

Proposed Revisions to 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Chairwoman Mary Teicholz called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2009, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present was Committee members Colleen Stanley and Duane Perkins. Also present were Ex Officio Robert Riley; Mark Nolan, Danbury Housing Partnership Chair; Carolyn Sistrunk, Danbury Housing Partnership Vice-Chair; Paul Schierloh; Denise Valeri; Scott Leroy; and a member of the public.

Chairwoman Teicholz introduced everyone present at the meeting.

Chairwoman Teicholz asked Mark Nolan to provide a brief overview. Mr. Nolan provided the following information: The 10-year plan was drafted in 2006. Each community was trying to implement the plan according to the community's needs. There are four standing committees: Building & Permanent Housing Committee; Social & Supportive Committee; Fundraising Committee; and, Public Relations/Marketing Committee. Each Committee is active and ongoing. Each Committee was to take a look at the plan broken down into their components and return to the Partnership with recommendations. The proposal's recommendations derived from the Committee's recommendations. The economy has redirected the focus to take a look at the broader sense of housing regionally and react to a community's needs. Components are being added which are reflective of what is seen with today's market (i.e., senior component, at risk veterans). The stimulus funding that the region received will help to achieve some of the goals going forward. Mr. Nolan reviewed plans on how to use the available funding.

Chairwoman Teicholz asked for more information concerning the point-in-time count. Denise Valeri explained that the numbers have not yet been confirmed by the CCEH. There were significant surges in most of the populations. Particularly, 18-24 year olds. Mr. Nolan pointed out that at WestConn, there is an increase of homeless students who are not being tracked. Mr. Schierloh explained in an effort to avoid duplication in counting individuals, tracking throughout the communities each week occurs and then performing a point-in-time count. Mr. Nolan pointed out that a portion of the increase in homelessness is due to the current economy. Today, there is an increase in homelessness due to foreclosures. These individuals are ill equipped to cope. Services offered are changing as the times change. Various facets of assisting the homeless population, including the supportive services available and funding, were reviewed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stanley and seconded by Councilman Perkins that the Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the Common Council that the Proposed Revisions to the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Stanley and seconded by Councilman Perkins. The motion carried unanimously at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Teicholz, Chairman

Colleen Stanley

Duane Perkins