

Glastonbury Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting – April 4, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: John Glezen, Nick Daukas, Patricia Darling, David Peniston

Absent: Virginia Roscoe

Staff: Durlene Mikkelson, Sherri Tanguay

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 6, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted with no exceptions.

Glastonbury Human Relations Commission member list: The member contact list was reviewed to ensure accuracy. All present indicated that contact information was accurate.

Affirmative Action & Recruitment Update – Sherri Tanguay: presented the report with the following highlights:

- Twelve new open positions since the December 6 meeting;
- There has been a great response of applicants for the open Chief of Police position from as far as Ohio;
- There will be two separate interview panels for the open Chief of Police position; and
- Most openings continue to be from retirements.

Housing Report – Virginia Roscoe: although Ginny was absent from the meeting, she provided the following Housing report to the Commission:

Housing Report from Ginny Roscoe

Update on Affordable/Moderate Housing in Glastonbury:

1. Center Village senior citizen affordable housing (Per Neil Griffin, Director, Glastonbury Housing Authority) A very significant expansion, renovation, and modernization project is underway for the Center Village senior housing on the corner of Salmon Brook Drive and New London Turnpike. The Town is working on closing on the financing now, with construction expected to start in early May. The project includes renovating and expanding 34 units in 6 existing buildings, and

constructing a new 2-story building with 38 units. There will be an on-site manager with an office in the building, which is something new for the housing authority. The \$17.7M project will include a total of 72 units in 7 buildings, which is a net gain of 22 units. The renovated units will expand from 380 sq' to 650 sq' and will include showers, washers, dryers, and at-grade entrances. Funding sources include: \$6.5M from the state Department of Housing; low income housing tax credits from investors; a \$3.2M mortgage from Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; \$1.2M from the town's housing authority; energy rebates; and other small funding sources. Work is expected to take 17 months with a completion date of fall 2018.

2. Final Phase of South Mill Village approved
(Per Khara Dodds, Glastonbury Community Development Planning Office) The final phase of the South Glastonbury condo development South Mill Village, on Main Street, south of Cotton Hollow, has been approved. 3 of the 24 new units will be designated as "affordable" in compliance with the original approval back in 1983. Construction will likely begin in 2018, as financing is still being worked.
3. The Tannery apartments (New London Turnpike, south of Monaco Ford)
Building 1 of this new development is starting to be leased. This large development includes:
 - 47 studios (not designated specifically as "affordable," but will be may be from a pricing standpoint)
 - 104 1-bedroom units
 - 96 2-bedroom units
 - 3 3-bedroom units
4. One Glastonbury (corner of Hebron Avenue and House Streets)
Construction is now underway. This development (all units at "market" rate, with many reasonably priced) will be comprised of:
 - 39 1-bedroom units
 - 72 2-bedroom units
 - 26 2-bedroom townhouses
 - 5 3-bedroom townhouses

Human Services Department Report – Durlene Mikkelson: presented the report to the Commission. Highlights:

Town volunteerism: Durlene made a general statement that the Town of Glastonbury's residents have consistently been extremely generous to those in town who are less fortunate with their time and money. We are very lucky to live in this town. There will be a Volunteer Recognition dinner soon where 150 volunteers will be recognized for their service. This will be an inter-generational event.

Highlights:

- Gideon Welles students will hold a food drive for donations to Wells Village during the school vacation week;
- Creative Experiences is gearing-up for their 2017 spring tour of Cinderella – this tour will visit all Glastonbury elementary schools, GEHMS and the Glastonbury Senior Center during May. This will culminate with a free public performance at Gideon Welles on June 2 @ 7 PM.
- Auditions for “BIG the Musical” will be May 15 and May 17 from 6-10 PM at the Riverfront Community Center. This summer a Glastonbury native and theatrical program alumni – Jacqueline Demaio will be the show’s director.
- Suicide awareness/prevention training is scheduled for April 18 with Glastonbury High School colleagues;
- There is a planned forum on the opiate crisis scheduled for April 24, including eight things the alcohol industry doesn’t warn us about;
- Youth & Family Services will collaborate with Hartwell Soccer for an ice cream fundraiser. The money will be used to promote kindness and an anti-bullying program with a possible speaker; and
- Youth & Family Services will collaborate with the Rotary Club to take on “Hidden in Plain Site” – promoting parental awareness of teen substance abuse. The Rotary Club will provide a trailer, which will travel throughout the town and cover all costs.

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative Dave Peniston made the following highlights from the January 15 Community Conversation on Social Justice Issues event:

- There were many skits performed by the *Greater Looking-In Theatre* on the following:
 - Gender Identity
 - Muslim Refugees
 - Racial Profiling and
 - Voting Rights

The event encourages open discussion on how social injustice impacts the community. Senator Chris Murphy was in attendance, and spoke.

Glastonbury Human Relations Commission - Initiatives: John Glezen asked if any members had ideas for presentations or forums sponsored by the Commission. Patricia Darling presented a potential forum on immigration, specifically regarding illegal immigrants. The focus is to understand immigration from an illegal immigrant’s perspective. The Commission discussed having a panel of experts to discuss this interesting topic. Chairman Glezen requested of Darling to take the lead on gathering

more information for sponsoring such a forum, and to update the Commission at our June 6 meeting.

New Business: No new business was introduced.

Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 6 PM at the Riverfront Community Center conference room.

Adjournment: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Daukas