



**Stratford C.A.R.E Committee**

**March 4, 2015**

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Stratford Community Services  
468 Birdseye St.  
Stratford, CT 06615

**In attendance:**

Donald Goodson, John Fahan William Boyd, Patrick Ridenhour, Sybil Friedman, Tammy Trojanowski, Yan Searcy, Angelucci Manigat, Jr.

Meeting called to order at 7:11 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** John Fahan stated he received an email from Lucretia Duwel asking to amend the minutes for a correction to the February meeting Education Report to report the following:

“The Stratford Middle School After-School Program named CLASP at Wooster Middle School and Flash at Flood Middle School received some state funding back this spring to reinstitute this program again for 50 students at each school. It is these programs we hope to initiate the Everyday Democracy Study Circles on Racism for students.”

John Fahan asked that a motion be made on the floor. William made the motion and Sybil Friedman Seconded. All present were in favor.

**Treasury Report:** Olga Pena was not able to attend the meeting. Donald Goodson gave the treasury report. The balance is \$369.19. The last check written was for the community calendar ad for \$180.00 paid out on 2/21/15.

**Police Community Relations Report:** Chief Ridenhour said to be aware of IRS scams with tax returns. PAL boxing will have a grand reopening on Sniffen Lane Saturday March 7, 2015. The Board of Education and Police Dept are working with a new program from the Right Response Grant to whenever possible help youth avoid getting arrested and have a police record. The idea is to get kids early on and avoid arrest in certain situations. It looks at what we can do to assist troubled youth and promote successful outcomes. The Chief stated we have already had a recent success story where in the past this particular young person could have been arrested for their actions but the situation was able to be avoided in this circumstance thanks to this new program and its guidelines.

In the fall there will be another opening for testing for new police officers. The basic requirements are a valid driver's license, physical agility test, relatively clean background with no felonies or class A or B misdemeanors.

**Leadership Committee Report:** Terry Masters was not able to make the meeting so Donald Goodson read her report. There may be a decision Monday 3/9/15 at Town Hall for the proposed sale of the sewer plant. It is Terry's belief that if a vote is prevented the move to have the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority (GNHWPCA) to take over the plant will drop and we could end up saving the plant and its jobs. Her research has shown that foreclosures rose 70% and sewer fees continue to rise when GNHWPCA took control over from other communities.

**Education Committee Report:** Chairman Donald Goodson and Tammy Trojanowski of Community Services gave a report. Donald Goodson, Olga Pena about 4 other C.A.R.E. members attended the last Board of Education Committee meeting. Olga provided an overview of C.A.R.E. She handed out the Study Circle booklet to board members. It is our goal to have the Study Circles available in the two middle schools and 2 high schools. The funding is in place for 5 years from a federal grant and to make the Study Circles a part of the afterschool program. Gloria Mengual of Everyday Democracy can train facilitators.

Donald read a report from Lucretia Duwel who was not able to attend the C.A.R.E. meeting. Lucretia spoke with Lindsay Mazarella, who is a coordinator with community services for the After School programs CLASP and FLASH. She is onboard with helping us to pilot the Everyday Democracy Study Circles with a group of students during a final session of the program which starts April 20<sup>th</sup>. Gloria Mengual of Everyday Democracy is discussing the plans, dates, times, and logistics with her supervisors to see if this can be in place for April. Lucretia also spoke to Diane Christiano, Stratford School System Coordinator of Career and Technology Education to see if the high school students in the Pre-Teaching and Social Science Pathway (future teachers) would also want to get involved with Study Circles in the middle schools.

The Study Circles will help students with a range of concerns from race, bullying, and LGBT issues. The end goal is to help our youth become better equipped to live and work in a global society. The schools are working in conjunction with community services on the implementation of study circles but the public schools are taking the lead. Tammy stated the school system is on board to move forward. She believes we have to be sure of all the logistics are in place and that the principals will know what the curriculum will be. If non-teachers are the facilitators they will have to undergo background checks. In addition, we have to present the Study Circles in such a manner that will attract students to participate. William Boyd suggested it may make more sense to provide the facilitator training to teachers who are already part of the afterschool program.

**Letter to the Newspaper:** Donald Goodson and John Fahan agreed to put a letter (press release) together illustrating who C.A.R.E. is and our value to the community at large. This press release will also appear in "The Haitian Voice" Its publisher and editor in chief, Angelucci Manigat, Jr. and Yan Searcy volunteered to write the press release.

**Initiation of a Finance Committee/Funding Sources:** To date Donald Goodson has sent a letter to Mark Dillon the Mayor's Chief of Staff about funding for C.A.R.E.

**Good and Welfare:** There is a French speaking meeting every Thursday at the Stratford Library sponsored by Mr. Angelucci Manigat, Jr.

**Adjournment:** 8:36pm. William Boyd. Second – Sybil Friedman.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fahan". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "John" and "Fahan" being significantly larger and more stylized than the rest of the letters.

John Fahan