



Stratford C.A.R.E Committee

February 4, 2015

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Mailing Address:

ATTN: C.A.R.E.
Stratford Community Services
468 Birdseye St.
Stratford, CT 06615

In attendance:

Donald Goodson, Olga Pena, John Fahan, William Boyd, Lucretia Duwel, Sylvia Martin, Karen Edwards, Wade Peieira, Patrick Ridenhour, Vincent Caizzi, Curtis McLean, Ann Stockman, Leah Escobar, Danny Escobar, Sybil Friedman, Terry Masters, Annmarie Chiarantann, Sumone Eaton, Terry Simmons.

Meeting called to order at 7:14 PM

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve by Terry Masters with amendment change to treasury report to state corrected balance of \$549.19. Second by Chief Patrick Ridenhour. All in favor.

Treasury Report: Olga Pena reported we placed a half page ad in the Community Bulletin in the amount of \$180.00. A check will be made out in that amount to the Stratford Community Organizations Council. Once invoice is paid we will have a balance of \$369.19. Motion to approve by Ann Stockman. Second by William Boyd. All in favor.

Cultural Competency Report: Sylvia Martin reported that the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center will be hosting a lecture by Dr. Ezra Griffith on Monday 2/9/15 from 10:30-12pm.

Leadership Committee Report: Terry Masters gave a thorough update/review of two key issues facing the residents of Stratford: The move by the Stratford Town Council to take up a proposal to sell town owned land to the Water Pollution Control Authority and the proposal to allow the town to take property by eminent domain for the purpose of private development. John Fahan commended Terry Masters for being one of the key individuals leading the fight against these proposals. Mr. Fahan stated that these issues are of concern to C.A.R.E not only because they affect all residents but because in particular they affect the most vulnerable of our residents.

Education Report: Lucretia Duwel reported that the Study Circle Model has been funded less this year than in the past. Fifty students in each middle school are now able to participate. Principals would love to have it a requirement for all students but it would require a significant time commitment.

Police Community Relations: Chief Ridenhour will attempt to reschedule another meet and greet with nine new police officers. Pal Boxing is now at Sniffens Lane. The Straight Path Program entails police working with troubled youth to enable them to develop life skills and good choices in a 6-10 week program. Individual schools signed an agreement to implement best practices that provide guidance to teachers on how to handle certain situations before feeling the need to contact the police unless absolutely necessary. Chief Ridenhour agreed to provide C.A.R.E with an overview of police hiring practices for new recruits and to go over his discussions with the State Commission he was appointed to.

Letter to the Mayor: Donald Goodson and John Fahan followed up with the Mayor's Office regarding a funding request for C.A.R.E. for this fiscal year. The Office of the Mayor informed Donald Goodson that they are reviewing our request.

South End Community Center: Ty Sims spoke to us about (V.I.T.A) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. It is an IRS program that trains volunteers to provide free tax return preparation assistance to low and moderate income individuals with incomes less than \$52,000. SECC also needs help to feed those in need by donating a non-perishable food item or supermarket gift card.

Everyday Democracy Study: Donald Goodson provided Gloria Mengual with info she requested for our study results.

Funding Sources: Donald Goodson stated that C.A.R.E. will be looking into other avenues for funding sources.

Candidates for Boards and Commissions: Donald Goodson stated we should make ourselves aware of the board and commission seats available so we may recommend quality candidates for such positions.

Adjournment: Motion William Boyd. Second – Ann Stockman.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Fahan

