
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

17-April-02

Present

L. WALLACE, CHAIR
S. ENGLEHARDT, VICE-CHAIR
E. BOGDAN
A. KELLEY
A. MARINO
D. MITKOSKI
B. PLUM
T. REED
E. ROBERTS
J. ROBINSON

Absent

R. BUTLER (RESIGNED)
V. AMATO
R. BANTUM
M. DIMON
H. HENRY

Also Present

M. JOHNSON

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:10PM.

The committee briefly discussed the scoring process. J. Robinson said it was a headache and lacked a personal touch. D. Mitkoski said it adds a base of objectivity. B. Plum said it gives a direction for new applicants. E. Roberts said allocations cannot be arbitrary. Requests a follow-up analysis comparing funding decisions with the scoring results.

M. Johnson summarized the findings and the scoring process and recommended the Committee discuss the system's merits at the May meeting rather than tonight.

E. Roberts said he thought the allocation decisions should be tied to the scoring. J. Robinson said there were some excluded criteria that still had to be considered; how does that criteria get balanced against scored criteria. E. Roberts asked if this was HUD-dictated. M. Johnson said criteria was HUD, but process is our own. L. Wallace noted that the fact that some criteria differ from funding category to funding category affects the overall rankings. B. Plum suggested deferring any decision on the scoring system until a future date.

L. Wallace then summarized the usual allocations process for new members: usually one member puts forward a funding scheme, and debate, discussion, and adjustment flows from the proposed scheme. E. Roberts said he was not aware of the process and would have appreciated advance notice so that he could propose a scheme of his own.

A. Marino recommended a funding scheme (attached) and moved to adopt it. The motion was seconded by S. Englehardt, and discussion followed.

S. Englehardt asked why no money for Innovative PCs? A. Marino answered that he thought it was duplicating existing services, the presentation had been weak, and the CAC had not seen any results from the program. D. Mitkoski asked if \$5,000 was too little to do any good? L. Wallace said the money was only for summer positions. E. Bogdan asked why the CAC should fund Wesleyan? A. Marino said it was a million dollar project, for which a significant and financial show of support from the city was necessary to leverage other funding. J. Robinson added that Wesleyan had shown a good faith effort to raise other funds and that the project was valuable for the whole neighborhood.

E. Roberts said there was a discrepancy, from project to project, as to what percent of the request was being granted: While PCD was getting more than 50% of their request for streetscapes, only 30% of NEAT's

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requeste was being granted. A. Marino responded that non-profits have the liberty to look elsewhere for funding, while city government's hands are tied. E. Roberts asked M. Johnson to clarify. M. Johnson said that, while he was unsure of the ramifications of a municipal government raising private funds for public purposes, one possibility for streetscape funding was TEA-21 funding from the Department of Transportation, but that the 5-year allocation round had already ended.

S. Englehardt and T. Reed asked about funding for the library: the presentation had been poor, and the value of the project seemed slight. L. Wallace and D. Mitkoski noted that a portion of the funds had been for ADA bathrooms on the second floor. Committee members discussed that, although one set of bathrooms and the elevator was ADA compliant, bathrooms on the other floor were not. S. Englehardt said maybe the \$25,000 would be adequate to make a dent in the bathroom portion of the proposal.

T. Reed said with respect to the Wesleyan University project that money spent on youth is money well spent and, if CDBG couldn't give \$400,000 this year, perhaps the city could make a multi-year -- or multi-source -- commitment that would reach \$400,000. J. Robinson confirmed that discussions were already underway toward that end. S. Englehardt said it had become customary to give a large grant to get an organization started, and decrease it over time.

E. Roberts said he had a problem with granting PCD 100% of their Planning/Admin request. J. Robinson said it was money already in the Mayor's budget. E. Roberts said that the budget had not been adopted yet and there should be no problem in taking, say \$9,000, out of the PCD request and granting it to NEAT. S. Englehardt said she was worried that such a move would result in a Common Council override of the CAC recommendations. A. Marino said that this was money that reimburses the general fund thereby decreasing the burden on local taxpayers and that the CAC had adopted the policy of always going for the maximum each year. J. Robinson said that, in bad economic circumstances, he had stepped up to bat and decreased the amount to \$5,000, but that this was unusual.

The committee then moved to a vote. Voting in favor was: J. Robinson, E. Bogdan, L. Wallace, S. Englehardt, D. Mitkoski, B. Plum, and A. Marino. Voting to oppose was: T. Reed and E. Roberts.

B. Plum left the meeting.

L. Wallace reiterated that it was important to try to avoid Common Council overrides of CAC recommendations since the CAC is the program's steward and best understands the CDBG system. She also noted that B. Plum was being replaced with another representative from Planning and Zoning: J. Fortuna. S. Englehardt directed M. Johnson to minute the CAC's appreciation for B. Plums hard work and service to the Committee. She will be missed.

There being no further business, upon a motion by E. Roberts, seconded by T. Reed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Munro W. Johnson
Community Development Specialist

Name		Recommended Amount		
Organization	Project	Public Service	Planning/Admin	All Else
Oddfellows	Rehab and Restoration			\$ 25,000
Business Industry Foundation of Mdlx. County	Middletown Worker Prep	\$ 20,000		
The Connection, Inc.	Middletown Youth Center			\$ 13,000
St. Lukes	St. Luke's Improvements			\$ 40,000
NEAT	Community Organizer		\$ 5,000	
Board of Education	School Readiness	\$ 25,000		
Positive Solutions	Economic Development and Job Creation	\$ 8,000		
Mercy Housing	Ensuring Shepherd Home's Future			\$ 10,000
Middlesex Community College	Middletown Nursing Training Program	\$ 24,000		
Kidcity Children's Museum	Land Acquisition			\$ 22,000
Department of Png, Cons. & Dev	Streetscape Plan		\$ 65,000	
Department of Png, Cons. & Dev	Program Administration		\$ 112,000	
Innovative PCs	Job Readiness Outreach 2002	\$ -		
Community Health Center, Inc.	Weitzman Dental C.I.P.			\$ -
Department of Public Works	Main Street Sidewalk Construction			\$ -
Department of Public Works	Rapallo Ave Parking Lot			\$ -
Equity in Housing	2002 Rehabilitation Project			\$ 13,000
Middletown Housing Authority	Senior Center Renovations			\$ 20,000
Russell Library	Building Renovation Phase 3			\$ 25,000
American Red Cross	Family Shelter Lighting			\$ -
Alderhouse Residential Communities	North End Arts Cooperative			\$ -
Wesleyan University	Green Street Arts Center			\$ 100,000
Middletown Little League	Accessible Press Box			\$ 15,000
Office of ADA Coordinator	Main Street Accessibility			\$ 10,000
Parks and Recreation Department	Boat House Improvements			\$ -
Gilead Community Services	Renovation/Expansion			\$ 20,000
Kuhn	Mobile Work Crew	\$ 20,000		
		\$ 97,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 313,000
	CAPs	\$ 170,484	\$ 227,312	\$ 592,000

