

Community Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020

MINUTES: The Community Development Advisory Commission held a Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 12, 2020 virtually via Zoom. The following issues were discussed.

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

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioners Absent: Candace Birks, Bruce Sweyd

Others in Attendance: Adam Sendroff, Community Development Program Manager
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 September 9, 2020. Mr. Warner made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Brooks. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Development Manager's Report

Mr. Sendroff reported on the Farmers to Family USDA food distribution. The food boxes were distributed at Keefe Community Center on Fridays in October. This will begin again in a smaller capacity in the near future.

The Connecticut Mobile Pantries are continuing. There was one October 27 at Hamden Middle School. This is a collaborative effort, and on this date 250 families were served. This will continue on November 24 and there will be turkeys available.

The Hamden Food Assistance Resource Guide has been updated. This guide also provides information on the options available through Hamden Public Schools. One update to note is that St. Ann's Soup Kitchen has closed. The food pantry that was at St. Ann's will most likely be moving to Christ the Bread of Life Parish located on Circular Avenue. More details are to come on this service.

There will be a toy drive in Hamden on November 7, 14, 21, 28 and December 5, and 12. This is a drop and go drive located at Hamden Middle School. Mr. Sendroff reported that last year the toy drive was able to provide over 500 children with toys.

In partnership with QVHD, Hamden Public Schools, and Cornell Scott Health Center, there was a flu clinic on November 2. Flu shots were given out to 135 people.

There was COVID pop-up testing from 11-3 on November 6 at the Keefe Center. There were 161 people tested during those four hours. Cornell Scott has noted that the grant from the Department of Social Services has ended and thus they need to look into further grants and protocols for testing sites for the winter.

Mr. Sendroff reported on a new youth center in town called The Village. It opened on October 24 and is open to students in grades 7-12.

On October 9 Mr. Sendroff spoke on a panel for an annual conference for the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. He spoke to how Hamden handles the homelessness in town.

There is a program run through Federal Department of Justice to strengthen police and community partnerships. Hamden Police Department had them facilitate a dialogue that will lead to action items in town.

There is money budgeted in the town to continue the overnight winter warming center. There is an obvious need for this to be socially distanced this year due to the pandemic. Mr. Sendroff went with staff from Columbus House to the new Mount Zion Church location. As the church will not be moving into this space for some time there are hopes that this space can be used for the warming center.

The Five Year plan did pass with the legislative council and the public comment period has ended.

Mr. Sendroff noted that the allocations had been changed to decrease by \$128.00.

The CDBG COVID money that was approved by the commission and council has now also been approved by HUD. The agreements are being worked out at this time. There will also be a second COVID grant in the amount of \$360,802. Mr. Sendroff noted that there are hopes to take this money and make the part time assistant position a full time position as the work has increased substantially.

Fair Rent

There have been two inquiries.

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 nothing new to report at this time.

Residential Rehab

There have been three emergency roof replacements completed. There have also been inquiries regarding furnaces.

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

8. Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a movement to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Brooks. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Submitted By: Alyssa Bussard, Commission Clerk