

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

JULY 31, 1995

#### PRESENT

L. Cavanaugh, Chair  
D. Kelly  
D. Mitkoski  
C. Chisem  
V. Amato  
L. Wallace  
I. Howell  
S. Meyer  
S. Shapiro

#### ALSO PRESENT

W. Daley, Courant  
E. Schmidt  
L. Damiata  
W. Kuehn

The meeting was called to order by L. Cavanaugh, Chair at 5:08 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building. The Chair opened the meeting to the public session. There being no one from the public to speak, that portion of the meeting was closed.

#### Minutes

Upon a motion by L. Wallace, seconded by D. Kelly the minutes of June 21, 1995 were unanimously approved.

#### Status Reports

Copies of the JOBS Program status reports were distributed. In discussing the reporting of the full and part/time employees, V. Amato suggested that staff request quarterly unemployment compensation reports to get an accurate reflection of the number of employees for each business reported. I. Howell asked how many new employees were Middletown residents. The Committee suggested that a more formal structure be created for reporting. L. Cavanaugh asked that the staff first look at the number of employees in Pacific Marble. The Committee asked that a revised report be submitted for the next meeting.

#### Consolidated Plan

E. Schmidt, consultant to the City, described the changes from the draft Consolidated Plan to the latest effort. She noted that the housing text did not change dramatically, however, there was no prior discussion concerning economic development. To address those issues, interviews were held with L. McHugh of the Chamber of Commerce and G. Daley, Chair of the Economic Development Committee. An interview was also conducted with T. Gionfriddo and W. Vasiliou of the Housing Authority staff. E. Schmidt cited the goal of moving people out of poverty through the creation of jobs. The Consolidated Plan creates a series of 5 year goals. In the area of homeless and supported housing needs, Middletown is fairly well represented with shelters, half way houses, housing with supportive services, and assistance to move into home ownership opportunities. V. Amato asked if the housing goals were reflective of Middletown needs or the needs of the area. E. Schmidt said that because of Middletown's position in the region, these are reflective of regional needs. V. Amato asked that Middletown's needs be identified. Committee members asked where persons come from

who on Middletown's social service rolls. W. Kuehn said that Shepherd Home is the one agency that reports regularly on the town of origin of its clients. There ensued a lengthy discussion concerning what criteria constitutes a Middletown resident. V. Amato said that the Consolidated Plan should not base economic development objectives on the social service industry. Committee members agreed that social services should be in proportion of Middletown residents to the State's needs.

In discussing the Consolidated Plan strategies, the Committee engaged in a discussion over the definition of a cooperative. Some members felt that Equity in Housing could not be defined as a true cooperative since the participants do not own a percentage of the project. E. Schmidt said that cooperative housing in Middletown serves as a bridge between rental and home ownership. D. Kelly said that Equity in Housing clients need to live in the facility for a long time in order to gain any benefits. After continued discussion, the Committee agreed that the term "modified tenancy" be adopted as recommended by S. Meyer and reflected in the Plan.

In continuing to review the Plan, the Committee recommended that the Christmas in April program be added. Discussion then centered on lead base housing units and the impact of placarding them. Staff was asked to consult the Health Dept. to see placarding effectively removes units from the housing stock and to report these findings to the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee also asked for a list of the placarded buildings in the City.

In reviewing the Plan, the Committee asked that the Industry for Middletown (INFORM) be inserted and that the revised document be forwarded to Committee members. The Committee agreed not to vote on the Plan but rather a phone poll should be taken prior to its consideration by the Common Council.

#### Municipal Development Office

L. Cavanaugh asked about the structure of the Municipal Development Office. W. Kuehn explained the proposed realignment of responsibilities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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William M. Kuehn, Jr.

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