

City of New Haven
Meeting Minutes (Short)
Community Development Committee

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Thursday, March 26, 2009

5:30 PM

Mitchell Branch Library

ALDERMANIC NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

The Community Development Committee of the New Haven Board of Aldermen will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 at Mitchell Branch Library, 37 Harrison St., New Haven, re:

- A workshop on the city's Neighborhood Stabilization Plan under the federal Housing Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA).

For a disability-related accommodation, please call 946-6483 (V) or 946-8582 (TTY) at least one business day prior to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes

Community Development Committee
26, 2009

March

Chair Michelle Sepulveda called the workshop to order at 5:40 p.m. at the Mitchell Branch Library, 37 Harrison St.

Present were Aids. Lemar, DePino, and non-member Lehtonen.

The purpose of the workshop to further discuss the city's Neighborhood Stabilization Plan, which was approved by the Board of Aldermen on March 2.

Cathy Schroeter, deputy director of LCI, presented a revised "Summary Local Action Plan," which gave more detail about how the \$3.24 million would be spent to alleviate the mortgage foreclosure crisis in New Haven. A copy is in the meeting file. It showed 87 percent of the money going to acquisition and rehab, with the remainder going to financing mechanisms, administration, redevelopment and demolition.

Schroeter discussed the process by which the New Haven neighborhoods were ranked for greatest need in terms of mortgage foreclosures.

The program has various regulations. The rehabs need to be Energy Star compliant and there are strict limits on how much the city can charge for the rehabilitated homes.

Schroeter said there are also strict rules for spending the funds quickly. She said she will provide the Board of Aldermen with monthly reports, attend Community Development meetings, in order to keep the board apprised of the program's progress and spending. In response to questions from the committee, she said there are various safeguards that would make it very difficult for the properties to be purchased by investors or absentee landlords, but it's not impossible.

She said there is an NSP II coming out as part of the Obama stimulus package.

She said an RFQ has gone out for appraisers and brokers.

It was noted that a full board amendment sponsored by Alderwoman DePino and written by chair Sepulveda said: 'BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT prior to the expenditure of these funds the appropriate city staffers present the city's plan for the expenditures of funds at a public hearing of the Community Development Committee of the Board of Aldermen.'

The chair said the committee will convene on April 14 at Fair Haven Library as a public hearing. Schroeter said she will have more detailed info then. She said if the city spends the money quickly enough it may be able to get more.

Adjourn: 6 p.m.

A tape recording of this meeting is available in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Mercier
Legislative Aide