

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 9, 1976

PRESENT

W. Howard, Chairman, Preservation Trust
E. Dzialo, Housing Authority
A. Kotlowitz, Wesleyan
F. Marino, Common Council
W. Chadwick, Chamber of Commerce

ALSO PRESENT

S. Beinhorn, Press
T. Gionfriddo, Housing Authority
W. Kuehn

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by W. Howard Chairman, in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building. The Chairman stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposals for discretionary funding in the third year of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

T. Gionfriddo presented information relating to the need for modernizing Long River Village. He stated that former Director Newcomer in 1969 had filed a \$1 million dollar application to modernize the project, which application was rejected in 1970. Another application was filed with HUD in 1972 for \$1.8 million dollars which for the most part, was rejected in 1973. The only rehab monies to the project have been in the amount of \$400,000.00 to replace gas lines and electrical lines.

The project consists of 190 wood frame apartments constructed in 1941-1942. It is the oldest wood frame project in Connecticut. Only the original quality of construction has allowed this project to stand all these years. The greatest need today is window replacement and replacement of the heating systems.

T. Gionfriddo reported that Congressman Dodd's office has tried to obtain rehab funding, with no success. All monies appear to be going to larger cities. The Housing Authority faces the possible loss of units if the project is not rehabilitated. The Housing Authority notes that Long River Village uses 2.4 times more fuel per unit than comparable facilities at Traverse Square. To keep warm in the winter, tenants hang blankets over the windows and use gas stoves as a heat supplement. The fuel costs have been extraordinarily high over the past several years and rents cannot be raised because of Federal legislation.

The general composition of tenants in the Village is 75% on welfare, 85% female headed households and 72% minority. Therefore, the rent structure is quite low. HUD supplements operating expenses caused by the low rent structure through the Brooke amendment of several years ago wherein tenants can pay no more than 25% of net income for rent. T. Gionfriddo distributed copies of letters previously sent to HUD explaining the priority needs of the Village.

Upon a motion by E. Dzialo, seconded by A. Kotlowitz, the Citizens Advisory Council unanimously endorsed the Housing Authority request for discretionary funding for modernizing Long River Village. The staff was instructed to prepare an application.

The Council also discussed notifying Middletown Senators Ribicoff and Weicker and Congressman Dodd to make them aware of the modernization needs and the fact that an application will be submitted to HUD.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Kuehn, Jr.
Secretary

WMK/th