

Community Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2020

MINUTES: The Community Development Advisory Commission held a Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 24, 2020 virtually via Zoom. The following issues were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Michael Brooks, Brian Courtney, Mike Johnson, Robin Lamott-Sparks, Bruce Sweyd, Robert Werner

Commissioners Excused: Candace Birks, Joyce Blandon

Commissioners Absent:

Others in Attendance: Adam Sendroff, Community Development Program Manager
Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk
Colette Kroop

1. Call to order

In the absence of Mr. Courtney, Mr. Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:49 PM.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken as noted above.

3. Review of minutes from July 15, 2020

Mr. Brooks called for a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2020. Mr. Werner made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Sweyd. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Development Manager's Report

Mr. Sendroff reported that they are working on The Five Year Plan and Annual Action Plan. There have been round table focus groups in order to gain feedback on the needs of the community. There is a current draft of the Annual Action Plan and Five Year Plan to be reviewed. It will be posted online to honor the 30 day public comment period. The hope is to get this to the Council at their meeting in September.

Mr. Courtney joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Sendroff mentioned that the Keefe Center has worked on facilitating and organizing COVID testing sites with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center. At the last pop-up, there were 146 people to come and get tested. The next testing date will be on September 10.

St. Ann's Soup Kitchen has a buyer for their building so they are looking to move the kitchen elsewhere. If anyone has any suggestions as to where they can go, please let Mr. Sendroff know.

Mr. Sendroff is involved in the Community Policing initiatives. There is a neighborhood initiative that is focusing on quality of life issues in town. Mr. Sendroff has been sharing the services offered at Keefe Community Center with these officers.

The community garden at the Keefe Community Center is at peak. The daycare helps harvest the food which goes to the food bank.

Mr. Richard Cho, the Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, spoke with Mr. Sendroff and asked if he would co-host a Town Hall regarding housing insecurities during the pandemic.

Senator Murphy will be visiting the Keefe Community Center on August 27.

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center has a homeless healthcare team that have been coming to Hamden practicing "street medicine." These nurses work to assist homeless or people in need in Hamden and provide them with services that they may need. Those in need are also connected with a case manager. Mr. Sendroff mentioned that two people have been connected with temporary housing and one person has gone into a detox program.

Dale Kroop will be retiring in November.

Fair Rent

There is one complaint pending at this time.

Down Payment Assistance

There have two additional down payment assistance applications and many inquiries.

Business Assistance

None at this time.

Blight

There was a removal of graffiti on Arch Street.

Residential Rehab

One roof project has been started since the committee last met and two applications have been submitted.

ADA improvements

There is nothing pending at this time.

Infrastructure

There was a sidewalk repair on Scott Street.

Public Service Agencies

There is nothing new to report. All of the Public Service Agencies that were voted on are in the Five Year Plan and Annual Action Plan. There will be more discussion at the September meeting.

6. Old Business

There is no old business at this time.

7. New Business

As Mr. Sendroff recently reported, the town is getting an allocation of CDBG funds to respond to needs presented due to the pandemic. In July, the committee unanimously voted to allow an amendment to the Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan to add the ability to apply for, accept, and expend CARES Act COVID-19 relief funding. The substantial amendment will go before the Town Council. In July, the committee unanimously voted to allow the allocation of the CDBG COVID care funding as follows: that 50% of this money be for Public Service Agencies. With 30% be for micro-enterprise business assistance in response to COVID-19 to assist small businesses, and 20% to go toward administration. As Community Development Manager, Mr. Sendroff made recommendations regarding the allocation of funds for Public Service Agencies that he believes are in line for best helping those most impacted by COVID. There were 19 applications and Mr. Sendroff recommended the following:

- Breakthrough Church
- Columbus House
- FISH
- Grace and St. Peter's Church
- CERT
- Hamden Community Services

- Hamden Schools
- New Haven Home Ownership
- New Haven Legal Assistance

Mr. Sendroff will encourage those not funded through this grant to apply during the regular cycle and go through the interview process. He also reminded the committee that these funds do not need to be paid back.

Mr. Brooks asked for a motion to approve the substantial amendment concerning the CDBG funding and accept the suggestions of allocations put forth by Mr. Sendroff. Mr. Johnson moved to accept Mr. Sendroff's suggestions which was seconded by Mr. Sweyd. The vote was unanimous in favor.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Brooks requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Sweyd. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Submitted By: Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk