

Agenda Item #6.1 – Public Hearing

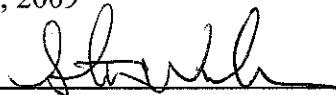
AGENDA ITEM BACKGROUND

ITEM: Public hearing concerning an application for Small Cities grant funding and performance review of the current project.

ITEM SUBMITTED BY: Beverly Bellody, Director of Human Services

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: April 14, 2009

TOWN MANAGER APPROVAL:



ITEM SUMMARY: Prior to the submission of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application, municipalities are required to hold at least one public hearing to offer citizens the opportunity to comment on the Town's housing and community needs and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be part of the Town's application(s) for funding. The Human Services Department is considering submitting an application for the following eligible activity: Housing Rehabilitation. Other potential or proposed projects eligible for Small Cities funding may be reviewed and discussed at this hearing.

The Town is also required to hold a public hearing to review the program performance of any current activities. Staff will update the Council and public on the 2007 Improvements to the Tolland Senior Center. The Town Council voted on March 24, 2009 to hold tonight's public hearing.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The above activities require a local ten percent match.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

COUNCIL ACTION DESIRED: None.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Copy of Legal Notice
- Report on Improvements to Tolland Senior Center

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT
TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 14, 2009
2007 DECD SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
SMALL CITIES GRANT #SC0714201
BUDGET PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1, 2008 - JANUARY 1, 2010

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOLLAND SENIOR CENTER: \$750,000

The purpose of the Department of Economic and Community Development Small Cities Community Development Block Grant was to fully renovate the lower level of the current Senior Center. Since its construction in 1998, the Senior Center has seen an increase in the amount of participation by residents. Additional space was needed as well as the installation of an elevator, as both staircases to the lower level were on the outside of the building.

Design Firm: Paul Tirrell, Tecton Architects, Inc., Hartford, CT
General Contractor: All-Phase Enterprises, Inc., Stafford Springs, CT

The Town was extremely fortunate to have a skillful design firm that understood the unique needs of the senior population and a general contractor whose quality workmanship will be apparent for years to come. Both firms worked around the schedule of the Senior Center activities, having only to close the Senior Center for three days while the dining room floor was installed.

The project came within budget, with minimum change orders and required paperwork was completed on time. We received our Certificate of Use and Occupancy on March 5, 2009.

Improvements to the Senior Center:

- Complete buildout of the lower level of Senior Center, with 2 handicapped bathrooms
- Upgrade of HVAC system to lower level
- Installation of an elevator
- Enclosure of one outdoor stairwell
- Replacement of existing wood patio deck and wood railing with Azek decking boards and PVC railings
- Complete overlay of parking lot with curb replacement and pavement markings
- Moved large air conditioning unit adjacent to front of building to rear of building
- Full replacement of dining room and hallway floors
- Replacement of front door installation of new operator on interior vestibule door
- Addition of security alarm system
- Access door to outside added to Food Pantry
- Millwork and sink added to dining area

Comments from the Senior Center Director:

I'm delighted that we have the space to conduct and promote more programs for the seniors due to the added space. Monday I had a WWHH (Women's Wellness **Healthy Heart**) program conducted by Ande Bloom from EHHD. Since we had lunch scheduled that day, it was most convenient to have the class downstairs. No one had to hurry to finish their lunch in order to get ready for the Heart program. It was great, quiet and private. By the way – 29 women showed for this program and it was wonderful. Everyone who attended both sessions received a blood pressure cuff.

Another program is **Yoga** – again downstairs lends to privacy and quiet, both needed for this type of program. Along with that program, the **Stretch and Balance Exercise Program** on Tuesday morning is conducted downstairs. Also, I have new people coming into the Senior Center to use the exercise bikes. I plan on having a walking group that can meet on inclement days downstairs.

Some programs such as the **Book Discussion** and the **Writing class** can be conducted downstairs, especially when we have lunch or socializing taking place in the dining room.

Line Dancing and **Tai-Chi** are in the works also. The new **Drum Class** has also been a success.

On Wednesday, lunch again in the dining room, a group meets downstairs to **play cards**. In addition, the **craft group** which had been meeting in the dining room can now set up downstairs and not have to disassemble everything to accommodate the people having lunch.

Ladies and men's **billiards** is on going, open to Senior Center participants wishing to use the pool table when other programs are not scheduled.

The computers from the DDS grant should arrive in the next few weeks and we will be able to offer **Computer Classes**. We are currently working on some new **Intergenerational Programs**.

As far as my observation goes, there seems to be a better flow of things all around. No rushing to get the next thing on the agenda in place. I also have observed that the lunch time is much more relaxed, which adds to the enjoyment and camaraderie

DEDICATION CELEBRATION ON APRIL 22, 2009: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.