

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
HUMAN & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2022, 6:01 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by Chair Adrienne Billings-Smith at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Councilor Adrienne Billings-Smith, Chair; Deputy Mayor Liam Sweeney, member; Rick Ledwith, Town Manager; Helen Rubino-Turco, Director of Leisure and Social Services; Laura Irmscher, Director, Library Services; Tecton Architects.

2. Business Items

- A. Approval of June 15, 2022 Minutes – As Councilman Alberto Cortes is not present, this item is tabled for the next meeting.
- B. Elmwood Community Center Feasibility Study – Rick Ledwith, Town Manager, provided a little background regarding the selection of Tecton Architects and spoke of the teams working with Tecton. He provided an update on the progress to date. The goal is to provide the Town Council with a Feasibility Report later this fall with final recommendations but will keep the Committee updated as the project moves forward. Mr. Eddie Widofsky from Tecton introduced the team and walked through a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke of upcoming meetings with Library staff and the Advisory Committee and two upcoming public events. A project website and email have been established for the public. He covered Tecton's next steps. Chair Billings-Smith asked Mr. Widofsky to speak to cost savings and timelines of keeping the remaining building and building new. Mr. Widofsky stated it is not terribly different from a timing standpoint. He explained the potential cost savings of keeping the remaining building. Director Helen Rubino-Turco stated the assistant town planner is excited to meet with their team regarding layout and zoning. They have also discussed using WHCTV and doing an interview of the team and a presentation and pre-tape FAQs from the community. She provided the email address for comments and the website to find the Feasibility Study.

3. Communications

There were no communications.

4. Staff Reports

- A. Library Update – Director Laura Irmscher gave a brief report and update of the library's activities. She spoke of upcoming events and available resources.

- B. Leisure Services Update – Director Helen Rubino-Turco provided updates for Social Services and Leisure Services. A wrap-up meeting for Leisure Services is planned for September with staff and then a report. She spoke of upcoming events and programs. Chair Billings-Smith asked if partnerships with folks have been thought about regarding food insecurity, such as educational classes around hydroponic planting, etc. Director Rubino-Turco stated that will be looked into. She listed some organizations they partner with. Deputy Mayor Liam Sweeney asked how we capitalize on demand going forward regarding affordable summer camp. Director Rubino-Turco stated that topic and ideas will be explored with staff, and she will get back to the Committee. Town Manager Rick Ledwith stated an agenda item will likely be added to a future meeting regarding blue light emergency phones on the Trout Brook Trail. He discussed girls softball. He and Ms. Rubino-Turco will meet with the Leisure Services Manager Marc Blanchard and Athletic Director Jason Siegel.

5. Future Agenda Items

- A. Likely blue light emergency phones on the Trout Brook Trail.
- B. Deputy Mayor Liam Sweeney suggested a general update from Director Rubino-Turco regarding **how many are coming to summer camp**, services provided, and the needs for the new influx of population in order to set budget priorities and making sure slots and staff are available. Going forward, enrollment numbers, etc., will be needed for the state.

6. Adjournment

Chair Billings-Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

/lo