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**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; David Heuvelman; Thomas Livingston;
Barbara Smyth; Thomas Keegan (6:15 p.m.); Darlene Young (6:42
p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism;
Steven Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning;
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community
Development

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public who wished to speak this evening.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of January 6, 2022 Meeting.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

1. Review and Presentation of CDBG Applications.

Mr. Kydes summarized the procedure for this evening's presentations.

A representative from the Jewish Family Services described their services and requested funding to continue their home delivery meal program for 25 clients throughout the community.

There were no questions.

Mr. Jared Barns and Mr. Robert McDowell, representing the YMCA Race for Chase Triathlon Camp in South Norwalk, requested \$50,000 over the next five years to provide services to 120 youth from the Norwalk Housing Authority.

There were no questions.

A representative from YBI described their five programs and requested funding to move into a larger space, hire a Chief Operating Officer and a Program Coordinator.

There were no questions.

Mr. Ed Silka, representing Wheel it Forward described their program to lend out hospital durable equipment free of charge or for a suggested donation. They are asking for funding to put a Volunteer Coordinator in place.

Ms. Smyth asked Mr. Silka where they obtain the equipment. He explained that they hold drives, or they work with Junkluggers. They collect many different types of equipment.

Mr. Keegan joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Carol Houston, explained they were requesting funding to provide emergency rental assistance.

There were no questions.

Mr. Scott Dudley, representing Stepping Stones Museum for Children said they were seeing funding to bring pro social interactive programs into the community. He described the programs and said they would be presented twice a month, free of charge at various locations in Norwalk.

There were no questions.

Mr. Peter Savri, Director of Philanthropy, representing STAR requested \$20,000 to fund a customized employment program. He described the program.

There were no questions.

Reverend Roosevelt Willow, All Vessels Equality described their program working with disengaged students.

There were no questions.

Ms. Kate Guthrie, Rowan Center requested \$25,000 to support their need for crisis counseling, which is free of charge.

There were no questions.

Ms. Nancy Colpin, representing Person to Person described their program and requested \$50,000 to support the salaries of three bilingual Case Workers.

There were no questions.

Ms. Michele Conderino, representing the Open Door Shelter requested \$35,000 to support their employment placement program services.

There were no questions.

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Ms. Beatrix Lane, representing the Norwalk Senior Center described their programs and requested \$21,000 to launch a new behavioral health program that will serve 38 members.

There were no questions.

Mr. Adam Bovilsky, representing the Norwalk Housing Authority described the health and safety issues at the LeRoy Downs homes and requested funding to replace feeder cables and conduits.

There were no questions.

Ms. Kerry Doherty, representing Malta house described their services and requested funding to for the salary for Case Managers.

There were no questions.

Mr. John Hamilton, representing Liberations Project described their programs and requested \$25,000 for a Child Care Coordinator.

There were no questions.

Mr. Sean O'Brien, representing Home Front described their program and asked for support to fix three homes in Norwalk.

There were no questions.

A representative from Higher Education Learning Professionals described their program that helps students prepare for college.

There were no questions.

Ms. Krissy Case, representing Family and Children's Agency described their program and requested \$25,000 to support their outpatient behavioral services.

There were no questions.

Ms. Denise Sesara, representing Elder House described their services and requested funding to support low income families in need of respite care.

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There were no questions.

Ms. Sylvia Archibold, representing the East Norwalk Improvement Association requested \$11,500 for community programming.

There were no questions.

Ms. Kim Poley, representing the Domestic Crisis Center requested \$50,000 for youth and family counseling services and \$32,500 to replace their HVAC system in their Safe House.

There were no questions.

Mr. Clint Hamilton, representing the Carver Center requested \$63,500 to refurbish their outdoor basketball and tennis courts and to fix their existing fence.

There were no questions.

Mr. Richard Magle and Mr. Frank Casterna, representing Catholic Charities requested funding to expand their telehealth services for behavioral health.

There were no questions.

A representative from Keystone House was unable to present due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Brian Bidoli, of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency requested \$184,000 to administer the CDBG program.

Mr. Kydes thanked all who presented this evening.

B. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. Industrial Study Update

Mr. Kleppin gave a brief update on the Industrial Study. He noted that there is a lot of text writing taking place behind the scenes.

The target for staff review of the first draft is March 1st and then the public draft will go out in the spring.

2. Zoning Study Update

Mr. Kleppin reported that they started working on the Zoning text and working on amending the POCD. He noted that the Common Council has to approve any amendments to the POCD. Ideally, they would like to get the changes done by April.

Mr. Kleppin said the Waterfront study was active and their first public meeting took place a few weeks ago.

Mr. Kleppin gave a presentation and reviewed four different scenarios. He said the Steering Committee had three meetings. He added that a conversation took place with every stakeholder in the community. He said he would forward this presentation to the Committee members.

C. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. ARPA - Environmental/ Green Space/ Infrastructure

Ms. Vonashek gave a presentation outlining several initiatives and said they are in a great place to move forward with economic development. Mr. Kydes noted that productivity is through the roof.

Mr. Keegan asked about the Harbor Management Plan. Ms. Vonashek said that Plan outlines the way the Harbor is managed; however, the plan presented looks for ways to enhance the use of the Harbor and if any grants are available.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services