

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 17, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Milta Feliciano; M. Evette Brantley, Co-Chair; Jeanette Herron;  
Aidee Nieves

**OTHER:** Max Perez; Autumn Hurst; Sabine Kuzco

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Brantley called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Mr. Perez stated that Ms. Hurst may present her items first. Co-Chair Brantley stated that she was amenable to this.

**80-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SYSTEMS  
FOR AN ACTION GRANT PROGRAM. (PROJECT #17292)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO WITHDRAW ITEM #80-15 RE:  
GRANT SUBMISSION: RE: ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION SYSTEMS  
FOR AN ACTION GRANT PROGRAM (PROJECT #17292).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**105-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING  
(SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM –  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY COORDINATION. (PROJECT #17533)**

Ms. Hurst stated that the grant in question is for senior center activity coordination and that this is the first time the City has applied for the grant. She stated that they requested \$46,030 from SWCAA and a 15% project match from the City, and that it is primarily in kind with a small amount of CDBG funding. She stated that the requested funds will primarily be used to cover the salary of a part-time activity coordinator who would work for all 4 senior centers in the City. Ms. Hurst stated that hiring the coordinator would allow the City to improve recreation opportunities and improve client research, while another portion of the grant would be used to pay for recreation or fitness class facilitators who specialize in activities such as yoga, zumba, ballroom

dancing and tai chi. She stated that those activities are currently taught at only a fraction of the centers, and that this will give them equal opportunities. She stated that the additional amount will pay mileage for activity coordinators (who will use their own vehicles) and \$600 towards supplies for activities such as adult coloring books, games and therapy dice.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM #105-15  
RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON  
AGING (SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT  
PROGRAM – SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY COORDINATION. (PROJECT #17533.)**

Council Member Feliciano asked how the activity coordinator's time will be split. Ms. Hurst stated that the coordinator's time will be spent primarily on providing outreach services for all the centers and blanketing areas from their office in the Department of Human Services.

Council Member Feliciano asked what the primary purpose of the coordinator is, as both the East Side and Black Rock Senior Centers are overcrowded, while the Eisenhower and North End Senior Centers have fairly low enrollment. Ms. Kuzco stated that the coordinator's job is basically to create cohesion between the senior centers, and additionally address the needs of each center. Council Member Feliciano asked who the coordinator would report to, and Ms. Hurst stated that they will report to the Deputy Director of Human Services under Public Health.

Co-Chair Brantley stated that this is a positive step for the senior community, and asked if it will also impact seniors housed in specifically senior housing. Ms. Kuzco answered in the affirmative, stating that the coordinator would provide services and connect to those in senior housing complexes. Co-Chair Brantley asked about the duration of the position, and Ms. Hurst stated that the position is a year long. Co-Chair Brantley asked if they know the requested funds from the Block Grant to be available, and Ms. Hurst stated that the amount has been requested and has been consistently funded at \$5,000. Ms. Hurst further stated, if the amount is unable to be funded, they will redo the match.

Council Member Feliciano asked who will provide transportation for seniors to and from the centers. Co-Chair Brantley stated that the coordinator can call and request transportation from Parks and Recreation, and that since a lot of seniors do not drive, doing so will allow them to access services. Ms. Kuzco stated that they could alternatively bring the activity to the seniors, depending on the situation, and that it will be the coordinator's goal to make a list of all the resources and the appropriate exercise of said resources.

Council Member Herron asked for the total salary for the position, and Ms. Hurst stated that the amount is \$23,410, inclusive of fringe benefits (\$21,736 real salary).

Council Member Feliciano asked whose budget the \$1,000 will come out of, and Ms. Hurst stated that it will come from the East Side Center. Council Member Feliciano asked why none of

the other centers contribute, and Ms. Hurst stated that some of the other centers do not qualify for CDBG funding, and that typically, none of the other centers apply. Co-Chair Brantley stated that the Black Rock Center may not be a non-profit organization, while some of the other centers may not be available. Ms. Kuzco stated that the grant funding only comes into play if the community is low income, and Council Member Feliciano stated that communities with seniors should technically qualify as low income, as they qualify for renter's rebate. Ms. Hurst stated that this is something that the coordinator could bring up, and that their hope is by having one resource, they can assess and assist the needs of the centers.

Council Member Feliciano asked if the person holding the position will be bilingual, and Ms. Kuzco stated that this is in the job requirements.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**106-15**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING  
(SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM –  
ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM. (PROJECT #17270)**

Ms. Hurst stated that this grant is for recurring for Victor Diaz's part-time salary as coordinator for elderly hispanic group sessions. She stated that they applied for \$25,010 to finance 19 hours a week, inclusive of fringe benefits. She stated that the actual salary is a little lower than the previous year's, as Mr. Diaz requested 2 weeks off. Ms. Hurst stated that the match is the same in kind.

Council Member Feliciano asked what the food accounted for was to be used for, and Ms. Hurst stated that the food is for group information sessions.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM #106-15  
GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING  
(SWCAA) TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM –  
ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM. (PROJECT #17270).  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**64-15**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 48 TROWEL STREET.**

Mr. Perez stated, regarding the property, that the Director of Finance stated that he believed it was worth more than the \$65,000 appraisal and would be closer to an appraised value of

\$115,000, to be offered at \$100,000. Mr. Perez stated that this would require another appraisal, and when said appraisal was conducted, the property's value was placed at \$57,000. He stated that the site is a cinder block garage with no heat, and that the new appraisal cost \$1300. Mr. Perez stated that, now, if he runs an ad and tries to sell the property at public auction, there will be issues regarding the starting auction price. Mr. Perez asked the committee for guidance, and asked if he should return to the City Hall Committee, who maintains a price of \$100,000 for auction, or if he should abide by the appraised values of \$65,000 or \$57,000. He further asked if the committee could supercede the City Hall Committee's assertion.

Council Member Feliciano asked if, at the time the property was first appraised, there was any interest at the \$65,000 figure. Mr. Perez stated that there was interest, and that he had intended to put the property out to bid on May 27th. Council Member Feliciano asked who is on the City Hall Committee, and Mr. Perez stated that the committee is comprised of Lydia Martinez, Council President McCarthy and Ken Flatto. Mr. Perez stated that the new appraisal was completed April 12, 2016. Council Member Feliciano asked how the members of committee are selected, and noted that she was unsure if any of the individuals on the committee have a background in finance or real estate. Mr. Perez stated that he did not know how the selection is determined.

Co-Chair Brantley asked who selected the higher figure, and Mr. Perez stated that Mr. Flatto suggested the higher figure, and that he provided the committee with a GIS map of the site.

Council Member Feliciano asked if they now have to start at \$57,000 at auction, and Mr. Perez stated that they could still feasibly begin the bidding at \$65,000, as they have an appraisal that attests to that value. Council Member Feliciano stated that she wants the constituents of the City to be treated fairly, and that they should be privy to the lower appraisal amount.

Mr. Perez asked if he should ask the City Hall Committee to reconsider the amount, and Council Member Nieves answered in the affirmative.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO TABLE ITEM #64-15  
PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 48 TROWEL STREET BACK TO THE CITY HALL  
COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Nieves stated that someone needs to be held accountable for the \$1300 reappraisal. Mr. Perez stated, in all fairness, that neither Ms. Martinez or Council President McCarthy contributed to the cost.

**97-15**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 134 LOGAN STREET TO ABUTTER AND ORDERING A  
PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME.**

Mr. Perez stated that the lot is a sliver of property between 140 and 124 Logan, and that the abutter has been using it for roughly 20 years. He stated that the City offered to let the abutter buy the property years ago, but he is now refinancing and won't clear title. Mr. Perez stated that the property is appraised at \$5,000, and will be sold to the abutter.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM #97-15  
PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF CITY OWNED  
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 134 LOGAN STREET TO ABUTTER AND ORDERING A  
PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**102-15**

**PROPOSED 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT**

Mr. Perez stated that 23 nonprofits applied for the benefit when the 2016 Neighborhood Assistance Act came out in March. He stated that the act is in the interest of contributing to community programs, and that it provides tax credits which nonprofits apply for, and then sell to people who donate. As an example, if the Zoo is building a greenhouse and UI is donating, UI will build the greenhouse with their funds and receive the tax credits in return. Mr. Perez stated that the following organizations are to be added:

1. Kolbe Cathedral High School (applying for a scholarship for inner city children)
2. Bridgeport Rescue Mission (applying for window and roof replacement on their premises)

Mr. Perez thanked the committee for their referrals of nonprofits for this year.

Council Member Feliciano asked how the relationships between those receiving the tax credits and the nonprofits are facilitated. Mr. Perez stated that the utility companies are actively seeking out these business relationships, and in order to qualify, one has to provide a budget to the State to show where the money is being sent. He stated that the first layer of approval is the City, followed by the state OPM, and that the grant is underwritten at the state level.

Co-Chair Brantley asked if the applications are closed for the year, and Mr. Perez stated that they are once the committee approves, unless they add another organization as he has. Co-Chair Brantley asked when the application process starts again, as she knows some organizations who

may benefit. Mr. Perez stated that the application process will restart next March, and asked that Co-Chair Brantley provide those organizations with his contact information.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO AMEND ITEM #102-15 RE: 102-15 PROPOSED 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. KOLBE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL REQUESTING \$100,000**
- 2. BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION REQUESTING \$147,257**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO ADD THE DOCUMENT TITLED 'CERTIFIED RESOLUTION' TO THE RECORD AS EXHIBIT # 51716-1.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM ##102-15 RE: 102-15 PROPOSED 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT AS AMENDED.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 6, 2016 (Special Meeting) & April 19, 2016**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2016 & APRIL 19, 2016.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN. HERORN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport  
ECDE Committee  
Regular Meeting  
May 17, 2016