

Economic & Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022

Chairwoman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call:

Present: Durkee, LaCava, Paz, Stanley, Harris

Absent: None.

Chris Gamble, 34 Francis Street, Waltham, was recognized as recording the meeting.

Councillor Durkee moved approval the meeting minutes of 3/7/22. The motion was adopted by a voice vote and the minutes were approved.

Year 48 CDBG Grant: Councillor Durkee made a motion to hear from off committee members on the Year 48 CDBG Block Grant. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Robert Waters, Director of Housing, 501 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA. spoke on the matter. Councillor Durkee asked about the application and decision process. Mr. Waters explained that staff reviews and makes decisions on the grants. Councillor Paz asked several questions regarding funding, food insecurities and unhoused residents. Mr. Waters responded explaining about CARES Act Program. President McMenimen inquired about the qualifications of personnel involved in the programs. Councillor Durkee made a request that the Director of Housing provide the City Council with the Form 990's for all nonprofits that will be receiving City program funding and/or CDBG monies. The request was approved by a voice vote. Councillor LaCava asked about programs and services in other communities. Mr. Waters responded that other communities also receive funding. Councillor Paz made a motion to approve. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In favor: Durkee, LaCava, Paz, Stanley and Harris.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Matter was approved 5-0-0.

Dog Parks Resolution: Chairwoman Harris announced that the Director of Planning and the Director of Recreation would be able to attend the next meeting on April 4, 2022. Councillor Paz requested to have the Director of Recreation provide the logistical and feasibility information for the before or at the next meeting on April 4, 2022. The request was approved by a voice vote. Councillor Paz made a motion to hear from off Committee members. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Councillor Katz spoke. Councillor Paz made a motion to table the matter. The motion was approved by a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

Tenants, Homeowners and Landlords Resolution: The Clerk read the Resolution. Councillor Paz requested to invite representatives of Watch CDC, as well as the Director of Housing or his designee to the next meeting on April 4, 2022. The request was approved by a voice vote. Councillor Paz made a motion to hear from off Committee members. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Councillor Darcy spoke. Councillor Paz made a motion to table the matter. The motion was approved by a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

Resolution Concerning All Public Meetings of the Waltham City Council: Councillor LaCava made a motion to take the matter off the table. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Councillor LaCava made a motion to hear from all off Committee members. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Maria Sheehan, Director of WCAC, 400 Main Street, Waltham, MA and Dana Matson, Production Manager, 400 Main Street, Waltham, MA introduced themselves. Councillor LaCava spoke on the matter. Ms. Sheehan spoke of a discussion she had with Councillor Harris where they compiled a list of recommendations which she read to the Committee.

1. WCAC would like to be notified of all meetings the Wednesday prior to the meeting.
2. WCAC would like the Chair of the committee to sign off on an. acknowledgement of the meeting date.
3. WCAC does not want to be responsible for recording, meetings that are less than 5 minutes.
4. WCAC will require a server upgrade in the amount of \$90,000.00 and additional time will be needed for quotes to be provided from different vendors as so much time has passed since last quote. WCAC will also require additional funding in the future based on wear and tear of equipment from recording additional meetings.
5. WCAC provides the City Clerk with all copies of recordings and suggested the City Clerk could post on YouTube which offers free closed captioning.
6. WCAC employees will require breaks on long nights of filming which may require the monitors to be placed on widescreen for an extended period of time.

Councillor LaCava spoke on supporting WCAC and their requests. Councillor Paz spoke about concerns regarding the accuracy of closed caption on WCAC as well as YouTube. Ms. Sheehan responded and said the \$90,000.00 does include closed caption and to purchase the software for closed caption would be an additional cost. Mr. Matson spoke about the additional cost of approximately \$5000.00 for closed caption from WCAC and suggested that it could cost more if multiple languages were included. Councillor LaCava made a request to have WCAC provide additional information on costs for server, server storage, labor costs by WCAC to record all meetings (standing/ADHOC) and cost for closed caption subscription based upon recording hours. The request was approved by a voice vote. Councillor LaCava made a motion to place the matter on the table. The motion was approved by a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

With no further matters Councillor LaCava made a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Chairwoman Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Magliarditi, Clerk of the Committee
3/22/2022