



**TOWN OF GREENWICH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
CDAC Public Hearing
March 13, 2019 (Wednesday)
6:00 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room, Greenwich Town Hall**

MEETING MINUTES

CDAC Members Present: Stephanie Barrett, Bill Drake, Judith Goss, Lucy Krasnor, Kristine Lowe, Vick Sandhu, Sharon Shisler, Cathy Sidor, Samarpana Tamm, Alexis Voulgaris, Ric Wellington

CDAC Members Not Present: Phyllis Behlen, Claudia Carthaus, Christine Edwards, Dawn Fortunato Victoria Goss, Alan Gunzburg, Miriam Kreuzer, Cathy Landy, Jeffrey Medina, Wilma Nacinovich, Winston Robinson, Norma Roelke, Steven Rubin, Elizabeth Sanders, Samuel Telerico, David Weisbrod

Town of Greenwich Staff Present:
Tyler Fairbairn, Jill Foster

1. Call to Order

Community Development Advisory Committee (“CDAC” or the “Committee”) Chair Alexis Voulgaris called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

2. Introduction of CDAC Members

Town of Greenwich (the “Town”) Community Development/Grants Administrator Tyler Fairbairn and members of the CDAC introduced themselves.

3. Approval of February 21, 2019 CDAC Minutes

Lucy Krasnor made a motion to accept the minutes, and was seconded by Kristine Lowe. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Explanation of Public Hearing Rules/Process

Alexis Voulgaris explained that each applicant would have three minutes (plus additional time if an applicant has more than one application) to present their proposals, with unlimited time afterward for questions from the CDAC. Alexis Voulgaris reminded applicants that the CDAC had copies of their applications, and that it might be beneficial to discuss details of the project outside of what was included in the application.

5. Presentations by Program Year 2018 Reprogramming Applicants

- a. ***Kids in Crisis:*** Shari Shapiro presented the Safe Haven Program, mentioning that Kids in Crisis provides therapeutic services for children and their families. Ms. Shapiro informed the Committee that CDBG funding assists in paying for a bilingual social worker, and added that there is no state funding for an emergency shelter program for children.

- b. **Meals on Wheels:** Lenore deCsepel presented the Meals on Wheels program, which provides service to the elderly and infirm homebound of Greenwich. Ms. deCsepel said that her organization serves 80 clients, and CDBG funds help to support one part-time employee and one part-time assistant.
- c. **River House Adult Day Center:** Donna Spellman and Katie Zapata presented the Saturday Night Lights Program, noting that last year was the launch of the pilot program offering respite for caregivers. Ms. Zapata mentioned that intergenerational programming was very successful. Ms. Spellman said that the program costs \$10,000 to operate, and that River House was seeking additional funding to supplement CDBG funds.
- d. **Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County:** Kate Lombardo presented the Food Bank's proposal, stating that CDBG funds support the organization's warehouse manager. Ms. Lombardo added that the Food Bank has five full-time and five part-time employees, and that they provide support to Abilis and Neighbor to Neighbor, among other agencies.
- e. **Community Centers, Inc.:** Gaby Rattner presented CCI's Comprehensive Youth Programs which offer free programming to 100 children per week from elementary through high school.
- f. **Abilis, Inc.:** Jennifer Flatow and Tim Murtha presented the three applications submitted by Abilis. Ms. Flatow mentioned that the bathrooms at Abilis's 50 Glenville headquarters have not been renovated since 1994, and stated that the flooring at 50 Glenville was also in need of replacement, as it presents a hazard to people with visual and physical disabilities in its current condition. Ms. Flatow added that Abilis currently sees 250 participants per day at 50 Glenville, up from 73 when first opened. Ms. Flatow said that approximately 16,000 square feet of carpeting/flooring needs to be replaced. Ms. Flatow also discussed repairs needed to the kitchen at 52 Glenville to better serve its residents. Ms. Flatow concluded by noting the priority order for the three submissions was 1) floor replacement, 2) kitchen repairs and 3) bathroom renovations.
- g. **Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich:** Megan Sweeney presented three proposals put forth by the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Sweeney described some of the windows at the Horseneck Lane facility as inoperable, and said that a CDBG award would be used to replace sixteen windows in the building. Ms. Sweeney also described the proposal to rekey the Boys and Girls Club building for safety purposes. Finally, Ms. Sweeney described the Friday Night Teen Program. Ms. Sweeney said that the Boys and Girls Club serves 340 children, 52 days or more. Ms. Sweeney added that the teen program serves approximately 50-70 kids from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday nights, with 75% of the children coming from high school and 25% from middle school.
- h. **Community Health Center:** Yuliana Marin from Community Health Center presented the Senior Dental Program, noting that many insurance providers for senior citizens do not offer dental coverage.

- i. **Neighbor to Neighbor:** Nancy Coughlin presented the Summer Supplement Program, informing the Committee that it provides fresh food to approximately 5,000 families with school-age children (approximately 2,000 of whom are unduplicated Greenwich residents) during the summer months when school is not in session.
- j. **Mothers for Others:** Casey Simmons and Sonal Rinello presented the Diaper Acquisition and Distribution application. Ms. Simmons said that this was the first time the organization, founded in 2011, was applying for Greenwich CDBG funding. Ms. Simmons said that the group provides diapers for families with newborn babies through three years old, two to three days per week. If fully funded by CDBG, Ms. Simmons said that Mothers for Others could provide 10,869 diapers. Ms. Simmons noted that they have not heard back from Community Partnerships yet, and said that the organization will increase diaper drives if not fully funded.
- k. **Greenwich Library:** Barbara Ormerod-Glynn presented the Library's proposal for Public Facility funding to support the lower-level entrance renovation at the main branch on West Putnam Avenue. Ms. Ormerod-Glynn said that the renovation was anticipated to take 15-16 months.
- l. **Pathways:** Laura Heckman presented two applications for funding: 1) a Public Facility grant for the installation of a generator for the Fellowship Program at 8 Sinawoy Road, and 2) a Public Service grant to offset staff expenses to operate the Fellowship Program. Ms. Heckman said that Pathways anticipates the new building on Sinawoy Road will be completed by Christmas 2019. Ms. Heckman added that Pathways serves clients with mental health issues who would likely be homeless without programs and housing offered through the organization.
- m. **Child Guidance:** Katrina Dorsey presented Child Guidance's application for Public Service funding to support mental health and behavioral services for children. Ms. Dorsey mentioned that Child Guidance serves 2,100 children annually, 260 of whom are from Greenwich.
- n. **YWCA:** Mary Lee Kiernan and Kathy Seiden presented the Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Services application. Ms. Kiernan noted that domestic crime is the most reported violent crime in the community, and added that the YWCA offers 100% free services to domestic violence victims, included 3,500 hotline calls last year and off-site emergency housing.
- o. **Family Centers:** Bob Short, Catherine Hogan, Gayle Paquin and Darian Jones presented three applications: 1) the RITE Program, which provides job skills training, job retention training and workshops, 2) Armstrong Court Preschool Program which provides full-day, year-round childhood education for income-eligible families, and 3) 20 Bridge Street front entrance ADA renovations. Mr. Short noted that the Public Facility application for 20 Bridge Street was the same project that was not awarded funding during the Program Year 2018 Reprogramming process.

- p. **Greenwich Botanical Center:** Diane Lampert noted that the organization was formerly known as the Garden Education Center and presented two applications for Public Facility funding: 1) flooring replacement at 130 Bible Street, and 2) front door replacement at 130 Bible Street. Ms. Lampert said that the floor replacement was the priority of the two applications.
- q. **Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich:** John Yankowich and Terry Mardula from the Housing Authority presented two applications for funding: 1) replacement of 110 kitchens at Wilbur Peck Court, and 2) a playground upgrade at Adams Garden. Mr. Yankowich said that the Wilbur Peck kitchen renovations would bring the units up to code and include replacement of cabinets, flooring and appliances, while the Adams Garden project would involve the installation of two additional playgrounds at the site.

Alexis Voulgaris asked where the additional funding for Wilbur Peck renovations was coming from, and Terry Mardula indicated that capital funding was ready to go. Tyler Fairbairn mentioned the current challenge the Town is facing with timely expenditure of CDBG funding, and said that there would be a very narrow window to spend and draw CDBG funds on a project this large in scale. Ms. Voulgaris noted that delays in spending prior-year grants jeopardize the program and all applicants. Mr. Fairbairn asked how long the bidding/pre-construction process would take, and Mr. Yankowich answered one to two months. Mr. Mardula said that the Wilbur Peck project can be 100% funded by September 2019 and completed by May 2020. Vick Sandhu asked that the Housing Authority address three things prior to CDAC making funding recommendations: 1) confirmation of source of the non-CDBG funding for Wilbur Peck, 2) a more detailed timeline of work/expenditures at Wilbur Peck, and 3) improved communication with the Community Development Office and CDAC as to the status of CDBG projects. The Committee was unanimous in support of Mr. Sandhu's request. Ric Wellington requested an update on all outstanding Housing Authority projects as to where they are with spending on existing grants. The Committee expressed unanimously, via voice vote, that if the Housing Authority could not provide the information requested it was unlikely that their 2019 proposals would receive funding.

Mr. Fairbairn made a public disclosure on behalf of Winston Robinson indicating that he had recused himself from the 2019 CDBG planning process in accordance with the Town's policies on conflict of interest. Mr. Fairbairn noted that Mr. Robinson did not have a financial interest in any of the Housing Authority's applications, but HUD interprets his status as a paid employee of the Housing Authority and member of the CDAC as a possible conflict, thus necessitating his full recusal.

- r. **Parsonage Cottage:** Penny Lore and Richard DiPreta presented the application for flooring replacement at 88 Parsonage Road. Mr. DiPreta said that two floors and two hallways worth of flooring, totaling approximately 530 square yards, needed to be replaced, potentially including subflooring. Alexis Voulgaris asked how Parsonage Cottage would be able to obtain additional funding if not awarded the entire amount requested, and Mr. DiPreta responded that he did not think Parsonage Cottage would be able to raise money for this project through fundraising efforts. Ms. Lore suggested that Parsonage Cottage could replace flooring in one hallway at a time if necessary.

- s. **Greenwich Historical Society:** Mary Vinton presented the application for Public Facility funding to connect the walkway at the rear of the Bush-Holley site lobby to the barn and Bush-Holley House. Ms. Vinton mentioned that the current path connecting the site is challenging for people with mobility issues.
- t. **YMCA:** Bob DeAngelo and Elaine Grant presented the YMCA's application for a video surveillance system at 50 East Putnam Avenue. Mr. DeAngelo mentioned that the building is 102 years old and has four points of entry, thus making security a challenge in its current condition.
- u. **Jewish Family Services:** Elyse Brown presented the Supermarketing for Seniors Program and said that she appreciated any support the Town could offer via CDBG. Ms. Brown noted that the service is free for clients.
- v. **Inspirica:** Alan Weyl and Cindy Goldberg presented three applications for funding in 2019: 1) the Women's Housing Program case manager, 2) the Jumpstart Career Program, and 3) funding for an elevator at Atlantic Park Apartments. Mr. Weyl said that Inspirica operates from Bridgeport to Byram and offers 11 residential housing programs. Alexis Voulgaris asked which of the two Public Services proposals would be the priority, and Mr. Weyl said that it would be Jumpstart. Samarpana Tamm asked how many Greenwich residents are served, and Mr. Weyl responded at least three or four of 25 women served by the case manager are from Greenwich, although it can be challenging to ascertain where some clients actually live due to transience.
- w. **Old Greenwich Riverside Community Center:** Sue Clarke presented an application to provide scholarships to income-eligible families for afterschool children's programming.

Tyler Fairbairn disclosed that the Community Development Office had submitted an exception request to the HUD Hartford Field Office with respect to Old Greenwich Riverside Community Center's PY2019 CDBG application and Ms. Clarke's status as a Town Board of Education employee and a paid staff member of OGRCC.

6. Public Comment

No comments offered from members of the public.

7. Other Business

No other business was discussed. Alexis Voulgaris reminded the CDAC that the next meeting was on April 10, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

8. Adjournment

Alexis Voulgaris adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Tyler Fairbairn, Community Development Office, March 18, 2019.