

Community Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020

MINUTES: The Community Development Advisory Commission held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 9, 2020 virtually via Zoom. The following issues were discussed.

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

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioners Absent: Candace Birks, Mike Johnson,

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

1. Call to order

As a quorum was present, Mr. Courtney called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

2. Attendance

Attendance was taken as noted above.

3. Review of minutes from August 24, 2020

Mr. Courtney called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 24, 2020. Ms. Lamott-Sparks 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 introduced Sharon McCann who would be observing the meeting and stated that she would be involved in Public Service Agencies Compliance to HUD regulations.

It was mentioned that there will be COVID testing at Keefe Community Center from 11:00-3:00 on September 10. 146 people were tested at the last testing pop-up.

The next drive-up CT Food Bank mobile pantry will be happening on September 22 at Hamden Middle School in the rear of the building.

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 and assisting homeless with services in town. Mr. Sendroff has been sharing the services offered at Keefe Community Center with these officers.

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. This Town Hall will take place during the week of October 4, 2020.

The Community Garden at Keefe Community Center was featured on Channel 30.

Mr. Sendroff spoke at Hamden Public Library's Staff Development Day on September 2 to share with staff the services provided at Keefe and to plan future collaborations.

The CDBG Covid substantial amendment that was discussed at the prior meeting went to the Legislative Council and it was approved.

Mr. Sendroff has re-started attending the SCROG meetings on affordable housing. They are encouraging towns to start their own affordable housing working groups.

The first meeting for the holiday toy drive group will take place on September 10.

New Haven has a crisis response team made up of people who respond to calls in lieu of police. There has been a lot of interest in Hamden and other towns. There was a meeting with those in charge of this team in Hamden to gauge how to best move forward with creating a group in Hamden.

Mr. Sendroff sent the committee the United Way's ALICE Report. The percentage of people who are employed but are still struggling to make enough based on this report is at 38%.

Fair Rent

There are no pending complaints at this time.

Down Payment Assistance

There has been one new application since our last meeting.

Business Assistance

There is nothing new at this time.

Blight

There is graffiti on the west side of the Keefe building to be cleaned.

Residential Rehab

The project mentioned at the last meeting has now been completed. There has been one new roof application received and inspections have been completed for two.

ADA improvements

There is nothing pending at this time.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report at this time.

Public Service Agencies

Nothing to report at this time.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Mr. Sendroff explained the five year consolidated plan and explained that the annual action plan is within the five year plan. In addition to this plan, there also must be an analysis of impediments to fair housing. These plans are due in August of 2021. He mentioned that the Quinnipiac University interns did get feedback from people in the target area. There were round table discussions regarding economic development, housing and homelessness and public service agencies with a focus on youth and elderly. The public comment period ends after 30 days and the plan will go to the Legislative Council on September 21 where the public can also comment. Mr. Sendroff invited the committee to join the virtual meeting on September 21 if they so wish. Mr. Sendroff shared the goals for the 5 year plan with the commission as well as well as the program year 46 projects and the impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mr. Sweyd mentioned to Mr. Sendroff that on page 76, table 47 there is an error in the Priority Needs. It indicates to eliminate blight as a low priority. Mr. Sendroff confirmed that it should state "high priority" and will be edited.

Mr. Sendroff requested that the committee make a movement to approve the Five Year Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024, The Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Ms. Lamott-Sparks made a movement which was seconded by Mr. Sweyd. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Submitted By: Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk