
**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

18-Oct-00

Present

L. Wallace, Chair
S. Englehardt, Vice-chair
A. Marino
D. Mitkoski
J. Robinson
B. Plum
A. Kelly

Absent

R. Butler
S. Shapiro
V. Amato
M. Dimon
R. Bantum
E. Bogdan

Also Present

M. Johnson

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. There being insufficient members present, no quorum was achieved and approval of minutes was tabled until the November meeting.

Members reviewed the committee membership list and vacancies.

Next, A. Marino presented a report from the Applications Review Committee (ARC). The ARC reviewed housing rehabilitation loan proposals from two applicants, approving each with certain terms and conditions. The first applicant's loan was approved for \$11,000, seven years, and four percent interest. The second applicant's loan was approved for \$6,900, three years, and seven percent. The applicant, however, was unsatisfied with the terms, and asked that his application be reconsidered. This occurred with an offer being made of \$6,900, three years, and two and one half percent. This too was rejected, and the ARC made a final offer of \$6,900, three years, three percent. The ARC will address guidelines at its next meeting.

M. Johnson presented a financial report to the committee which formed the basis for discussion on what became two separate issues concerning organizations in receipt of previous funding awards. The first discussion concerned timeliness. M. Johnson reported that four recipients of the prior year's funding round had significant remaining balances in their accounts, and so received letters from him asking for a report as to why the funds had not yet been spent. J. Robinson remarked that in a recent visit to New Haven, he became aware of that city's practice of requiring repeat applicants for CDBG funding to present the status or results of the work undertaken with previous funding awards. B. Plum suggested that issues of timeliness should be taken up with sub-recipients from more rounds of funding than just that of the prior year. S. Englehardt agreed and noted that funds could possibly be reprogrammed. A. Marino agreed and led discussion about ways that could possibly be done.

Two recommendations emerged: that a clause be inserted into the CDBG funding applications requiring any applicant who has received CDBG funding in the past to present the results of the project or projects achieved with past funding; and that a regular time be established within the funding cycle -- perhaps October -- when timeliness letters would be sent to all sub-recipients of the past three (3) funding cycles with unspent funds.

Next, M. Johnson reported again on HUD's new lead paint regulation and distributed a handout (attached). M. Johnson reported that Christmas in April, the Residential Rehabilitation Loan Program, and the Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program were all affected activities from which he had not yet obtained assurances of compliance with the new regulation, and so would not release more funding for the programs until the assurances were obtained. In the case of Christmas in April, an alternative funding source may serve the program better. For the Rehabilitation Loan Program, guidelines for complying with

- 2 -

the lead regs should be established with help from CAC members in order that more clarity can be brought to the process. The program is likely to experience more activity due to recent coverage in local papers. M. Johnson distributed a clipping from the Wednesday, October 18th, 2000 edition of the Hartford Courant promoting the program.

M. Johnson next reported back on a concern expressed at the last meeting about the potentially discriminatory nature of an artists-only residence, i.e. Alderhouse. It was explained that Civil Rights law covers "protected classes" against discrimination and that protected classes include race, gender, religion, etc. "Artists," however, are not a protected class.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.