

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 12, 2009  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** N. Hogan, K. Lum, B. Reisfeld, R. Plattus

**EXCUSED:** J. Goldblum, W. Johnston, V. Wilson

**ABSENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO:** N. Torres-LCI for A. Rizzo (Present), R. Manning-CSA (Present)

**STAFF:** J. Huettner

**INVITED GUESTS:** Fred Morrison, New Haven Plan to End Homelessness

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carmen Brown, NHHR, Becca Allen, Columbus House, Ed Mattison, SCBHN, Bonnie Fisco, SSA/ODAR, Scott McLean, Resident, John Bethke, Consumer, Frank Cirillo, Ben Stango, Gabriel Zucker (Shelter Now), Matt Meizlish (Shelter Now), Pooja Shethji, Michael Jones, Tess Lerner-Byars, Michael Ley, Abby Lawlor, Cathenne Osborn, Lepi Sha, Yale Dems, Simon Goldstein, James Cersonsky (Shelter Now) YHHAP

Meeting called for 6:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 6:06 P.M.

In J. Goldblums' absence, R. Plattus agreed to chair the meeting, called the meeting to order, and after introductions, asked for a motion to approve the January 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes with B. Reisfeld making the motion and K. Lum seconding. The motion passed: YES-7: N. Hogan, K. Lum, B. Reisfeld, R. Plattus, **BY PROXY:** J. Goldblum (02/12/09), V. Wilson (02/11/09), W. Johnston (02/13/09). NO-0.

K. Lum questioned a lack of a quorum present, after discussion and not wanting the meeting to end, he withdrew his question.

Out of order, R. Plattus recognized J. Huettner who read an e-mail from G. Spinner, who because of Municipal Charter provisions cannot be reappointed to the Commission due to term limitations set in the Charter for all City Boards and Commissions. His final term ended on December 2008, however, he can reapply for Commission membership after one year. He served as Chair of the Commission for most of the nine years, that he was a Commission member. J. Goldblum currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission. Discussion focused on what might be ways that members could honor Gary for his many

contributions to the City and those who are homeless, through his stewardship of the Commission. R. Plattus and J. Huettner agreed to follow-up on suggestions offered. Questions will be addressed through this transition period. D. Ecton, who has also served nine years on the Commission, will not be reappointed for the same reason. In addition, Gary has indicated that he will also resign his co-chair of the Ten Year Plan Implementation Steering Committee, as that was tied to his Commission chairmanship. J. Huettner indicated that efforts are being made to retain Gary in a leadership role for the 10 Year Plan Implementation efforts. All agreed that Gary will be sorely missed, sincerely regret that this had to happen and wish Gary the best.

R. Plattus updated members on fund-raising activities for homeless shelters and support programs, by announcing that the Blue State Café (a coffee house) has opened, with Shelter Now (YHHAP) leading the causes for donations. Also, Y-Dems has prioritized homelessness for lobbying activities this semester, with emphasis on restoring resources for affordable and supportive housing, which the Governor cut in her proposed FY2009-11 budget proposals. R. Plattus described the CDBG and ESG processes currently before the Board of Aldermen, which provides funds for shelters and homeless support programs. J. Huettner explained New Haven's fiscal dependence on the state of Connecticut and the state's PILOT's funding formula.

Next, Fred Morrison provided an update on the 10 Year Plan implementation activities, first by distributing the quarterly DSS program progress report to Commission members. This included the HMIS portion of the DSS contract, as well as the implementation of the priorities in the plan, along with the budget summary. He discussed the efforts underway to restructure the plan governance in ways that make it more inclusive and provides it with a higher community-wide/regional profile. Next, he discussed efforts to obtain resources to continue funding the process and programs of the New Haven 10 Year Plan. Finally, he discussed efforts to obtain additional property for supportive and affordable housing, specifically efforts to develop a proposal for use of the 200 Wintergreen Ave. property, currently owned by the U.S. Government, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Funding (3 million to New Haven), for these purposes.

J. Huettner discussed the Regional Strategies group, made up of students from Yale (Roosevelt Institute, YHHAP, Dems) which is meeting to develop ways of successfully engaging surrounding cities/towns in working to create activities in their various communities to address issues of homelessness.

The next agenda item, Arts & Ideas, was tabled, due to the absence of Andria Matthews.

Next, R. Manning explained that during the last cold weather spell, the City, Columbus House and Immanuel Baptist Shelter got together with the City developing an "extended

day coordinated contract” to provide staff/food support for keeping all shelters open during the day and supporting transportation funding to move clients to a shelter that has vacant slots.

Ed Mattison indicated that discussions have been held with a couple of churches, in case extra beds are needed, however, it’s expensive and logistically difficult to do.

Next, J. Huettner updated members on the first year of the partnership of the Board of Education and the family shelters under Title I, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. It has been very successful in meeting the needs of homeless children and efforts are underway to reapply to the CT Board of Education for a second year of funding. Jameca Malloy, New Haven Home Recovery, is willing to update the members on the specifics. By request, this item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

J. Huettner reminded members that membership slots are designed by category and any vacancies must be filled by membership categories.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2009, 6 p.m. at City Hall.

With no further business, R. Plattus entertained and received a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M. (Motion passed unanimously).