
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

19-Sept-01

Present

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

Absent

V. AMATO
R. BUTLER
M. DIMON
H. HENRY
S. SHAPIRO

Also Present

M. JOHNSON
W. WARNER
D. THORNTON
D. BRADLEY

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:07PM.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

M. Johnson presented a financial report in which it was disclosed that the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) had a balance of funds in excess of \$506,000. J. Robinson inquired as to how this sum had appeared. M. Johnson explained that the CAC had not previously received reports on revenue, which M. Johnson would now be providing on a regular basis. Previously, staff financial reports to the CAC were comprised of remaining balances in expenditure line items.

Next, the Committee received a report from the Applications Review Committee (ARC). L. Wallace reported that the ARC had reviewed proposals for administration and loan servicing of the Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program. The ARC recommended the selection of Liberty Bank for the job. J. Robinson moved to approve the recommendation of the ARC. B. Plum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. L. Wallace went on to report that the ARC had also reviewed a proposal from the Department of Planning, Conservation, & Development (DPCD) to administer the CDBG-funded Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program in-house and was recommending approval to the CAC. J. Robinson inquired into the working status of D. Bradley. Was she an intern? W. Warner explained that her status could be more accurately described as "part-time." J. Robinson moved to approve the ARC's recommendation. E. Bogdan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next, Mayor Dominique Thornton presented two initiatives for the use of CDBG program income and interest generated in the revolving fund. The first initiative was for the demolition of the old Middlesex County Courthouse. Once demolished, she explained, the area could be used partly for parking, and partly for a park, the latter which mirrors its historic role in the community as a play area for children of the North End. The second initiative is for the purchase and installation of decorative streetlights for the North End, similar to those recently installed in front of Middlesex Fruiterie.

L. Wallace asked, if there was more money available, what was the status of the Miller Bridge redevelopment? The Mayor and W. Warner explained that a source of funding had already been identified in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 108 Loan program. J. Robinson asked if the illumination would be as great with the new lights. W. Warner, the Mayor, and M. Johnson all explained that, as the lights would be bright but also closer to the ground, the illumination would be more

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efficient. S. Englehardt inquired into the timing of the demolition. W. Warner responded that it would likely be a project for spring construction.

A. Marino and J. Robinson inquired into the necessary regulatory procedures for spending the funds. M. Johnson explained that a public hearing and recommendation by the CAC was necessary, in addition to approval by the Common Council and notification to HUD. A. Marino made a motion to approve the proposals, pending the public hearing. J. Robinson seconded the motion and inquired if the remaining program income would be recycled back into the programs that generated it. The Mayor responded it would. A. Marino stated he approved of the proposals because, as CDBG money was tax money, its use should alleviate the tax burden on Middletown residents. As these proposals benefit the downtown through non-general fund monies, the benefit is great without being increasing the local tax burden.

A vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously. The Committee directed M. Johnson to publish a legal notice for the public hearing for the next meeting. M. Johnson said he would.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Munro W. Johnson
Community Development Specialist