

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

March-17-2010

Present

L. Wallace, Chair
G. Faulkner Jr.
D. Kleckoski
R. Pelletier
P. Murray
A. Watson
D. Mitkoski
M. Wynn

Absent

B. Plum
V. Amato
A. Marino, Vice Chair

Also Present

M. Wackers
** All Public Hearing Presenters
noted below in the text.

Linda Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

First, **Matt Pugliese** representing **Oddfellows Playhouse** presented their **Neighborhood Troupes** proposal. In 1988, Oddfellows Playhouse developed the Neighborhood Troupes, a successful model for involving low-income and minority youth in free weekly- arts-based activities that are both educational and recreational. In 2010-2011, we have 4 troupes for youngsters ages 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 for low-income areas, including Maplewood Terrace, Traverse Square, and the North End. Each of these Troupes will have 12-15 participants and be led by a professional teaching artist assisted by 2 Wesleyan University work-study teaching assistants. The Arts Explorers group for those in middle school and up will serve 30-34 at-risk Middletown young people. Each of the art forms- visual, dance, and writing - will be lead by a professional teaching artist assisted by a member of Middletown Youth Services group at Middletown High School.

Linda Wallace stated that public service dollars are very competitive and we can not fund every request.

Linda Wallace asked if a funder can observe these classes? Matt Pugliese replied that that would be possible.

Second, **Barry Simmons** and **Kim Earles** representing **Gilead Community Services** presented their proposal for **169 Liberty Street**. Gilead Community Services is pursuing the purchase of residential property located at 169 Liberty Street. Once purchased, the property will allow low income housing for five residents who receive supportive case management services form Gilead Community Services. The current purchase price is \$175,000. Gilead Community Services is required to put down \$43,750 toward the purchase of the house in order to get a mortgage. Gilead is requesting \$25,000 in CDBG funding to put toward this down payment. Gilead has received \$5,000 from the Liberty Bank Foundation and Gilead will fund the remaining \$13,750. Gilead Community Services will also make numerous exterior improvements to the Liberty Street property once it is purchased. These improvements will include: siding, trim, windows, porch renovations, landscaping and a paved driveway. The estimated costs of these improvements is \$50,000.

Linda Wallace asked if the property is currently occupied by Gilead tenants? Barry Simmons replied that the property is occupied by Gilead tenants and they are seeking to create stable housing.

Debra Kleckowski asked if the owner is willing to sell? Barry Simmons replied that there is an agreed price.

Linda Wallace asked what will happen if you do not purchase the property? Barry Simmons replied that we would either continue renting or vacate the property due to rental increases of lack of maintenance of the property.

Patricia Murray asked if the tenants put any sweat-equity into the property? Barry Simmons replied they do not. Gilead provides support housing services, and the tenants pay the rent.

Avery Watson asked if Gilead is a private organization? Is it for-profit? Barry Simmons replied that it is private 501(c)3. The Rental properties do pay taxes.

Third, **Barry Simmons** and **Kim Earles** representing **Gilead Community Services** presented their proposal for **451-453 High Street**. Gilead Community Services provides residential and mental health rehabilitative services to nine Middletown residents at 451-453 High Street, also known as Gilead I. Gilead I is a home that was modified from a two-family house into a licensed group home. Individuals living in the home pay rent to Gilead. The current windows are wooden double hung windows. Gilead would like to replace them with new vinyl, double hung, tilt windows with Energy Star rated LoE insulated glass. We anticipate saving up to 35% on our heating expenses.

Linda Wallace asked if the property has been tested for lead-based paint? Barry Simmons replied that it was tested for lead and where necessary abatement or encapsulation was undertaken.

Deborah Kleckowski asked if any bids or estimates were submitted? Barry Simmons replied that no formal bids were requested, but in discussion with contractors an estimate of \$350 per window was used for the basis of the request.

Linda Wallace asked if the estimates were strictly verbal. Barry Simmons replied that they were just verbal estimates.

Linda Wallace asked about the administrative component of the budget? Barry Simmons replied that the administrative component would be in-kind service to the project, not a CDBG reimbursable expense.

Avery Watson asked why there is no capitol improvement budget. Barry Simmons replied that the funding for providing the housing has received no increases from the State due to flat line budgeting.

The fourth proposal for **I Have a Friend Youth Center** was not present.

Fifth, **Elizabeth Norcera** representing Middletown Public Schools and **Pathways to your Future** presented a proposal for a youth public service project. The Pathways to your Future project will target minority and low income students and their families in grade 6-8 considered at-risk for dropping out. The students will explore career interests and learn about educational and career options available to help them achieve their educational goals. These students come from families without higher education and are likely not to consider college as an option without the encouragement that this program will provide. The Pathways to Your Future Collaborative is a joint effort of Middlesex Community College, Wesleyan University, the Middletown Public Schools and the Liberty Bank Foundation. The project proposes to serve up to fifty 50 students per grade for a total of 150 students.

Linda Wallace asked if there is only one counselor per 300 students? Elizabeth Norcera replied that was correct.

Linda Wallace asked if this program takes place after school? Elizabeth Norcera replied that was correct.

Avery Watson asked how do students get selected for this program? Elizabeth Norcera replied that students are identified by test scores and other benchmarks.

Grady Faulkner asked about how many locations is this project run? Elizabeth Norcera replied that it takes place at two locations.

Grady Faulkner asked if there has been any decision about putting them together? Elizabeth Norcera replied that would not work based on the model.

Avery Watson asked can this be done during school. Elizabeth Norcera replied that that would not work with the school budget.

Grady Faulkner asked is there a school to career program. Elizabeth Norcera replied that there is but it is being phased out.

Sixth, **Elizabeth Norcera** representing **Middletown Public Schools** presented a proposal for **310 Hunting Hill Avenue**. The Middletown Schools is applying for funding for accessibility code upgrades and capital improvements to the 310 Hunting Hill Avenue annex building. The annex building presently houses the district parent/family resources services staff and educational technology department. This project will include: installation of accessible ramping at front entryway, reconfiguration of the restroom facilities to meet accessibility codes, painting and upgrades of the interior office space, accessible classroom and conference space for the parent/family resources and educational technology programs.

Linda Wallace asked if the users of the facility are low and moderate income? Elizabeth Norcera replied that they are low and moderate income. Linda Wallace noted that page five of the application shows only a small percentage as low and moderate income.

Patricia Murrary asked if the budget is based on contractor estimates? Elizabeth Norcera replied that they are based on input from director of facilities and an architect.

Avery Watson asked how does Low and Moderate income requirements get monitored through out the program? Elizabeth Norcera replied that the school system collects data from all participants.

The fourth proposal for **I Have a Friend Youth Center** was present and **Cindy Von** presented their youth center public service project. The I Have a Friend Youth Center provides after school programming for inner city children ages 6 to 123 and their families in the Greater Middletown area. The cornerstones of the program are academic performance, family values and community services. The Center provides academic support and enrichment activities to approximately 27 students, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm - 7:30pm. Homework assistance and tutoring in math, reading and writing are the core components of the after school program. The program is complimented by enrichment activities geared to broaden the students perspective in a fun and stimulating way: students are exposed to music, art, computer instruction and education games. At the end of the evening the Center provides a hot meal to all participants.

Avery Watson asked who the director is? Cindy Von replied that the director is Barbara Miller.

Patricia Murray asked how do you screen volunteers? Cindy Von replied that we perform background searches that include the DCF database, sex offender registry and Police database.

Deborah Kleckowski asked have you secured the City Youth Challegne grant? Cindy Von replied that we have applied, but it has not been secured.

Seventh, **John Hall** representing the **Jonah's Center** presented a project for energy efficiency assistance. The Jonah Center is seeking a grant to help Middletown's low-income residents take advantage of free, energy-saving services. CL&P weatherization residential assistance partnership program (WRAP), with mandated funds from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, contracts with New England Conservation Services to conduct energy audits and weatherize homes. Even though this program is free, many eligible individuals do not know about it, do not apply because the application seems confusing and are intimidated by the process. CDBG funds would allow the Jonah Center to hire a part-time out reach coordinator to actively recruit residents for WRAP services. Our goal is to enable 80 households, or approximately 300 residents to take advantage of WRAP's services the first year.

Linda Wallace stated that she participated through these programs and asked why do we need to fund such a request? John Hall replied that CL&P is difficult for participants and even though it is free, there has not been much use of these programs.

Deborah Kleckowski asked how do you plan to reach out? John Hall replied that we are looking to work through local groups to reach participants.

Avery Watson stated that this sounds like a grant to help CL&P? John Hall replied that this is a promotion of an existing underuse program. Jonah center would benefit in the form of a small sales commission for participants going through the service.

Donna Mitkoski asked is Wesleyan students could help? John Hall replied that Wesleyan students have helped in conducting surveys and determining a need, but they are not a good source of manpower to run a complete program.

Eighth, **Ron Krom** representing **St. Vincent DePaul Place** presented a project for feeding the hungry. St. Vincent DePaul Place in Middletown was founded in 1980 to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Greater Middletown. A four pronged mission, St. Vincent's provides food to individuals and families through our community Soup Kitchen, and offers assistance to connect people to basic support services and emergency funds that help address health needs, mental illness, addictions, housing and unemployment through our Community Assistance Program. We also operate the Amazing Grace Food Pantry and a Supportive Housing Program that provides intensive support services to 56 individuals with disabilities. In 2009, St. Vincent DePaul Place provided approximately 307,000 meals between our Soup Kitchen and our Amazing Grace Food Pantry. Amazing Grace Food Pantry served 9,456 households to an average of 830 households per month.

Patricia Murray asked if the fringe benefits could be described? Ron Krom replied that they are payroll taxes, health insurance, vacation time, personal time and sick time costs.

Avery Watson asked if these people are food stamps or are they eligible for food stamps? Ron Krom replied that they often are, but that is not enough.

Deborah Kleckowski asked if you have an outreach person? Ron Krom replied that we have an outreach person to educate people about benefits or services that they can utilize.

Deborah Kleckowski asked if Stack Street will be a good location? Ron Krom replied that he believed that location will be better.

The Committee recessed at 6:35pm

The Committee resumed the public hearing at 7:00pm.

Ninth, **Kimalee Williams** representing **Shiloh Manor** presented a rehab project for **330 Butternut Street**. To make emergency repairs to windows by replacing faulty windows to eliminate fire and safety hazards and increase energy efficiency.

Tenth, **Marie Kalita-Leary** representing the **Downtown Business District** presented a public facilities improvement project. Many Middletown residents call the north end of Main Street "home". We want the north end of Middletown, be it residential or commercial, to look appealing and charming. The DBD has installed planters within its district and we continuously receive compliments about them. We want to unite all of Main Street and make the sidewalks look pleasing to the eye. We will do this with well-designed floral planters that will be kept neat, clean and full of lavish flowers. We want the residents of the north end Middletown to walk out their front door, step foot on the sidewalk and see attractive flowers. The Downtown Business District will execute the following: purchase, install and maintain 12 sidewalk planters on Main Street and purchase flowers, plant and maintain flowers in the island and planters. The flowers will be changed seasonally: Fall, Spring and Summer.

Linda Wallace asked what will the DBD pay for? Marie Kalita-Leary replied that the DBD will pay for the maintenance.

Avery Watson asked why not have fake flowers? Marie Kalita-Leary replied that they cost much more than real flowers. Grady Faulkner commented that it would be a one time cost. Marie Kalita-Leary replied that in looking a fake flower options they are only good for one year, and they are more expensive. Cheaper to do the real thing.

Richard Pelletier asked can this be part of an incentive to expand the district? Marie Kalita-Leary replied that that would be the hope.

Patricia Murray asked if business could be a sponsor. Marie Kalita-Leary replied they do participate with the holiday decorations.

Eleventh, **Bruce Tyler** representing the **Godfrey Library** presented a public facilities improvement project for **134 Newfield Street**. Godfrey Library was built in 1951. The building still has it original single pane windows in metal frames set in masonry walls. The windows are very difficult to repair and provide virtually no insulating value. The total cost to replace all windows is \$70,000. This request is to replace the windows on the south side of the building which are in the worst condition. The goal is increased energy efficiency.

Linda Wallace asked if you have developed a method with which to survey clients? Bruce Tyler replied that they did and that roughly $\frac{1}{3}$ are low income, $\frac{1}{2}$ are female head of household and $\frac{1}{2}$ are 55 or older.

Donna Mitoksiki asked if any estimates were submitted? Bruce Tyler replied that one estimate was submitted which is the basis of this request.

Grady Faulkner asked about the previous funded projects? Bruce Tyler replied that the approvals and permits were completed in the fall and we are currently out to bid.

Grady Faulkner asked how do you get your revenue? Bruce Tyler replied that we have an annual fundraiser, we have an online subscriber resource and publications we produce.

Linda Wallace asked about where people reside that visit your facility? Bruce Tyler replied that people come from all over- 31 states, 2 foreign countries and statewide.

Twelfth, **Neil Brock** representing **Connecticut Legal Services** presented their legal public services project. This project helps low and moderate income Middletown residents who are in imminent danger of becoming homeless, through eviction or loss of housing subsidy, enforce their rights and find housing stability. Many Middletown residents are becoming or are in danger of becoming homeless because their landlords have defaulted on their mortgages and the buildings in which these families live are being foreclosed. This project gives priority to assisting these families in their evictions and ensuring that they can either remain in their apartments under the current lease after the foreclosure or receive an adequate amount of time, and in some cases a financial settlement from the foreclosing entity, to relocate to other appropriate housing.

Grady Faulkner asked what will the grant fund? Neil Brock replied that it will support staff and client services.

Grady Faulkner asked how do people get referred to you legal service? Neil Brock replied that the Human Resources office of Middletown send people, as do the court system, 2-1-1 of United Way and a Statewide hotline.

Grady Faulker asked that this was not an outreach effort, just a support of your existing program? Neil Brock replied that was correct.

Thirteenth, **Izzi Greenberg** representing the **North End Action Team** presented a public service project for the North End. **The Livable North End Initiative** will provide the organizational structure to initiate and maintain efforts to improve the quality of life for residents of Middletown's low-income North End. The project's goal is to promote neighborhood stability and sustain a healthy, safe, livable North End

neighborhood. NEAT will 1) increase the homeownership rate and connect residents and potential homeowners to programs that encourage investment, 2) minimize the number of foreclosures in the North End, 3) initiate and help the city enact a comprehensive blight prevention strategy, utilizing the newly rewritten blight ordinance as a framework, 4) assist the city in establishing a landlord licensing program, using the City of Meriden's program as a model, 5) work with the Middletown Police Department to continue a community policing model to engage North End residents in comprehensive crime prevention, 6) work with the Board of Education to improve the quality of education at Macdonough Elementary School, which serves the majority of students in the North End, 7) other initiatives, as they come up, which will improve the quality of life in the North End.

Linda Wallace asked if the funds are for salaries and community organization activities? Izzi Greenberg replied that the funds are for salaries to help develop grassroots advocacy and act as a liaison for the neighborhood to the City.

Linda Wallace asked what NEAT's overall budget is? Izzi Greenberg replied that last year it was \$80,000

Grady Faulkner asked what is the status of NEAT's current grant. Izzi Greenberg replied it was approximately 50% expended.

Grady Faulkner asked what is the attendance for your workshops? Izzi Greenberg replied that attendance is very good, with 10-20 participants per session with 3-4 sessions per year.

Avery Watson asked what the benefit of a foreclosure workshop? Izzi Greenberg replied that it provides a mechanism for those going through foreclosure to have access to a counselor to be able to mediate with a mortgage company.

Fourteenth, **Arthur Meyers** representing the **Russell Library** presented the proposed **Jobs and Career Service program**. Russell Library Job and Career Services provides services to meet the needs of unemployed and underemployed residents through a comprehensive program to help prepare individuals for work, find employment, stay employed, become more financially literate and learn about small business.

Avery Watson asked if people just sign up or is it for low and moderate income residents? Arthur Meyers replied that there is an application that helps identify low and moderate income residents.

Fifteenth, **Jane Carroll** and **Jim Morrison** represented **MARC: Community Resources** and presented their public facilities ADA accessibility project for **124 Washington Street**. MARC: Community Resources serves adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MARC is seeking a grant to install a vertical platform lift at one entrance of our building. Minor structural modifications to the existing area and the lift itself are simple but costly remedies to this situation. Our request is for funds to prepare the site and install a vertical platform lift in our new building.

Linda Wallace asked if they receive a bid to base your request on? Jane Carroll replied that they did.

Avery Watson asked if MARC is a private or public organization? Jane Carroll replied that it is a private non-profit.

Avery Watson asked what is the building used for? Jane Carroll replied that it is for administrative purposes and provides meeting space.

Donna Mitkoski asked if a ramp was ever considered? Jane Carroll replied it was considered but the lift was the most feasible.

Avery Watson asked if this is a good location? Jane Carroll replied that it has been a very good move for the organization.

Grady Faulkner asked why Middletown? Jane Carroll replied that more clients are conveniently located to downtown Middletown and the location is much more visible for the organization.

Sixteenth, **Carl Rodenhizer** representing **Mercy Housing Corporation** presented a public facilities improvement project for **Mercy Shepherd Home** at **112 Bow Lane**. This project will enhance environmental and health code compliance and improve the sanitation, functionality and efficiency of the restroom facilities at Shepherd Home, a 70-bed long-term transitional residential facility for homeless men and women working toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing. This proposed project will include renovations of 4 resident restrooms and 1 handicapped restroom. Each of the restrooms has 3 toilets, 2 showers, 2 sinks, 1 exhaust fan. The ceilings and walls in these rooms are of varying materials. All surfaces are chipped and cracked, therefore they retain moisture and have developed mildew problems thereby producing health and sanitation issues. Moisture and mildew have taken a toll on each of the restrooms. Surface areas will be replaced with either tile or cement board which better stands up to humidity and moisture. The exhaust fan in the handicapped restroom will be replaced.

Grady Faulkner asked what is the major issue you have? Carl Rodenhizer replied that the sheet rock in the bathrooms are in poor condition.

Patricia Murray inquired about the 2002 renovation to the bathrooms? Carl Rodenhizer replied that they were done poorly.

Seventeenth, **Jeff Pugliese, Matt Saraceno** and **Jim Lesser** represented the **Middlesex Chamber of Commerce** and presented their **Worker Preparation Program**. The Middletown Worker Preparation Program has been a valuable asset to the Middletown community since 1991. The primary mission of the program is to help unemployed and displaced workers in the City of Middletown find employment. The program's goal has always been to put the people of Middletown in the best possible position to secure employment and earn wages that will allow them to provide for their family and contribute to the fabric of the Middletown Community. We like to describe our role as being a "bridge between job seekers and employers." As a business organization, the Chamber has strong links to a wide range of employers in Middletown and the Greater-Middletown area. One of the Chamber's main functions, therefore is to help its members as they seek to hire quality employees. Before beginning the job search, Chamber staff members help clients to create effective resumes and prepare for job interviews while providing job coaching with both clients and employers to foster the best possible environment for not only placement into employment, but long-term job retention as well.

Linda Wallace asked if you work with the Russell Library? Jeff Pugliese replied that they do work with the Russell Library.

Deborah Kleckowski asked how do you recruit clients? Jeff Pugliese replied that most clients are recruited through referrals and walk-ins.

Avery Watson asked what happens when a person goes through your program? Jeff Pugliese replied that the first thing would be to complete a universal intake form and interview. We then connect them to training opportunities and find employment based on their skills. Many of these training programs are free.

Patricia Murray asked about the fact that Middlesex is in the organization name? Jeff Pugliese replied that this program is only for Middletown residents, but the clients benefit from a county wide employment base.

Eighteenth, **Michael Taylor** of **Nehemiah Housing Corporation** presented a proposal for blight remediation at **25-27 Ferry Street**. This funding will provide the final step needed to remove blight and improve the overall safety of Ferry Street and the neighborhood. The CDBG funds will be used to abate the lead and asbestos hazards, demolish the buildings and remove the foundation, creating a clean lot at 25-29 Ferry Street. In June 2007, Nehemiah purchased four dilapidated properties on Ferry Street. All the buildings are currently vacant. 25-27 Ferry Street, the building targeted for this CDBG request, has lead paint hazards which in the past resulted in lead poisoning of a child. Nehemiah secured funding to provide for complete renovations of three of the four properties. Nehemiah was collaborating with Habitat for Humanity to redevelop the fourth property, 25-29 Ferry Street, but as of yet they have been unable to

secure funding to demolish and rebuild the home. Construction is underway at the other three sites and the seven like new homes will be ready for sale in June 2010. The CDBG funds will be used to remove this hazardous and unsightly building, the last blighted building on the street. The removal of this building will make the neighborhood more attractive to the new moderate income home owners, the existing property owners and 96 families living in Wharfside Commons apartments, and help to make the neighborhood safer, increase property values, the grand list and thereby helping all of the residents of Middletown.

Deborah Kleckowski asked if any estimates were solicited? Michael Taylor replied that these numbers are based on contractor estimates.

Grady Faulkner asked what the original intent was for this property? Michael Taylor replied that the original intent was to demolish the structure and allow Habitat for Humanity to construct a two-family house.

Patricia Murray asked questions about the validity of the bids? Michael Taylor replied that the contract wants to work and is standing by their numbers.

Linda Wallace asked why is the total budget \$286,700? Michael Taylor replied that that includes the cost to acquire the land, not just the demolition.

Avery Watson asked what the end goal is for this property? Michael Taylor replied that ultimately we would develop it, when fund can be fund.

Nineteenth, **Debra Hopkins** represented **H.O.P.E. Inc** and presented a project to assist those facing foreclosure. HOPE will partner with Homes Saved by Faith, a national organization with seventeen affiliates, to address the tide of foreclosure and to rally resources to increase viability of affordable housing opportunities in the Middletown area. HOPE is sponsored by and partnering with Middletown faith-based organizations to provide a series of educational workshops and serve as a local first point of contact for Middletown households in danger of foreclosure.

Deborah Kleckowski commented that she attended the conference in January 2010 in the Council chambers.

Deborah Kleckowski asked is this a ministry of the church? Debra Hopkins replied that it is not and in fact that it is a stand-alone organization that tries to use local churches as a target audience to get participants to attend public conferences. The is to connect people with foreclosure counselors.

Linda Wallace asked about travel costs in the budget, if this is for Middletown residents in Middletown? Debra Hopkins replied the travel costs is for consultants to the provide the workshops at the conference, since they likely come from outside the area.

Linda Wallace asked how do you document participant statistics? Debra Hopkins replied that there is an intake form.

Linda Wallace asked if you have identified where the 9 forums will be? Debra Hopkins replied that the do have the locations set.

Avery Watson asked how do you see your program as not redundant? Debra Hopkins replied that this is a program targeted to Middletown residents that are underserved by statewide programs, and we look to prevent, education and connect to assistance.

Twentieth, **Sondra Cotten** represented **Shiloh Development Corporation** and presented their **Camp Shiloh** youth program. The summer of 2011 will present some of the same and in some cases more severe challenges to those responsible for providing a wholesome environment for our children. Camp Shiloh will be an eight week haven that will create and maintain an invigorating and positive environment of fun, team work, education and of leadership. We will work to change the thinking of our youth in order to create positive behavioral outcomes. We will address the chronic problem of a lack of resources for our youth

during the summer at affordable rates. Camp Shiloh will be staffed by teachers/educators, professionals from the minority communities, and college/high school students/ The camp will serve youth ages 6-13. All together we are looking to service at least 50 youth campers. Campers will experience arts & Crafts, field trips, tutors, movies and live speakers/readers. Each child will also attend and receive materials for health education workshop to address childhood obesity and other conditions. Families are encouraged to participate and attend all workshops if available.

Linda Wallace asked if the request was primarily for salaries? Sondra Cotton replied that it was, but there is a portion of the budget to purchase supplies.

Linda Wallace asked that a budget be submitted.

Deborah Kleckowski asked that page 9 be completed.

Patricia Murray noted that some places request \$30,000 and some request \$25,600.

Patricia Murray asked how do you screen volunteers or counselors? Sondra Cotton replied that the State does not mandate that we screen.

Patricia Murray asked that past grant experience be submitted.

Avery Watson asked how do you determine if you serve low and moderate income clients? Sondra Cotton replied that that information is requested on the application.

Twenty-first, **Howard Reid** and **Ann Faust** representing **Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness** presented a Homeless service proposal. The mission of the Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness is to prevent and end homelessness in Middlesex County by 2017. This will be accomplished by implementing the Middlesex County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness (TYP). The TYP is our community's commitment to actively seek long-term and sustainable solutions to this issue, rather than continuing to manage episodes of homelessness as they occur, and to spare all residents of Middlesex County the trauma and indignity of homelessness. The TYP provides an outline of specific goals, strategies and associated activities. The coalition has had much success to date but it needs support staff to keep the momentum going and reach its goal of ending homelessness by 2017. the focus of this proposal is the provision of staffing to support the coordination of the key strategic priorities identified in the TYP. Staffing will keep volunteer efforts focused and assure plan outcomes are accomplished. in addition, funding will be used to expand and maintain the TYP's website, www.anendinten.org, which is scheduled to launch in March 2010.

Linda Wallace asked for a detailed budget to be submitted.

Linda Wallace asked if the money was to hire a grant writer? Howard Reid replied that the funds will also hire a coordinator of the effort.

Grady Faulkner asked what the next phase is for requiring housing outside of Middletown? Howard Reid replied that anyone could become homeless and that we want to provide facilities in the towns where they reside in.

Grady Faulkner asked if other towns are providing funding? Howard Reid replied that no other town has committed.

Twenty-second, **Rob Rudewicz** and **McKenzie Tyson** representing **The Connection Inc** presented their proposal for public facility improvements to the **Eddy Shelter at 1 LaBella Circle**. The Eddy Shelter provides 24-hour access to emergency shelter for adult females and males over the age of 18. The purpose of the Eddy Shelter is to engage each resident through comprehensive case management and provide access to substance abuse treatment, healthcare, employment assistance, housing and mental health services in an effort to end homelessness in Middlesex County. The Connection Inc. is also proposing the installation of new tile flooring for the Shelter Hallway areas. The previous flooring was ripped out due to an asbestos

issue that was remedied by the State of CT. The area does not have any flooring on it since the remediation. The entire project will enhance the comfort and health of all residents and staff.

Patricia Murray asked how long has this floor been like this? Rob Rudewicz replied that the floor has been like this for two years.

Avery Watson asked what percentage of clients come from Middletown? Rob Rudewicz replied that over 50% come from Middletown.

Twenty-third, **Mark Masselli, Charlie Rose and Margaret Fletcher** representing the **Community Health Center** presented the proposed construction on a new health facility. Community Health Center Inc (CHC) will build a 44,000 sq.ft. building at **675 Main Street** in Middletown, CT. This will be a healthcare home for 11,000 of the 48,517 people within a 10 mile radius who are at/under 200% of the federal poverty level, double patient capacity. The project will consolidate medical, dental, and mental health services provided in 3 separate sites on CHC's Middletown campus, which has grown organically over 37 years. The new facility will improve overall safety, enable CHC to increase numbers of patients seen, enhance efficiency by consolidating staff into one building, and improve care effectiveness and health outcomes by increasing patient who will receive fully integrated medical, dental and mental health care from 31% to 75% CHC, has demonstrated its ability to provide primary care through its application of the chronic care model/planned care, implementation of electronic health records, and to provide training for the next generation of healthcare providers. The design of the new facility allows for growth, for increased penetration into target population, and for achievement of the core attributes of the medical home.

Linda Wallace asked how much has funding has been secured? Mark Masselli replied there is a \$8 to \$9 million hole to fill. The State General Assembly has authorized a bond request of up to \$5 million.

Deborah Kleckowski asked would the project hire locals? Mark Masselli replied that the project would hire locals.

Linda Wallace asked what percentage of clients come from Middletown? 80% of client, roughly 5,000 residents.

Avery Watson asked if you can't document, you are required to pay the highest fee on the scale for service at CHC? Mark Masselli replied that is true, because federal guidelines require documentation for reimbursement.

Grady Faulkner asked about the \$10,000 relocation? Mark Masselli replied that the \$10,000 is not for the relocation of the staff, offices and equipment. It was for the relocation costs incurred as a result of the purchase and demolition of the three residential homes.

Twenty-fourth, **Tonia Herring** representing her tailoring business, **Tonia's Tailoring**, presented proposed business improvements to **11 Grand Street**. Project proposal will consist of replacement of damaged wood floor panels and refinishing the back main floor of the store. The front of the store which is 14' x 15' will get commercial carpet and act as a show room. The two dressing rooms located in the front of the store will be removed and placed in the back. A balcony rail and new railing will be added to the existing stairs that lead down to the basement. Installation of concrete floor along with framing construction in basement. Removal and replacement of sidewalk hatchway. Replacement of existing rotted floor joist.

Linda Wallace noted that revenues or fees were not listed.

Deborah Kleckowski asked if the applicant owned the building? Tonia Herring replied that she had an option to purchase in addition to her lease.

Twenty-fifth, **Cassandra Windbourne and Robin Anderson-Turner** representing **Cross Street Training and Academic Center** presented their afterschool tutorial program. CSTAC is a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness of the significance of its afterschool programs and advocating for the quality of life and future potential of each student served, which will make a difference in the home, school, and

community. CSTAC's K-12 afterschool tutorial program operates Monday-Thursday from 4:00pm until 6:00pm serving students from five years old who are or would be kindergartners in support of school readiness, and tutor elementary children requiring basic skills development, through 18 years old, as well as skills deficient college students requiring our services. We enhance skill development and mastery among youths through homework completion, reading, writing, mathematics and science, social studies and language/art studies.

Deborah Kleckowski asked where do kids go between 3pm and 4pm? Cassandra Windbourne replied that the program starts at 4pm but the kids and staff are there before then.

Deborah Kleckowski asked how do you document income? Cassandra Windbourne replied that is request as part of the application form.

Avery Watson asked what the fee for the program is? Cassandra Windbourne replied that it is \$50 for the year.

Avery Watson asked how long have you worked with Cross Street? Cassandra Windbourne replied for 5 years.

The Committee motioned to table the remaining presentations until the April meeting.

Seeing no more business the meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michiel Wackers, Deputy Director of Planning, Conservation and Development