato asked is there a lease problem? Sister Patricia McKeon replied that we are prohibited from having a lease longer than five years from the state, but we see no problem with our chance at a renewal.

The eighth presentation was from Mercy Housing represented by Sister Patricia McKeon for Feeding the Homeless project. As a result of combination of budget cuts and flat funding over the last several years from the two principal funders of the 70-bed Shepherd Home-based Transitional Living Program for single homeless adults, Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation (MHSC) anticipates that it will be confronting a crisis in its food budget for the fiscal year, July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Even though the staff of Shepherd Home work hard to bring in cash and in-kind donations of food to help augment the budget, MHSC is still confronting a major discrepancy between anticipated expense and revenue for the food budget. Consequently, MHSC requests assistance of \$5,000 in order to help us avoid deficit spending

and/or having to cut down on the quality and/or portion size of the food served to the residents of the program. Vinnie Amato asked do you get any help from other sources? Sister Patricia McKeon replied we try and take advantage of any donations and food assistance programs that the shelter can be eligible for.

The ninth presentation was from Kuhn Employment Opportunities represented by Erin Banks for Vocational Outreach Program. Kuhn Employment Opportunities is a not for profit organization supporting individuals with disabilities returning to work. Participants in Kuhn's Middletown program, which focuses on supporting those with mental illnesses, face a great deal of anxiety when considering employment. This anxiety is due to a fear of loss of entitlements, lack of confidence, and fear of failure or rejection. It is believed that if individuals can discuss their fears with other consumers who have successfully maintained employment, they may develop the confidence needed to explore work. If awarded this grant, Kuhn would add Peer Outreach Services to the Vocational Mentor Program. The proposed Outreach Peer Mentor, also a consumer of mental health services, would possess meaningful work experience and share their personal achievements with peers, who have not successfully attempted work talk with consumers and explain the benefits of returning to work and advise them on the variety of services, such as Kuhn Employment opportunities, that can assist them. It is thought that the Outreach services would help to encourage consumers to explore working in the community and would have a positive impact on the employment rate of individuals with mental illness. John Robinson asked what other funding are you looking at? Erin Banks replied that we will continue to look for other funding. Avery Watson asked what is the transitional period for the participants within the program? Erin Banks replied that the participants are continually assisted until they are successfully living and working on their own.

The tenth presentation was from Kuhn Employment Opportunities represented by Joan Shea for the Mobile Work Crew Program. This project provides disabled and economically disadvantaged individuals with training and employment opportunities while providing the City of Middletown, Parks & Recreation Department, with maintenance and beautification of the city's parks. Susan Englehardt asked if this was only for three employees? Joan Shea replied that it was for three Middletown residents. Susan Englehardt asked how many in the past have taken part in the program? Joan Shea replied that it had varied from year to year. Athony Marino asked how much comes from funding comes from the City of Middletown? Joan Shea replied that it was less than \$15,000. Andrew Kelly asked if it was possible to serve more than 3 people per year since more than one person could benefit from one slot per year? Joan Shea replied that it could happen but it is unlikely. Linda Wallace asked if the people in the program last year are still involved? Joan Shea replied that they were the same people.

The eleventh presentation was from Middlesex Community College represented by Walter Truscinski for AutoCAD and Precision Machining Certificate Training Program. Middlesex Community College with recruiting support from several Middletown community agencies, plans to recruit and train low-income and low/mod-income city residents for good paying high tech jobs in the manufacturing sector. In Middlesex County one out of five non-farm workers are still employed in manufacturing. Considered with a rapidly aging manufacturing workforce, the area of High-Tech Manufacturing will continue to be an important area of work opportunity for Middletown residents. The AutoCAD and Precision Machining Certificate Training Program will provide Middletown residents with hands-on training for entry-level jobs in high-tech manufacturing. MxCC will utilize its Precision Machining Institute (PMI) to provide a comprehensive training program designed for men and women who want to learn the technical skills needed to enter the field of manufacturing technology. It also offers by the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA), and is structured to include both technical knowledge and hands-on training. The program will offer two options: AutoCAD Training and Precision Manufacturing Training. Each program option is 120 hours long and will be scheduled for nine hours of training each week for 13 weeks. Each option will carry a maximum enrollment of ten students insuring a high level of individual student and instructor interaction. John Robinson asked how do participants get into the course? Walter Truscinski replied that they are recruited with the aid of various local organizations. John Robinson asked if the students pay tuition and how long is the course? Walter Truscinski replied that there is no cost to the student and the course is thirteen weeks. Linda Wallace asked how many have graduated in the past? Walter Truscinski replied that six graduated last year. Louis Caditz-Peck asked what would you do if you do not get the full \$72,000. Walter Truscinski replied that we could scale it back but we are looking for additional funding.

The twelfth presentation was from Community Health Center represented by Larisa Pazmino for Increasing Handicapped Access for CHC of Middletown. Community Health Center Inc. (CHC) was started in 1972 and serve people who otherwise would not have access to high quality medical, dental, and mental health care that they can afford. Our mission is to provide quality health services to all, ensuring human rights and respecting human dignity, and striving to be a voice and vehicle for social change. In order to offer our patients the best possible care, we are committed to eliminating barriers to access. The medical facility in Middletown has a handicapped entrance at the rear of the building. However, this means patients who drive to us must go down a narrow alley which is difficult to back out of, and must go in the rear of the building. We have already made great strides in increasing accessibility to the facility, but an exterior ramp on the front of the building will greatly improve access, not just for the disabled, but for frail elders and parents with children in strollers. For Middletown residents without insurance, using public insurance such as Medicaid, or who are low income, CHC provides critical services. CHC serves many patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes or asthma, who need continual support to manage their illnesses. CHC is seeking these funds on behalf of our patients, to ensure access to health care for all citizens of Middletown. John Robinson asked that the last funded project is still not completed. Larisa Pazmino replied that unfortunately it had not. Vinnie Amato asked if the building was completely owned by the Community Health Center. Larisa Pazmino replied that she was sure it was completely owned by the Community Health Center.

The thirteenth presentation was from North End Action Team represented by Lydia Brewster for North End Safety Partnership. The North End Action Team and the Middletown Police have jointly setup an office trailer on Ferry Street to serve both an Office and as a gathering spot for NEAT and its members. The trailer has been successful in being a visible presence on Ferry Street that changes are underway and the residents have pride in their neighborhood. With the opening of the Green Street Arts Center and work will soon begin on the North End Redevelopment Plan, the trailer will continue to serve as an important meeting place for NEAT and its members during the time of transition. The need to continue the NEAT programs being carried out from the trailer on Ferry Street and art programs being carried out Green Street will be an important step forward for the neighborhood this year. The visibility and Police partnership will help increase public safety and decrease the amount of drug dealing and unwanted activities in the area. The Community Policing Committee, a committee made up of City officials, the Police Department, local organizations (chamber, social services, businesses, etc.) has met monthly at the trailer to discussing policing and safety issues in the North End. The ability to meet in the North End has helped move the discussion forward on safety issues. The committees discussions were favorable for this project.

The fourteenth presentation was from St. Vincent DePaul represented by Peter Harding for Amazing Grace Food Distribution Initiative. St. Vincent DePaul Place was founded in 1980 to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Greater Middletown. St. Vincent DePaul Place provides food to individuals and families through our community soup kitchen and offer emergency assistance and outreach services to connect people to basic services that help address health needs mental illness, addictions, housing and unemployment through our outreach program. St Vincent DePaul Place is a collaborative partner in the Liberty Commons Project and provides the supportive housing services for the 40 individuals with disabilities who are residents of Liberty Commons. St. Vincent DePaul Place is also collaborative program partner and fiduciary agent for the Amazing Grace Food Distribution Initiative. Other program partners for this community food pantry include the Middlesex United Way, The American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. Amazing Grace offers monthly food free of charge to individuals and families in need who reside in Middletown. In the last two years, Amazing Grace has had an increase of 86% households receiving food, and average of 541 households a month in 2004. Thirty-eight percent of the people served in 2004 were children. The program provided an average of 1100 bags of groceries a month during 2004. The program distributes donated food, and volunteers operate the day-to-day stocking and distribution of food. Program expenses are limited to the salary of one coordinator, (a staff member of St. Vincent DePaul Place), office and program supplies, and utilities and rent for the facility. The program is funded through grants, fund raising events, and contribution from local individuals, congregations, and businesses. Avery Watson stated that this seemed like a good thing, but is it being taken advantage of? Peter Harding replied that we feed anyone who needs it any we only provide the equivalent of 2 days worth of food to a household per month. Linda Wallace asked how many are employed through this grant? Peter Harding replied that one person was employed through this grant.

The fifteenth presentation was from Russell Library represented by Arthur Meyers for Assistive Technology. This grant would purchase of handicapped-accessible tools and furniture to enhance employment opportunity and access to information for persons with mobility limitations. The committee questioned the eligibility of this expense.

The sixteenth presentation was from the Middletown Housing Authority represented by Tom Hardin for Middletown Senior Center Renovations. This project involves three important physical improvements to the Middletown Senior Center facility. They are: (a) Remove all old floor tile and install new Johnsonite rubber tile; (b) Prep and paint walls, ceilings, and doors throughout first floor (approx. 4,000 sq. ft.); and (c) Construct concrete ramp to outside kitchen door, and concrete walk to patio. Task (a) is needed for safety, accident prevention, and improved environment for well over 100 seniors per day who now attend the Center. Task (b) is needed to provide long over due repairs of walls and doors, and to provide a more cheerful atmosphere inside the Center. Task (c) will provide better safety and security for seniors, allowing all deliveries to enter through the Kitchen (instead of front door) and seniors using power wheelchairs to park them in a secure spot on the patio. John Robinson asked that the items be prioritized? Tom Hardin replied that the floor would be first, second would be the ceiling and finally the ramp. Susan Englehardt asked if any of these projects were volunteer possibilities.

The seventeenth presentation was from Green Street Arts Center represented by Ricardo Morris for the After School Program. In collaboration with the City of Middletown and local community organizations, Wesleyan University converted a former school on Green Street into a cultural and educational resource for the community, particularly for children and families with low and moderate incomes. Officially open since January 5, 2005, the Green Street Arts Center (GSAC) will contribute to the revitalization of the North End of Main Street and provide affordable, neighborhood-based arts education. We seek funding for a Monday through Friday multi-disciplinary after-school arts program at the newly opened Green Street Arts Center. The program will provide instruction and activities in the visual arts, applied arts, dance, theater, music and film. The after-school program will become one of the primary means that the GSAC will help underserved children in the region. During the first six months of the program, January to June 2005, the age group to be served and the scope of the arts programming will be evaluated and developed in preparation for full year of operation beginning September 2005. The 5-day-a-week program will be able to accommodate up to 90 students in grades 3-12. At least 50% of those slots will be designated for children in Middletown's North End. The remaining slots are open to children in the North End as well as other students from throughout Middletown and the region. Susan Englehardt asked are other schools besides Moody and MacDounough taking part? Ricardo Morris replied that Kegwein was involved and it would be hoped that the others would take part in the future. What is preventing their involvement is bussing. Susan Englehardt went on to ask if this was a duplication of the Homeroom program? Ricardo Morris replied that the homeroom program is smaller and more limited than the Green Street program which could accommodate up to 90 students. John Robinson asked what would \$20,000 get? Ricardo Morris replied that the program costs \$3,000 per student, so this grant would help subsidize the cost for students, but we are looking for other funding.

The eighteenth presentation was from North End Action Team represented by Lydia Brewster for Community Organizing. NEAT's Advisory Board is seeking funds for partial support for an executive director position to oversee the community organizing goals of NEAT. Both Liberty Bank Foundation and American Savings Foundation, have committed to partial funding of an ED position as a result of their belief that sustained leadership at the present critical stage of neighborhood revitalization is essential to maintain continued progress toward neighborhood stabilization. The specific issue to be addressed is to provide stability to the agency by reducing the dependence and vulnerability that exists as a result of having an unpaid executive director. In addition, the City of Middletown has established the North End as among the highest priorities for revitalization came from the city-sponsored Urban Homesteading Initiative that followed the shooting death of a city youth in the neighborhood in 1996. NEAT developed in direct response to the city's commitment to address the issue of neighborhood deterioration, high crime, and disinvestments. The Committee made favorable comments.

The nineteenth presentation was from Middletown Schools represented by Donna Marino for the Parent/Children Leadership Training Institute. The Middletown Board of Education would like to apply for a \$24,000 grant to support the very successful Parent/Children's Leadership Training Institute (PLTI/CLTI) program. The mission of PLTI seeks to enable parents to become leading advocates for children.

Middletown graduate's new skills have empowered them to go back to work, change careers, go back to college, become more involved in their children's school, and become more involved in the community. The majority of our PLTI graduates describe their experience as "Life changing!" PLTI empowers parents to become advocates for themselves, their families and within their communities; the cornerstones of the program are respect, validation and a belief that when the tools of democracy are understood, the public will actively engage in civic life. John Robinson stated that we only have \$50,000 available for public service projects and that this requesting a significant portion of it. Linda Wallace asked why was there \$8,000 be requested for a consultant? Donna Marino replied that this would be for a State trained facilitator. Linda Wallace asked what is the \$25,000 in direct costs for? Donna Marino replied that it is for food and team building activities.

The twentieth presentation was from Middletown Schools represented by Maureen Partyka for Neighborhoods Playgroups. The proposed project will provide affordable quality early learning experiences to Middletown families who may not otherwise have access to services thus narrowing the "preparation gap." Experts agree that underdeveloped language skills effect learning to read. According to US Department of Education, children who are read to three or more times a week are nearly twice as likely as other children to show three or more skills associated with emerging literacy. Our aim is to educate parents and caregivers about the importance of reading with children. The proposed project seeks to support the development of literacy skills for adult primary care givers and their children by providing weakly playgroup experiences on-site at neighborhood housing developments. The target beneficiaries will be children age birth to five an their caregivers. John Robinson stated that CDBG funding should not be the sole source of funding, it should be used to leverage other resources. Avery Watson asked what is the \$15,000 for? Maureen Partyka replied that it was for staff and materials.

The twenty-first presentation was from Chamber of Commerce represented by Brian O'Connor for Worker Prep Program. The Middletown Worker Preparation Program has been an asset to the community since 1993. The primary focus of the program is to help find work for unemployed or displaced workers in Middletown. The goal is to give the people of Middletown an opportunity for employment advancement and improve their quality of life. Our job counselors provide coaching, help prepare clients for interview and assess their skills and strengths. John Robinson stated that this request is higher than in previous years. Susan Englehardt stated that CDBG may not be around forever and that the Chamber should try to find other funding for the program. Brian O'Connor replied that when possible this program does take advantage of other sources of funding. John Robinson also stated that this is a City sponsored program. Brian O'Connor replied that it is also an investment by the City, in the City.

The twenty-second presentation was from Nehemiah Housing Corporation for Project Abode. Nehemiah Housing Corporation is requesting a total of \$84,246 for rehabilitation costs for two separate buildings: \$45,067 for 40-42 Walnut Street and \$39,179 for 519 High Street to complete the renovations of a total of 6 units. As part of a US Department of Housing and Urban Development Mckinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Supportive Housing Grant Project CT26B304001 Project Identifier Number 10064, Nehemiah Housing Corporation received an award of \$168,000 of which \$145,350 was to be used for acquisition of property to provide three units of housing for homeless families with a disability with an income of 25% of Area Median Income. In August of 2004, Nehemiah Housing Corporation established a new LLC to purchase a four unit building located at 40-42 Walnut Street where two units shall be allocated and another at 519 High Street. Susan Englehardt asked if there was a priority? Nehemiah replied that for Walnut Street the Chimney, the roof and the boilers were the priority and for High Street the siding, electric and the porch are the priority. Vinnie Amato asked have you applied for any other funding? Nehemiah replied that there have been three local community foundations that have given grants in the amounts of \$2,000, \$7,5000 and \$5,000.

The twenty-third presentation was from the Department of Planning, Conservation and Development represented by Michiel Wackers for the North End Housing, Program Administration and the North End Safety Partnership. The Committee responded favorably to proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michiel Wackers  
Community Development Specialist