

Regular Meeting of the American Rescue Plan Task Force
November 13, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street, Bristol CT 06010

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Glenn Heiser, John Leone, Howard Schmelder, Thomas O'Brien, and Susan Sadecki. Michael Dumas, David Maikowski and Morgan Urgo attended via Zoom.

Absent: David Preleski, John Smith, Katie D'Agostino, Mickey Goldwasser and Mark Peterson

Also present: Roger Rousseau, Diane Waldron, Justin Malley and Martha McCabe, UHY

1. Call to Order

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None

3. Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting – October 2, 2023

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner O'Brien "To approve the regular minutes from October 2, 2023" Motion approved.

4. Discussion with UHY Advisors

Martha reviewed the Project Summary and trackers. Subrecipients are submitting draw downs and there hasn't been much change since the last meeting. There is one Project Revision which will be discussed on the Agenda for Bristol Boys and Girls Club.

5. Building Bristol Grant Program Update

Martha reviewed the Building Bristol tracker. She has been in contact with many of the projects and will continue to do so.

6. Subcommittee Updates

Susan Sadecki gave the update of the Non-Profit subcommittee. The subcommittee met to review the status of the nonprofit projects. 22 projects were originally approved and of that total five were designated beneficiary status. Of the remaining 17, 8 projects are completed and closed out with 9 projects in process or in need of a first draw down by January 31, 2024. Two projects were discussed in little more detail, Boys & Girls Club (BBGC) of Bristol and Bristol Adult Resource Center. BBGC's project is to create outdoor recreation space to include a fenced in playground and other outdoor recreation items. The subcommittee agreed with the justification from the Club to adjust the

project plan and eliminate the splash pad in favor of an outdoor turf field for all the reasons outlined in the Change in Project Activity letter from Jay Maia to the Task Force.

The other project discussed was BARC – Bristol Adult Resource Center. Their approved project is the Program Expansion and Administrative Relocation. BARC had hoped to combine funding from ARPA with another source (the Community Investment Fund) but they did not receive those grant funds. They are working towards an updated project plan/budget to accomplish their project goals. The subcommittee agreed to meet again on November 30th to review the updated plan for presentation to the full Task Force in December.

The business subcommittee did not meet, but Mayor Caggiano stated there should be resolution with Firefly shortly, as there is potential for a new LLC, and based on past precedent set by the Task Force those funds would be returned.

Mayor Caggiano gave the update of the City subcommittee. The Hope Street garage is underfunded and may request additional ARPA funds in the future. Justin Malley has been working with the consultant for cost estimates and there are some unexpected problems. A general discussion was held on parking downtown and for the City Hall.

Also discussed at the City subcommittee was the Barnes Chapel project, and it was agreed to fund a study of the building.

The Mayor discussed other projects which may close out with funds returned to the Task Force such as Oma's Pride for \$100,000, Veteran's Memorial Boulevard project for \$300,000 and the Route 6 Traffic Signal project.

7. Project Revisions and Updates

a. Request for Change in Project Work Plan/Budget – Bristol Boys & Girls Club

Susan Sadecki read the following request letter from the BBGC:

"I am writing to you today to ask for a change of project activity in our ARPA project. We would still like to utilize the entire ARPA allocation for outdoor recreation- just not a splash pad. We would like to instead, use it for an outdoor turf field. This would still provide outdoor recreation for our children and for a larger portion of the year than a splash pad would. We would also be able to serve a substantial amount more of children on turf than we would on a splash pad. We also believe the splash pad would not be the best project for the Club due to new water and plumbing issues that have come to light recently due to the basement flooding as well as a change in leadership that feels the ongoing costs of water, maintenance, and short "season" of the splash pad is not the best utilization of ARPA funds for the Club. The project would be fully expended and open for use by December 31st, 2024."

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heiser "To approve the Change in Project Work Plan / Budget for Bristol Boys and Girls Club." Motion approved.

Martha recommended a change in their agreement to reflect this approval by the Task Force. Roger will execute this.

8. Approval of 2024 Calendar of Meeting Dates

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sadecki "To approve the calendar of meeting dates for 2024." Motion approved.

9. Any other business

Commissioner Schmelder made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sadecki. "To bring new business on to the Agenda." Motion approved.

Mayor Caggiano stated, as mentioned in the City subcommittee report, John Smith brought forward a survey to look at the repairs needed to Barnes Chapel.

Commissioner Leone made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heiser "To approve \$5,460 for a study of the chapel repair needs." Motion approved

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Leone made a motion seconded by Commissioner Heiser "to adjourn" at 4:50 p.m. Motion approved.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary