

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

15-December-2004

Present

L. Wallace, Chair
S. Englehardt, Vice Chair
B. Plum
V. Amato
D. Mitkoski
A. Marino
L. Caditz-Peck
E. Noglow
A. Watson
E. Roberts
J. Robinson
R. Bantum
A. Kelly
E. Bogdan

Absent

H. Henry

Also Present

M. Wackers
N. Bishop
M. Rich
A. Meyers

L. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

L. Wallace called for a review of the minutes. B. Plum motioned to approve the minutes. A. Marino seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation from Bill Warner to request \$210,000 be allocated from Program Income for the North End Housing Initiative for property acquisition. J. Robinson commented that this is the time for the City to commit to revitalizing the North End. L. Wallace commented that she had seen many band-aid proposals in the past and this was a real opportunity to make a positive change. A. Marino commented that the CAC routinely allocates thousands in small projects that have done nothing, and it is time we have a comprehensive initiative. V. Amato stated that he will support this but with some trepidation. The Arrigoni Hotel in one example where a lot of money was invested with little change. The Middletown Police Department is not doing enough, the Common Council needs to crack down on them. E. Roberts commented that this is a social issue and I have reservations about the tax payers concern with success. I want to see success. I don't want to throw money at the problem, I want a plan that will follow this up. J. Robinson commented that this will give a structural change as opposed to a piece meal project. This is a total plan and it is a plan that will be enforced. This is not a one shot deal that we can walk away. J. Robinson moved to approve the allocation of \$210,000 in program income for the North End Housing Initiative. E. Roberts seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The second item on the agenda was the request from Oddfellows Playhouse to revise the project scope from a HVAC unit to only replacing the heat pumps. Mimi Rich and Shawn Hill presented the proposed changes to the project. The changes would still result in energy savings of 20%-25%. This was a very conservative estimate. V. Amato asked what the life expectancy of this product was. The answer was an expected life expectancy of 20 years. J. Robinson moved to approve a final extension of eight months. A. Marino seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was the Russell Library. Arthur Meyers updated the committee to the status of the handicapped ramp project. A. Marino moved to approve a final extension of three months. V. Amato seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously. Arthur Meyers also asked if the savings from this project could be applied to the other CDBG grants that the Library had. The Committee declined to hear such a request.

The fourth item on the agenda was the Board of Education. Elizabeth Nocera updated the Committee on the School Readiness project, stating that it had been successfully completed. Michiel Wackers requested a one month extension to ensure that the payment would have time to be processed. J. Robinson moved to approve a final extension of one month. A. Marino seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The fifth item on the agenda was the Mercy Housing. Richard Brass updated the Committee on the Mercy Housing bathroom rehab project. The problem has been getting to get CVH to perform the work to had volunteered to offer free of charge. V. Amato moved to approve a final extension of twelve months. A. Marino seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The sixth item on the agenda was the Positive Solutions. Norman Bishop updated the Committee on the status of searching for a property to acquire. J. Robinson moved to approve a final extension of six months to either acquire a property or sign a long-term lease. B. Plum amended to motion to require the structure of a long-term lease be approved by the CAC. B. Plum seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The seventh item on the agenda was the approval of the funds to be reprogrammed with the 2005 entitlement funds. L. Wallace moved to approve the list of reprogrammed funds. V. Amato seconded the motion and the Committee approved the motion unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michiel Wackers
Community Development Specialist