

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 21, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Maria Valle, Co-chair; M. Evette Brantley, Co-Chair; Scott Burns, Jeanette Herron, Mary McBride-Lee (6:17), Alfredo Castillo (6:18)

**STAFF:** Thomas Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Melissa Oliveira, Central Grants; Tammy Papa, Health & Social Services

**OTHER:** Barbara; Council Member(s): Matthew McCarthy, Ernest Newton, Maria Pereira & Eneida Martinez (6:17); Liza Echevarria

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Valle called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. There was a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: MAY 19, 2021 (REGULAR MEETING).**

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: JUNE 16, 2021 (REGULAR MEETING).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021 AND JUNE 16, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**84-20**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) –TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM - ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM.**

**(#22270)**

Ms. Melissa Oliveira came forward to speak. This program and funding to provide information, assistance, and benefit education to elderly Hispanic members to low-income residents. They will have the opportunity to provide one-on-one counseling and referral services to those who complete three community group sessions. They are requesting \$23,045 and are matched for \$30,114. She provided a summary of the grant for the Commission. They are paying salary and benefits for a part-time Project Coordinator. She also reviewed several other expenses on the report including:

- General office supplies.
- Cutlery
- Printing for forms and pamphlets
- Training for the Project Coordinator
- Food and Beverages for the group meetings.

Their match will comprise of \$12,114 for personnel with full benefits. There is also \$18,000 for building space which has no cash match.

Council Member Brantley asked about the stats. She asked if the person was in place or if someone needed to be hired.

Ms. Oliveira said they needed to hire someone to that position and the paperwork was in progress.

Council Member Brantley asked what the total amount from the grant was.

Ms. Oliveira said the application was for \$23,025 and the match was \$30,143 for a combined total of \$53,139.

Council Member Brantley asked where the facility was located at. Ms. Oliveira said they had historically operated out of 999 Broad Street in the Social Service Area. Currently they are continuing to support the program at the Department of Aging until such time as the hiring is complete. They will likely move this person to the Department of Aging once done.

Council Member Brantley asked if they made home visits for their clients.

Ms. Oliveira said they did not particularly make home visits.

Council Member McCarthy asked if they had enough adequate Spanish speakers to execute this part of the grant and how the implementation process worked over the years.

Ms. Oliveira said that the person who would take on the role would speak Spanish if necessary. She deferred the second question to Council Member Brantley.

A question was raised about the outreach that has been provided over the past year, especially in regard to the delivery of groceries and the effect of COVID.

Ms. Oliveira said they provided a 'Swag Bag' project and were delivering groceries to the homes of seniors. They also try to provide whatever services are needed.

Council Member Pereira came forward to speak. She said she was not familiar with the program and was trying to understand it.

Ms. Oliveira explained that they provided services for seniors, advocated for them, facilitated services, and other things and provided a recent example of this for Council Member Pereira.

Council Member Pereira asked to clarify that they worked one-on-one with members in counseling and referral services and try to hold at least three community group sessions. She also asked if they visited seniors' homes.

Ms. Oliveira confirmed this.

Council Member Pereira asked how they facilitated this and where they were located and how they contacted people.

Ms. Oliveira said they were held at housing sites and they contacted the people directly.

Council Member Newton asked about the matching grant and if the City would have to assist in meeting the other obligations.

*Council Member McBride-Lee joined at 6:17 P.M.*

*Council Member Martinez joined at 6:17 P.M.*

*Council Member Castillo joined at 6:18 P.M.*

Council Member Valle summarized the meeting for those who had just joined.

Council Member Brantley asked that the Committee support this and said it was a good service provided to City seniors, of which a lot are shut-in and can't make it out to centers.

Council Member Pereira said she had four seniors she was concerned about due to their inability to maintain their homes. She asked if she needed assistance to help them qualify if she was the one to contact.

Ms. Oliveira provided that information to Council Member Pereira. Further discussion about the value of the service provided followed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 84-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) –TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM - ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM AS SUBMITTED**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**85-20**

**GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM.**

**(#22533)**

Ms. Oliveira Papa came forward to discuss this item. This will allow the continuation of recreational classes at all the senior centers. The activities in the classes include:

- Painting
- Line Dancing
- Tai Chi
- Zumba

They will provide transportation services to allow to take seniors to field trips to encourage their social wellbeing. The contract period will be October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. Their federal ask for swap is \$49,250. And the match with this grant event is in kind and is \$77,026. Funding will be used for the supplies for the painting classes, funding for the field trips. Most of it is for the instructors and then refreshments for the activities so that seniors have something to eat and drink as well. The incoming match is for salaries and building space. They were actually awarded more money this year than they were in previous years. They were awarded their full amount of \$49,000. Last year they were only awarded \$15,000.

Council Member Valle asked the reason behind the rise in the dollar amount.

Ms. Oliveira had an answer for that. She assumed it was because they had been working hard.

Council Member Brantley said it was good news to hear that they will be funded more this year. She expressed hopes that they will be used to benefit seniors more. She asked if this grant was going to also be utilized by all the senior centers throughout the city or is it for one particular center.

Ms. Oliveira said that all the centers throughout the city would get the grant and will be able to access those funds for recreational purposes.

Council Member Pereira asked if Ms. Oliveira meant specifically City-run senior centers.

Ms. Oliveira said they were not. Further discussion followed on the Senior Centers. Council Member Pereira asked why they weren't able to do any programming in SR disabled housing if there was a place to do it there.

Ms. Oliveira said she think there's any reason why they can't do that beyond current funding. There is no funding coming from CDBG this year. These additional funds that are going to enable them to really do the type of programming for the seniors that they have been doing in the past. They offer transportation running all day long.

Council Member Pereira suggested that a monthly calendar, in both Spanish and English, of where these activities are going to be with a phone number to be picked up by a bus be made and distributed to help the seniors. She also brought up that there is a new COVID variation and raised concerns about bringing multiple seniors together in close proximity as a result, especially if they were to be transported via bus.

Ms. Oliveira said that they went through a very lengthy process to take a look at COVID protocol for all of their senior citizens, senior centers, and veterans office.

Council Member Newton spoke in favor of the plan and said he knew of seniors in the area that could utilize the program.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 85-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLE SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted

Ian A. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services