

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
of the CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: dePara; Co-chair, Brantley, Lyons, Martinez

NON-COMMITTEE: Council member Brannelly

OTHER(s): A. Kabel, R. Gupta, A. McGoldrick, V. Sorrentino, V. Ortiz

Co-chair dePara called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Approval of Committee Minutes of July 20, 2010.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

131-09 Grant Submission: re: Contract with WorkPlace Inc. for 2010-2011 Pathway out of Poverty Grant.

Ms. Ortiz stated that the City of Bridgeport was looking to enter into a contract with the WorkPlace Inc. for a grant in the amount of \$181k from March 10, 2010 to December 31, 2011. The grant will be used to train unemployed persons. There is no city match.

Council member Martinez asked if they will receive more money after that date. Ms. Ortiz said no, they are the subcontractor.

Ms. Ortiz clarified that they will be responsible for outreach to Bridgeport residents in the 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 and 10 zip codes. She noted that they haven't trained anyone yet, because they are just in the process of applying to receive the grant. Ms. Gupta added that when the contract is approved, training will begin.

Council member Lyons recapped for clarification purposes that since the program was already in place, the money has been allocated and they were asked to be a part of the training. And they need the committee's approval to do the training and receive the funding. Ms. Ortiz acknowledged that was correct.

Council member Brantley asked if they started recruiting already. Ms. Ortiz said yes, they have twenty-five (25) people recruited to day. The participants are assessed for eligibility and then their names are referred to the WorkPlace Inc. The guidelines for eligibility are that the person must be under-employed or unemployed. She further noted that this was Green Initiative training.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

132-09 Grant Submission: re: 2010-2012 State Department of Social Services for an Elderly Health Screening Grant.

Ms. Sorrentino and Ms. Gupta addressed the committee about this grant. Ms. Sorrentino stated that this was a renewal grant in the amount of \$88k. The grant is for two years and it involves a partnership with Bridgeport Hospital that will provide senior health care services, such as; diabetes screening, depression, arthritis, bedbug education and nutrition. In addition, there will be scheduling for flu shots.

Council member Brantley asked if the person that will run the program is already in place. Ms. Sorrentino said yes, she has a set schedule and she goes around to various senior buildings in the city.

Council member Brantley made a request to have a copy of the program administrator's schedule be sent to all the council members. Ms. Sorrentino noted the request to send the administrator's name, phone number, schedule and the list of services for the council member's information.

Co-chair dePara pointed out that the administrator for the program has been active conducting the services for three years.

Council member Martinez asked the number of hours the administrator of the program worked. Ms. Sorrentino said she worked between 30 to 35 hours per week.

Council member Martinez expressed the importance of knowing what services she provided for referral purposes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

133-09 Grant Submission: re: 2010-2013 State Department of Public Health for Regional Public Health Preparedness Advisor Grant.

Ms. Sorrentino stated that they have received this grant for the last three years and they reapplied for it. She submitted an excellent grant application for the amount of \$100k per year for three years. The money is used to coordinate all the training for public health emergencies.

Ms. Gupta explained that the grant is used to train the Health Department staff professionals in the surrounding towns to prepare for public emergencies.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

136-09 Grant Submission: re: Housing and Urban Development for an Earmark for Family Services of Woodfield (FSW) Foreclosure Prevention Services.

Ms. Gupta stated this grant was in the amount of \$475k for eighteen months for an Earmark for Family Services of Woodfield (FSW) Foreclosure Prevention Services to prevent foreclosure proceedings to Bridgeport residents.

Council member Brantley asked what the program involves. Ms. Gupta said they offer counseling for those in trouble with back mortgage payments. They also received informed financial counseling.

Ms. Kabel added that the city provides money earmarked to provide foreclosure prevention and to support applicants going through foreclosure or whom might need financial support to get over the hump. She further noted that there is currently a big demand in the city for this much needed service to the state of the economy.

Council member Lyons asked how the applicants are chosen. Ms. Kabel said the program is run by FSW located on Clinton Avenue, but she wasn't sure how the applicants are chosen. Ms. Gupta stated that the grant was awarded to enhance the services they already provide.

**It was noted that Cynthia Maignan at FSW is the Program Coordinator.*

Council member Martinez asked if FSW also provides workshops. Ms. Kabel said yes and they also provide one-on-one counseling based on a person's situation.

**It was noted that additional information regarding the coordinator will be e-mailed to the council members.*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

139-09 Grant Submission: re: State of Connecticut DEP – America the Beautiful Grant.

Ms. McGoldrick stated that this grant would be used to conduct an urban study model. It's the first phase for the tree of forest management study for tree planting and maintenance for green design. They will do an initial inventory and partner with Regional Planning to implement the program. The program will be staffed by university students who will do the field work and inventory work. They will work in conjunction with the Forestry Service and the GIS Department to plot various inventory of information. The grant is in the amount of \$8,000 and there is a city match of \$11,500. The Public Facilities Director will oversee the project. They were awarded the funds during the last couple of weeks, but they don't have a contractor yet. It was noted that they will recruit students to staff the program from various colleges in Fairfield County.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

140-09 Grant Submission: re: HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program – Sustainable Communities Initiative Application.

Ms. Kabel stated that for the first time, HUD and other agencies have joined together to announce a grant to provide transportation alternatives. This is a regional grant that is highly competitive and part of a large group that includes New York City. They have come together to submit a consortium application. They will look at gaps in the existing plans that involve detailed executed plans to study the feasibility of train stations in Norwalk, New York etc. The plan is to move people from their homes to their jobs that will alleviate car travel. There is no city match. She went on to say that she is hopeful the project will be funded and they should hear something within the next six to eight weeks. If they are awarded, the grant will mean significant infrastructure dollars down the road.

Council member Martinez asked what amount was requested. Ms. Kabel said the maximum is \$5 million for the Connecticut and New York region; the State of Connecticut contributed the cash match.

Council member Brantley asked what the city looks to get out of it. Ms. Kabel said it will give the city the financial feasibility funds to study transportation on the east side and it will also look at the region to determine what gaps exists in housing, transportation etc. She reiterated that the regional study will include all the pertinent information necessary to carry out the project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE**

**** COUUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

***Consent calendar**

141-09 Grant Submission: re: DOT TIGER II Planning/HUD Community Challenge Grant Program to fund planning activities along the Seaview Avenue transit way.

Ms. McGoldrick explained that this grant was from the U. S. Department of Transportation in conjunction with HUD, for a localized program, not regional. They took the Barnum station to study the conceptual transit plan and the master plan around the area and to study the entire Seaview Avenue transit way as far as design and assessment.

Council member Lyons asked where the Barnum station was located. Ms. McGoldrick clarified that it will be known as the second train station.

Ms. McGoldrick continued and stated that they applied for \$1.5 million and there is a 20% cash match that will be contributed from the capital plan.

Council member Lyons asked the number of train stops they are planning on. Ms. Kabel noted that the Bridgeport Train Station currently doesn't have an Acela train stop. The closest Acela stop is in Stamford. She said that feasibility will be covered in the plan. Overall, the funding is for the transit way in and around the train station.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
*Consent calendar**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services