

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
HUMAN & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

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

Present: Councilor Adrienne Billings-Smith, Chair; Councilor Liam Sweeney, member; Councilor Alberto Cortes, member; Rick Ledwith, Town Manager; Helen Rubino-Turco, Director of Leisure and Social Services

2. Business Items

- A. New Elmwood Community Center Update – Mr. Ledwith discussed the public outreach that has occurred where residents could meet the architects and share input. Opportunities coming up include a virtual meeting and a “refining the design” meeting for the public. Different design options are being explored. The Advisory Committee has met twice and continues to meet. Mr. Ledwith will invite Tecton to the committee meeting in October for another presentation. Ms. Rubino-Turco said that Tecton has done a great job of outreach and “meeting people where they are at.” Information about the project is available on the library’s website as well, and residents may email comments and questions to newecc@westhartfordct.gov. Councilor Cortes expressed an interest in touring the existing St. Bridged School building; Mr. Ledwith will set that up.

3. Communications

There were no communications.

4. Staff Reports

- A. Library Services Updates – Laura Irmscher, Director of Library Services, was not present but did upload her monthly report. Mr. Ledwith offered to pass along any questions to her.
- B. Leisure and Social Services Update – Ms. Rubino-Turco discussed what is happening with Social Services. Leisure Services is currently conducting their summer wrap-up, which shows a strong return to summer programming. There will be a formal report in the coming weeks. There are two upcoming significant bequests to the West Hartford Senior Center Bishops Corner, which will be used to lower the costs of programming there. Eisenhower Pool had a pre-bid conference and the RFP ends next week. Northeast Collaborative Architects is the designer. Chair Billings-Smith asked about the timeline for the pool and Mr. Ledwith said the goal is to have the pool open next summer. The staff is working out a smooth way to accept sizeable donations from community groups. For example, Wolcott Park Baseball field is undergoing renovations, and West Hartford Youth Baseball is donating

the lights. Councilor Sweeney cautioned against the pitfalls of this kind of donation as there have been problems with a similar situation recently. Ms. Rubino-Turco provided updates on several park projects. Weekly Red Cross blood drives are ongoing on Tuesdays, and Chair Billings-Smith suggested including that information in the weekly e-blast and on WHCI.

5. Future Agenda Items

- A. Tecton Architects update on Elmwood Community Center.
- B. Update on the status and timeline of the dog park.
- C. Bridge Family Center back-to-school update.

6. Adjournment

Chair Billings-Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

/jaw