

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 19, 1997

Present

L. Wallace, Chair
S. Engelhardt
L. Moore
L. Feitel
F. Pappas
V. Amato
J. Robinson
A. Marino
A. Vasiliou
I. Howell
D. Mitkoski

Absent

D. Kelley
S. Shapiro
C. Chisem
M. Dimon

Also Present

approximately 40 members of
the public (see list attached to
these minutes.)
W. Kuehn

A. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by L. Wallace, Vice Chair at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

B. Election of Officers

J. Robinson moved, seconded by A. Marino, the nomination of L. Wallace as Chair. A. Marino moved, seconded by J. Robinson, that the nominations be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for L. Wallace. Unanimously approved.

J. Robinson moved, seconded by A. Marino the nomination of S. Engelhardt as Vice-Chair, A. Marino moved, seconded by V. Amato, that nominations be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for S. Engelhardt as Vice-Chair. Unanimously approved.

J. Robinson moved, seconded by V. Amato, the nomination of W.Kuehn as Secretary. V. Amato moved, seconded by J. Robinson, the nominations be closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for W. Kuehn. Unanimously approved.

C. Public Session

There was no one to speak on items other than the 1997 entitlement requests.

D. Minutes

Upon a motion by V. Amato, seconded by A. Marino, the minutes of November 26, 1996 were unanimously approved.

E. Project Status

The committee referred to the financial status report dated March 12, 1997. J. Robinson clarified

that \$ 29,688 was ready to be reprogrammed at the Committee's discretion.

Upon a motion by J. Robinson, seconded by A. Vasiliou, the Committee unanimously voted to accept the financial report.

F. Reports of Committees and Correspondence

None

G. Old Business

None

H. New Business

Public hearing on 1997 entitlement requests

KidCity

J. Bianco, C. Rodenheizer, and C. McCoid were present. J Bianco said that the fund raiser associated with the move raised \$11,000. Another \$30,000. has been raised for the KidCity exhibits. The AIC program also supplied \$10-\$15,000. worth of manpower. The Connection's responsibility was to move the former convent building and connect the utilities. The expense of the move did not allow sufficient funds; hence, the request for \$28,000 from prior year's money for utility connections.

J. Robinson questioned how the requests totaling \$163,000 + provided for the needy and poor. He thought that the previously awarded \$90,000 "was it". S. Englehart asked if other sources of funding are being explored. J. Bianco said they are raising funds through volunteer efforts.

C. Rodenheizer said the Connection commitment is just the move and lateral connections. When A. Vasiliou asked for cash flow projections and an amortization schedule over 20 years. J. Robinson said he would support the project at an unspecified level.

I Have a Friend

B. Miller, Director, and L. Fitzpatrick, Treasurer, were present. B. Miller said the program is increasing due to additional numbers of needy children, particularly Spanish speaking children. She noted that the computer consultant educator expense is an annual salary, not a weekly salary as shown on the budget page. V. Amato said the \$10,000 salary for B. Miller translates into \$65,000 annually. B Miller explained that the hours shown are only the hours at which time the center is open. It does not include the many hours before and after spent on administering programs. A. Marino asked if there are other sources of money. B. Miller said they are making a request to Liberty Bank.

Christmas in April

R. Feeley said that Middlesex County is the 184th affiliate of the national organization. The requests to the CAC are for \$16,500 from prior year's monies for the 1997 program and a similar amount for the 1998 program. Last year, they improved 9 houses in the Middletown area. They

are now evaluating 30 applications but can only do 5 or 6 units this year.

Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc.

A. Arteche, Coordinator for the Kuhn Mobile Work Program, said they are now part of the City budget. In response to a question by L. Wallace, he said that this year's request is the same as last year. ---- \$32,000.

V. Amato asked about the hours of the program. A. Arteche responded that it is 9 to 3 or 5 hours daily. There are 5 clients working each day; hence 125 hours per week are spent in Middletown.

V. Amato asked if the proposed acquisition of a van would be used in Middletown only. A. Arteche responded affirmatively; that it is for Middletown resident clients. J. Robinson asked why they are asking for \$32,000; A. Arteche said they were "covering all bases".

Middletown Housing Authority

W. Vasiliou and K. Beinhorn were present. W. Vasiliou said there have been window failures in the Senior Center resulting in water damage and there is a need for capital repair to the heating and air conditioning systems. He noted that \$350,000 has been spent by the Middletown Housing Authority over the past 20 years to support Senior Center activities.

W. Kuehn noted that the purchase of vans, of which 3 are requested in the 1997 allocation, are generally ineligible except when used as an integral part of CDBG funded activities. During discussion it was agreed that the budget page for the Senior Center would be revised to reflect \$48,820. in costs allocated for repairs and \$34,450 in costs associated with public services.

American Red Cross

B. Simmons, Assistant Executive Director of the American Red Cross, was present. She said the requested funds were for a Case Manager. The Red Cross receives 70% of its funding from the United Way.

Mercy Housing Shelter Corp.

H. Wilson was present to respond to questions on the job development services proposal at Shepherd Home. She said that CDBG funds will leverage funding from the United Labor Agency. The average participant will be in the program 6-8 months with a maximum of 18 months. L. Fietel asked what types of jobs the trainees will be equipped for. H. Wilson responded that persons would be trained for the restaurant and retail industries. V. Amato asked what other sources of funding would be added to the program. H. Wilson's response was money from the Department of Social Services and from HUD.

Saint Vincent DePaul Place

Sister M. Shuckerow and P. Harding were present. M. Shuckerow explained in detail the proposed Job Training Program which would create micro businesses for the participants. J. Robinson asked about other sources of money. P. Harding said they are seeking other grants. P. Harding briefly explained the necessity to make exterior improvements to the facility to include: removal of chipping paint, repainting; and, installation of a new roof and deck.

A More Excellent Way Transportation and Womens/Childrens Center

Rev L. Clegg, S. Steele, J. Moody, and L. Montenez were present. Program participants described the services provided by A More Excellent Way Center. Reverend Clegg explained the need for new leased space and for a van. Committee members asked why they could not coordinate with the Red Cross and avoid operating costs of the van. S. Englehardt asked how long the program has been in operation. L. Clegg responded the Center has been operating 1 year and the transportation service 3 years. J. Robinson asked about other sources of money. L. Clegg responded that they are seeking donations. F. Pappas requested a copy of last year's budget and a list of the Center's board of directors. L. Clegg said that 2 adults and 5 babies have been helped already through the Center. She is licensed for public transportation.

Business & Industry Foundation

H. Curley, J. Lessor, D. Wilbourne were present. H. Curley briefly explained the successes of the program and the relationship between the Chamber and the City budget. A. Vasiliou questioned the proration of costs with the Chamber and asked why the program needed to be administered by the Chamber of Commerce.

Nutmeg Big Brothers/Big Sisters

D. Taylor said that mentoring begins at the age of 10. The program has now served Middletown for 36 years. United Way provides \$35,000. per year. Another \$25,000. per year comes from the parent organization. There is a waiting list of 24 children. The average match up relationship lasts 3 years.

Literacy Volunteers

P. Hubbard, Executive Director, and R. Carella, President of the board, were present. R. Carella noted that over the past 4 years the clients have doubled in number. P. Hubbard reported that the organization is seeking funds from each town with program participants.

Eddy Shelter/ Connection Inc.

M. Cerino, S. Perry and C. Rodenheizer were present. S. Perry noted that 92% of program participants are Middletown residents. Connection receives \$4,000. in contributions from other towns. By virtue of staying 60 days in Middletown, persons do establish residency within the City. Eddy Center has a very strict criteria to control the length of stay of participants.

Great Strides

D. Mrozowski, and C. Maniscalro were present. According to the presenters, the building is 95 % complete with an opening schedule for April 1, 1997. Presently they have 50 volunteers and 40 program participants. The requested funds are for physical improvements.

YMCA

F. Sumpter, Executive Director, and A. Grandazzo, were present. A. Grandazzo explained that the weekends program has expanded to include Friday nights as well as Saturdays and Sundays. They formerly operated with some funding from the Middletown Housing Authority; however, that grant has been expended. Optimally the program needs \$24,000.00. There are an average of 90 participants on Saturday nights and 70 participants on Sundays. The program has received \$3,000.00 in donations, \$6,000.00 from Youth Services, and \$3,000.00 in fees. Without any program expansion to include Friday nights, \$21,000.00 is needed.

F. Sumpter explained the necessity of creating a handicapped access to the swim area program. Participant W. Szpakowski, explained his difficulty in accessing the pool from the parking area.

Homeroom

R. Toroc, Program Director, and 7 others were present to share in the experiences of the Home-room and the necessity for continued funding.

Nehemiah Housing

M. Taylor, Executive Director, briefly described the request for operational funds, capital improvements to the 14 unit building at Green Court, and the proposal for Neighborhood Revitalization fund monies. He noted that the NRZ proposal was a third priority item.

CAGMC

B. Walsh, Executive Director, noted the need for a new roof on the child care center. Presently \$1,000,000. dollars per year in programs is expended under that roof. In support of the down payment assistance program, she noted that 8 homes over the past two years have been purchased at an average of \$11,000.00 per first time homebuyer.

Municipal Development Office

W. Kuehn briefly outlined the annual needs for perpetuating the residential rehabilitation program, for continuing general program administration at a level which is reflected in the city budget and for continuing the JOBS Loan Program.

Prior years funding

V. Amato moved, seconded by J. Robinson, the recommendation of \$12,000.00 for Christmas in April. After discussion and upon a moving of the question by V. Amato, the recommendation was approved according to the following vote. Aye - D. Mitkowski, A. Marino, J. Robinson, V. Amato, L. Feitel, L. Moore, S. Englehardt, and L. Wallace. Nay - F. Pappas, A. Vasiliou. The motion was approved.

Upon a motion, by F. Pappas, seconded by J. Robinson, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend an allocation of \$17,688.00 to Connection/KidCity for the connecting of utility lines.

I. Other

None

J. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon a motion, duly seconded, the Committee adjourned at 10: 43 p.m.

William M. Kuehn, Jr., Director

WMK/gr

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