
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

15-May-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 5:06PM.

With V. Amato and H. Henry abstaining, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

The committee discussed the application scoring system. M. Johnson presented a correlation between people's scores and the money they were awarded, along with a recap of the issues raised during the scoring process.

E. Roberts said that he felt each applicant should bring their own set of numbers at the final recommendations meeting in April.

H. Henry said he liked the system; the only problem was that there wasn't enough flexibility. In stead of a 1 ~ 5 range, it should be a 1 ~ 10 range.

A. Marino said the criteria about repeat applications hurts important programs like the Chamber of Commerce and Kuhn. There needs to be a counterbalancing category to mitigate the handicap faced by repeat applicants. M. Johnson informed committee members that, beyond merely discouraging the practice, HUD regulations explicitly prohibit repeat funding of organizations that are not providing either "new or significant expansions of" existing services.

H. Henry remarked that the importance of such programs was known only to a few members. More discussion about the different programs would help newer members to better understand the landscape of Middletown's social service organizations.

T. Reed expressed his concern that the whole process went by way too quickly.

D. Mitkoski and M. Dimon expressed support for keeping the scoring system with certain adjustments, per recommendations of the committee.

V. Amato said he thought there might be too much money being allocated to government agencies. He also thought that some evaluation of the community impact each proposal was expected to make should be considered during the allocations process.

A. Marino said less criteria overall would be better. E. Roberts suggested eliminating some of the more cryptic categories.

A. Marino and E. Roberts recommended providing an end of the year summary -- perhaps in conjunction with the CAPER -- that would, in plain English, summarize the accomplishments of the funded projects.

T. Reed proposed that each CAC member be required to visit and oversee a certain number of the subrecipients each year. There was broad support for this suggestion.

Discussion wound down with H. Henry reiterating his opinion that the importance of the allocations process demanded a methodical scoring process and A. Marino again stating the need to simplify the system, and E. Roberts stating that whatever the final system became, it should incorporate a numerical average of members' allocations proposals.

L. Wallace posed the question what to do now, especially given that those members who were less supportive of the system were the same ones absent from the discussion.

H. Henry and T. Reed responded that the decision to use the system was made by the committee several months ago and that the opportunity to dissent or propose an alternate system was set for this meeting. As of now, it is a done deal.

Next, discussion moved to the Applications Review Committee. M. Johnson provided background on the function of this CAC subcommittee. L. Wallace then reported to the CAC recent loans approved by the ARC and the fact that the ARC had a vacancy. A. Marino, another ARC member, apprised the CAC on its task to update the guidelines for the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program and its staff, Denise Bradley.

Last, the committee thanked T. Reed for his service as he was graduating and moving from the area. T. Reed introduced his successor, S. Showalter. S. Showalter will join the CAC in the Fall.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Munro W. Johnson
Community Development Specialist