

CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
August 23, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Doug Stern; Chris Yerinides;
George Tsiranides; Ernie Dumas; Doug Hempstead; Eloisa
Melendez

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; LT. Hume, Police
Department; Michelle DeLuca, Deputy Director, Emergency
Management; Mary Oster, Early Childhood Coordinator

I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 26, 2018

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JULY 26, 2018 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (6) SIX IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION. (MS. MELENDEZ).**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. D'Amore stated that she received an e-mail from Diane Lauricella and that she was not able to attend the meeting and read her e-mail for the record as follows:

There are important questions regarding Ryan Park that have still been left unanswered. While contamination still remains in the soil she asked how much, the concentration, where it is located and

how deep is it. The South Norwalk Citizens for Justice event could have not been clearer and there is an obligation to answer these simple but important issues before the sight is developed and the public has the right to know.

A special initiative should be considered to have all sand piles in the city covered in all contractor yards and construction sites in Norwalk immediately, and possibly offer cover discounts or special loans to smaller contractors and begin public with outreach. Please assist the South Norwalk citizens.

Larissa Santalla- 121 Woodward Avenue

Mr. Santaella stated that he has lived at 121 Woodward Avenue for over 30 years, and he has some concerns regarding certain things that are going on in their street and he has heard that SNEW will be building condominiums right next to their property and he has not received notice. He said he is concerned about the sidewalks and they are practically destroyed and the city is doing nothing about it, and the speed is horrible in front of his house and there are elderly people and children in the area and there is no crosswalk in the area or speed limit signs. He also said that City Carting on Meadow Street does not dump the garbage on Fridays and they leave it in the trucks over the weekend and it creates a very bad smell all around the area.

Mr. Sacchinelli said there will be discussion next month regarding the infrastructure review as it relates to public safety.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

Police Department

1a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE FY2018 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,609.00

Lt. Hume said that the police department has received this grant for over ten years and it is used for high visibly patrol to put officers in places where there may have been crime issues, and it is also used for things such as the Oyster Festival and "Click or Ticket". He said the grant is from the Government and there is no cost to the city. He said there are now some political questions in the document that have been added in that deal with ICE which he is not familiar with but the Corporation Counsels office is and Ms. Belt-Jacobson is handling that.

- ** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MR. DUMAS).**

1b. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRAND FUNDS UNDER THE FY2018 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT LOCAL SOLICITATION PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.

Early Childhood Office

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO OR AMEND CONTRACTUAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE NAME AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORWALK WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAM OPERATED BY THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

Ms. Oster stated this is the child daycare contract that comes from the State of Connecticut and it is the state funding that subsidized pre-school and toddler spots at Ely and Ben Franklin, and it will fund approximately 70 toddler spots and 40 pre-school slots and we are in terrible need of subsidized toddler care in Norwalk. She said a portion of the money will also go to Greater Norwalk Head Start program to make their shorter day a longer day so there is quality daycare for working families and that it is on a sliding scale which is closely monitored.

- ** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO CONTRACT# 180ECCDC01NWK WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR THE 2018-2020 CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED BY THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

- ** MR. STERN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE SUBGRANT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CIT OF NORWALK AND I) STEPPING STONES MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN, INC. II) GROWING SEEDS TOO CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. AT BEN FRANKLIN CENTER, II) ODYSSEY LEARNING, INC. AT NATHANIEL EL CENTER, AND IV) CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITIES, INC., FOR FUNDING , UNDER THE CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAM, FOR THE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACT # 180ECCDC01NWK.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Potential Preparedness Community Awareness Events

Ms. DeLuca distributed the flyer for this year's Annual Open house and said that a table has been added for the Health Department so that they can discuss their volunteer programs. In September they will begin to advertise the event through posters, social media and backpack stuffers for elementary students in grades Kindergarten through fifth grade. She said that the event has been successful and she is looking forward to another one. Mr. Tsiranides asked what kind of turnout is expected. Ms. Deluca said typically 2000 plus people attend. Mr. Sacchinelli said there was discussion at a previous meeting regarding doing something that's complementary that will encourage young adults to participate in awareness preparedness. Ms. Melendez suggested meeting with the cadets and get their input. Mr. Sacchinelli said that this item will be kept on the agenda going forward and determine the logistics regarding the timing and date to meet with the cadets.

2. Ryan Park Cleanup & Washington Village

Mr. Sacchinelli said the organization that is conducting the remediation was scheduled to attend tonight's meeting but unfortunately they had a last minute conflict but stated that any questions that the committee had been sent to them in writing and they would respond. Ms. D'Amore said that they can be rescheduled to attend the September meeting. Mr. Sacchinelli said he would like them to attend the meeting.

Mr. Stern asked if there is any update of the status of the buildings and conditions. Ms. D'Amore said she has not received anything but that she will follow up with Ms. Sweitzer tomorrow regarding when they will have a response to the questions from them. Mr. Stern said that he was looking forward to an update to some very serious questions. Mr. Flynn asked if it is true that everyone will have to be out of the buildings in Washington Village by Tuesday, and said it is a disaster and they are continuing to work and the list of people that are sick is huge. Ms. D'Amore said that they have received the results from the water test and they were sent directly to the state DEEP to analyze the results and provide guidance on how the water should be discarded, and they had said it could be discharged into the sanitary sewer and her staff had contacted the WPCA and they had accepted the water discharge and the water from building two was pumped into the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Dumas asked what about the rest of the buildings where water was collected in the basement. Ms. D'Amore said that the Environmental Health Director went out on July 31st to inspect 13 units within Washington Village within buildings one, two, three and four and found buildings five and seven to be vacant and he did not observe any issues of mold or mildew, and he had spoken to people directly in both units and none had given any concerns to him related to mold or mildew. She said a few residents reported infestation issues with roaches and the buildings have been exterminated twice and bait boxes have been installed around the buildings for the rat concerns. Mr. Dumas said he has a concern about that and the people in those building will not say that there is an issue because they are afraid of being evicted. He said there is a problem there and he knows everyone is trying to push the project along but the health of the tenants needs to be checked. He said he will be going there tomorrow to look because he is concerned. Mr. Hempstead requested a timeline from the Housing Authority as to when everyone will be out of Washington Village.

3. Zoning and Code Enforcement

Ms. D'Amore said she spoke with Planning & Zoning and they had stated that it states on the permit that the dirt piles are to be covered when they are not in use. Ms. Young asked if there is a height requirement. Mr. Hempstead said "yes" Mr. Sacchinelli said that he will forward this issue to Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked if there are any topics that anyone of the committee would like on next month's agenda. Mr. Dumas said "yes" 8 Merritt Place and there is an application to put the storage of portable toilets. Ms. Young said the area is not a safe healthy environment and it is a densely populated area. Mr. Sacchinelli said that he supports the

issues but suggested that Mr. Dumas forward some of the issues may need to go to the Planning Committee and suggested he forward them to John Kydes. Mr. Stern said some of the items may need immediate action and the bureaucracy of going through zoning this committee may have more teeth in terms of identifying the problem and taking some action. There was discussion ensued and Mr. Hempstead suggested maybe making a requirement that zoning notifies the Planning Committee of the zoning application are received that are “not as of right” and provide a summary of the applications to this committee. He also said an ordinance could be written for the issue with the garbage stating that no mixed solid waste can be stored on a truck for more than 24 hours.

V. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MELEDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services