
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

6-April- 2003

Present

L. WALLACE
S. ENGLEHARDT, VICE-CHAIR
H. HENRY
A. KELLEY
V. AMATO
A. MARINO
E. BOGDAN
E. ROBERTS
D. MITKOSKI
B. PLUM
J. ROBINSON
S. SHOWALTER

Absent

M. DIMON
R. BANTUM

Also Present

M. WACKERS
W. WARNER
J. SHEA
A. MEYERS

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

L. Wallace motioned to approve the minutes from March 19, 2003. The motion was seconded by B. Plum and J. Robinson. The motion was approved.

There being no Old Business, L. Wallace continued and opened the floor to New Business.

First item on the agenda was Kuhn Employment's request for funding. M. Wackers explained that they had missed the deadline for funding and that M. Wackers had told them they could submit an application but the Board was under no obligation to consider it.

J. Robinson suggested that we not touch this request in that it was a late application and that this was not the first time that Kuhn Employment had done this. Furthermore, the general sentiment of the Board was that the Board could not consider this application without prior public notice that funds were available, and all organizations that wanted funding could compete.

B. Warner suggested that currently funds are available for reprogramming, it is just a matter of willingness of the Board to go through this process again. J. Robinson suggested that the staff should get the dollar amounts together that were available for reprogramming and present it at the next meeting, where the Board would decide if the Board should go ahead with the selection process. M. Wackers stated that a feasible timeline for a selection process was that applications could be made available in June and that organization that wanted to submit funds could do so during the summer and a public hearing could be held in September.

With that L. Wallace motioned that at the next meeting the Board will look at what funds are available for reprogramming at the next regular meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Since the second item was removed from the agenda, L. Wallace moved to the next item

Third item on the agenda was the Russell Library's request to reuse money that was left over to carpet a section of the Library. It was noticed by the Board that since a large part of the Russell Library's application for the 2003 Entitlement was ineligible that this request was also ineligible. S. Showalter requested an explanation for this. M. Wackers explained that through discussions with HUD it became

apparent that the Library clients were not 51% low- or moderate-income people. The Russell Library has documented that only 25% percent of the people who use the library are low- or moderate-income. Only such specific projects like the handicapped ramp were eligible.

J. Robinson motioned to not accept the request, and motion was seconded by B. Plum. The motion was approved.

Third item on the agenda was the allocations of the 2003 entitlement funds. T. Marino requested that all the items that were marked as ineligible to be explained to the Board by the staff. M. Wackers explained:

- 1) Board of Education, Parent & Children Leadership Training was ineligible because it was a program that encouraged political activity. Since the HUD regulations strictly prohibited CDBG funds from being used for such purposes, it could not be eligible. For example, if the program only encouraged people to register to vote, that would be a violation.
- 2) Children in Placement, Volunteer Court Appoint Special Advocate was ineligible because it was a state funded program through the Judiciary, and the state had decided to cut that line-item. Since CDBG funds could not be used for general government expenses. Giving counsel to minors in the court system is a basic right that the government is required to provide, therefore CDBG funds could not be used.
- 3) Friends of the Village District, McCarthy Park Rejuvenation was ineligible because the park's maintenance is a responsibility of the city, and therefore would violate the general government expense. On top of the fact that the group did not have any control of the site, and were using the Community Health Center as a surrogate.

Moving on L. Wallace ran down the list of organization to get the comments from the Board on each program:

American Red Cross, Medical Transportation

L. Wallace- This service was very much needed in Middletown.

V. Amato- MAT service is available.

S. Showalter- This program fills a gap, and it is a new program, something the board should encourage.

Middlesex Business and Industry Foundation, Middletown Worker Prep

L. Wallace- This is in keeping with what we have given them in the past.

V. Amato- This is a program that the City requested the Chamber carry out.

S. Showalter- There should be other sources of funding for such a program.

Board of Education, School Readiness

J. Robinson- This is a program that has kept it's word on how and when it will request fund and I will believe then if they say this is the last time.

T. Marino- This is a program to funded in 2004-2005, they are planning ahead.

The Connection, Middletown Youth Center

S. Showalter- I feel this program should look for other funding.

Middlesex Community College, CAD

V. Amato- I would rather train nurses, which are in demand now.

S. Showalter- I feel this program will be helped in seeking other funds if we given them this money as leverage.

North End Action Team, Community Organizer

L. Wallace- I did not want to given them any more money, but \$3,000 one more time is acceptable.

Oddfellows Playhouse, HVAC replacement

B. Warner- This is a program that is very close to not being eligible, and they should be encouraged to increase low to mod income participation.

J. Robinson- This is a group that does a great job.

S. Showalter- I would like to give them something.

NEHI, North End Housing Initiative

L. Wallace- This is in keeping with the Urban Plan adopted by the City.

Positive Solutions, Property Acquisition

V. Amato- I don't understand why they need to buy a building.

L. Wallace- This is so that they can carry out manufacturing operations.

Community Health Center, Facility Improvement

The Board decided to comeback to this program later, due to a wide range of views.

Wesleyan University, Green Street Arts Center

S. Showalter- I would cut from what is being recommended by the staff.

B. Plum- I would suggest \$100,000.

E. Roberts- I would suggest \$50,000.

Russell Library, Phase III

L. Wallace- This program's funding has already been determined through what is eligible.

Kidcity Children's Museum, Create Jobs

The Board decided to comeback to this program later, due to a wide range of views.

Middletown PCD, Riverview Street- Road Construction

V. Amato- How is this different from the McCarthy Park program?

M. Wackers- This is different in that it is part of a larger plan that HUD has accepted as benefiting low to mod income residents. Since this is a vital aspect to that plan in achieve the overall goals and objectives it is eligible. McCarthy Park does not fit within any such framework.

Middletown PCD, Neighborhood Rebuilders Fund

E. Roberts- Why is this program calculated to the cent.

W. Warner- This is a program that we designated that would take the odd cents and dollars to balance the entire 2003 allocations.

Middletown PCD, Program Administration

The Board understood that some money needs to be spent for this.

Middletown Housing Authority, Military Road DPA/CC fund

W. Warner- This program directly helps low- to mod- income residents of Middletown become homeowners.

L. Wallace asked the Board which programs the Board would want to cut funding from the Staff recommendations or increase from the staff recommendations. The programs that the Board wanted to change were Kidcity, Green Street Arts Center, and the Community Health Center. The Board felt the Green Street Arts Center should receive more funds, and that the other programs should be reduced. The board felt the both organization have received a great deal of support from the organization in the past and that in the future the board will require greater evidence to convince them that they need funding, relative to the new and smaller organization that come before the board seeking far smaller amounts. The Board however does recognize that the City still has a commitment to both institutions.

The board agreed to reduce the Community Health Center to \$20,000 and reduce Kidcity to \$70,000 and increase the Green Street Arts Center to \$100,000.

T. Marino motioned to accepted the staff recommendation along with the Boards changes described above, and the motion was seconded by B. Plum. The motion was approved

There being no further business, the committee adjourned, upon a motion by.

Respectfully submitted,

Michiel Wackers
Community Development Specialist