

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

AUGUST 24, 1995

PRESENT

L. Cavanaugh, Chair
V. Amato
C. Chisem
D. Kelly
L. Wallace
D. Mitkoski
I. Howell
R. Moore

ABSENT

S. Englehart
S. Shapiro
A. Vasiliou
J. Robinson
S. Meyer
D. Downs
R. Hyman

ALSO PRESENT

C. Wilcox, Staff
E. Damiata

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- A. Chair L. Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 5:10 in Room 208 of the Municipal Building. She noted that meetings would be taped from now on.
- B. Public Session: No one from the public wished to speak.
- C. Minutes: Upon a motion by I. Howell seconded by D. Kelly the minutes of July 31 were accepted unanimously.
- D. 1. Project Status: Several projects were questioned and staff asked to ascertain their progress and intentions. These were:
Forest City Youth Corps/Wesleyan
Nehemiah Housing Corp/241 Court St.
YMCA - \$3,200 free balance
- Staff reported that Shiloh Baptist Church had indicated they would not need an extension of their loan. The Citizens Advisory Committee requested a monthly progress report on the above projects.
- D. 2. Rehab Programs: L. Cavanaugh informed the committee of the workings of HRI and the ARC on which she and I. Howell both sit. She noted that HRI often incurs expenses for their research on projects that sometimes get turned down and other projects like Rental Rehab. A motion was duly made and seconded to pay the HRI bill per memo in the packet of August 16.
- E. Financing of Rehab Loans: The Citizens Advisory Committee duly noted the letter in the packet from First Federal Bank and asked staff to prepare on RFP for local banks to service rehab loans in the future.

F. Old business:

1. A motion was duly made, seconded and voted unanimously to ratify the phone poll approving the Strategic Plan - Section D of the Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development for Middletown.
2. Common Council funding approvals: There was lengthy discussion among members of the Citizens Advisory Committee expressing dismay and disappointment in the changes made by the Council to the CDBG funding recommendations for this year. They emphasized the degree of research, amount of volunteer time spent and non-political stances of the committee, much of which was overturned by the Council. V. Amato pointed out that the purpose of the Citizens Advisory Committee is to do the intensive research that the Common Council could not possibly have the time for. It is a very technical review and could be dangerous for the City to make mistakes. The Committee wanted a letter drafted to the Mayor and Common Council emphasizing how hard the Committee worked both separately and collectively on their recommendations and suggesting that a procedure be set up for recourse by the Committee should there be disagreement again in the future. This may mean changing the schedule by a month or so.

Several members of the Committee agreed on the idea of setting up a process which would allow the Citizens Advisory Committee to review the Council decisions.

G. New Business:

1. Adult Ed/North End Industrial Area: Without much discussion a motion was made by V. Amato, duly seconded and voted unanimously to approve that CDBG funding of \$150,000.00 be directed to the North End Industrial Area project and that the Draft Resolution in the packet be forwarded to the Council for approval.
2. Military Road Loan: After discussion with staff and clarification that the loan requested was not a "Bridge" loan, a motion was made by D. Mitkoski, seconded by R. Moore and voted unanimously to loan the Middletown Housing Partnership Trust \$55,000.00 for 90 days to buy back and resell 83 Military Road.
3. Rental Rehab: addressed under item D2. 4. & 6. The committee acknowledged the information in the packet on the JOBS loan program from M. Wood and the lead-based paint from the Health Department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55.


Cynthia G. Wilcox

CGW/sh