

**HUMAN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021, 8:00 A.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Councilor and Chair Liam Sweeney. Also in attendance were Mayor Shari Cantor, Councilor Lee Gold, Councilor Ben Wenograd, Councilor Mary Fay, Town Manager Matthew Hart, Director of Leisure and Social Services Helen Rubino Turco, Interim Director of Library Services Carol Waxman, Director of Health for the West Hartford/Bloomfield District Amy Krauss, and Clinical Director of Community and School Services at The Bridge Family Center, Chris Dutton.

2. Business Items

A. February 10, 2020 Minutes: The minutes were approved without objection.

B. Health District Update: Director of Health of the West Hartford/Bloomfield District Krauss discussed various current COVID trends in the community as well as provided information about the vaccine itself and how it is being administered throughout the community. Councilor Sweeney asked some questions regarding various aspects of the administration process which were addressed by Director Krauss, Interim Director Waxman, and Director Rubino Turco.

C. Presentation on Vaccination Support Team: Town Manager Hart gave a brief introductory overview of how vaccination is being handled in the community. Director of Leisure and Social Services Rubino Turco gave a presentation explaining the Vaccination Support Team and why it is helpful for the community, with emphasis on the elderly community. Interim Director of Library Services Waxman explained the types and volume of support calls being received by the Support Team and how the Team is handling them.

D. Youth Services Update: Clinical Director of Community and School Services at The Bridge Family Center, Chris Dutton gave various updates regarding the Center, its programs, and how they are being affected by the pandemic. A few clarifying questions were asked by Councilor Sweeney and were addressed by Clinical Director Dutton. Town Manager Hart asked a question regarding whether there is a potential technological divide within the community and how such a divide might affect remote learning for children, which was addressed by Clinical Director Dutton and expanded upon by Director Rubino Turco and Interim Director Waxman.

3. Communications

4. Staff Reports/Communications

1 A. Leisure and Social Services Update: Director of Leisure and Social Services
2 Helen Rubino Turco outlined a Community Wellness Assessment program that is
3 being developed and how such a program will aid the community. She also provided
4 updates on their food pantry, the cancellation of Celebrate West Hartford in June and
5 possible alternate socially-distant plans for that weekend, plans to contract with
6 Health Fitness to run outdoor pools in the community over the summer, and the work
7 being done at Walcott Park and Spicebush Swamp. Councilor Gold posed some
8 questions regarding the community's approach to panhandling that were addressed by
9 Director Rubino Turco.

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11 B. Library Update: Interim Director of Library Services Carol Waxman announced
12 that all three library buildings are currently open and running, albeit with certain
13 stipulations such as reduced hours, appointment-based visits, and curbside service.
14 She also outlined some of the struggles facing the country's libraries during the
15 pandemic, as well as how libraries have been working to continue to provide their
16 services to the community during the pandemic.

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18 C. Town Manager Update: Town Manager Matthew Hart briefly thanked the staff
19 for their good work.
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21 **5. Future Agenda Items**

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23 A. Future Agenda Items: Town Manager Hart suggested discussing plans for spring
24 and summer of 2021 and plans for dealing with panhandling. Councilor Sweeney
25 suggested it could be helpful to hear from students and encouraged continued creative
26 problem solving regarding community events and youth engagement in the context of
27 the pandemic, and Director Rubino Turco explained how Leisure and Social Services
28 are approaching that issue.
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30 **6. Adjournment**

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32 A. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 A.M.
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