

Citizen Advisory Committee  
Application Review Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2023

The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Ronald Dumas, Housing Specialist.

Present: Committee Members, Colleen O'Conner, Carol Eagles, Jeffrey Moreno, Roberta Garlock, Michelle Miller, CDA Staff Ronald Dumas and Rosa Richardson

Absent: Mark Bisaccia and Committee Member Victor Borrás

**Engineering:** Abdul Quadir thanked the Committee for meeting with him to discuss his application. He explained that he is seeking \$200,000 in additional funding to continue the sewer projects and paving of all streets once sewers are installed. He stated that the bids have been received and they came in higher than originally anticipated.

Rosa asked Mr. Quadir if residents are mandated to hook up once sewers are installed. She also asked if there would be any costs to the residents for the hook-up. Mr. Quadir explained that originally, there would have been a cost of approximately \$25,000 per household. They have since been able to bring the cost per household down to approximately \$4,000 - \$10,000 per household based on the length of sewer from street to house. The Water Control Commission has agreed to add these costs to the owner over a period of 15 years by adding to their taxes.

He then went on to explain that owners will not be mandated to hook up. However, if/when their septic fails, they will be mandated to hook into the sewer lines. He also explained that septic replacement is no longer an option and even if it were, replacement of septic would be far more costly to the owner than the sewer hookup at that point.

Rosa then asked if the City was financing any of this project. The city is not.

The Committee thanked Mr. Quadir.

**WH Child Development-** Dr. Patrice Farquharson introduced herself and proceeded to describe the Child Development Center to the Committee and its Mission/ Goals. There are 150 children, 0 to age 5, enrolled in the program. She is seeking funds for the Health Collaborator position. She stated that her organization works in partnership with Yale School of Nursing where she has a Registered Nurse, who is working to obtain a master's degree, working with the WHCD Center. She described the importance of this position to this organization. She also informed the Committee that the WHCD Center employs Social Workers as well.

**Ward Heittmann House Museum-** Patrice introduced Katherine, newly elected President of Ward Heittmann House Museum, to the Committee. She went to explain that all members of this organization are volunteer. Currently there are 9 members. She gave an update on the progress made at the Museum. All drainage issues at the Museum have been resolved. State Rep. Dorinda Borer was able to secure \$100,000 from the Good to Great Grant for the replacement of the roof.

She went on to explain that the house located next to the Museum has been purchased by the Museum Committee and they are seeking funds to renovate this house for the purpose of occupancy and possible rental. She stated there has been interest in rental by an Arts Program. They have received a construction loan which was used to make repairs to the basement of this house. However, there are no funds being brought in through the museum and the Committee does not want to overextend themselves with debt. There is much to be done to this home. Currently, there is no heat in the building. There is a need for a bathroom as well. Rosa asked if there would be a tenant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of this property once work is completed. The Museum Committee is looking at all options including rental to a low/Mod (Section 8) tenant but nothing has been decided.

**FCC-** Chris Vargo, James Kozlowski and Ruth Costa introduced themselves to the Committee. Mr. Vargo gave the Committee some history on Alex's Soup Kitchen. Currently this Soup Kitchen works with Living Word Ministries and serves 40-60 individuals for Monday lunches, Tuesday Dinners. They are in the process of approving Friday lunches that would be provided by Sodexo, the company who provides food services to our public schools.

FCC is also the first to provide a Purple Pantry Box in West Haven. This box is filled by individuals/ agencies and is located on church property adjacent to the WH Green. They would also like to expand their Food pantry to include perishables and frozen foods. They are also considering distributing food to homebound, food insecure individuals. FCC is seeking funds to upgrade their Pantry area with rolling shelves, additional rodent resistant storage bins and the purchase of refrigerators and freezers for their Food pantry expansion. This equipment will be used specifically for the Food Pantry.

Committee Member Miller asked if there is cost sharing associated with Living Word Ministries. Mr. Vargo explained that much of the food is provided by Living Word Ministries and FCC uses their facility since the other organization does not have a kitchen.

The FCC Members thanked the Committee for their time and consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rosa Richardson  
Administrative Assistant  
CDA