

**New Castle County
Community Services Board**

January 15, 2014
5:30 p.m.
Claymont Library
400 Lenepe Way, Claymont DE

Accepted Minutes

Community Services Board

Present:	Absent:	Guest:
Anne Hampton	Sara Jane Spaulding	Beth Kloetzer, Claymont Manger
Renee DuJean	Jason Hortiz	
Deborah Neff		
Joseph McNesby		
Lucretia Young		

Community Services Staff

Alan Matas, General Manager
Jane Rattenni, CS Manger

I. Called to Order

Chairwoman, Lucretia Young called the meeting to order at 5:45p.m.

II. Approval of the November 20, 2013 meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Renee DuJean and seconded by Joseph McNesby to accept the minutes as written. All were in favor.

III. General Manager's Report

Alan Matas gave his mission of the Community Services Board as becoming a true advisory group to the Department of Community Services that would participate in helping the Department identify the direction it needs to take to help the residents of the County. He then gave an overview of the total operating budget submitted reflecting projected cost to maintain current programs. Current Operating Budget is 17.2 m. Non-Federal funds provide for Sports, Libraries, Special Events, Community Governing, Rockwood, Absalom Jones Senior Center, Carousel Park, Art Studio. Federal funds of 21.m provides for Section 8 Vouchers, CDBG, ESG, and HOME. The Department received 84 applications for the various programs that will be reviewed. A grant of \$500,000 was received from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburg to be used for community revitalization along with the Route 9 Corridor. The funding is specifically for acquisition and rehabilitation of seven properties in the

community. All homes will be for homeownership and have a 15 year deed restriction. Two of the seven homes will be for people with special needs.

The Department is looking forward to having a new library in the Route 9 Area that will be 30-40 sq. feet and be developed into an entire campus for the residents of the area.

IV. Program and Service Highlights

The Department is working to increase programs in the Route 9 Corridor at the Garfield Park Lending Library and the Garfield Park Recreation Center. The Library has a full computer lab for public use and the Recreation Center supported by PAL has extended hours for activities. Both the Safety Town and Summer Camp programs is being expanded for their programs.

Working with the Latin Community Center has been successful in developing programs and will start in February. The *Happenings* is now published in Spanish and distributed in the libraries and other areas.

A partnership with Red Clay School District to provide programs that will tie into Rockwood for their history and Social Studies curriculum.

Ann Hampton reported on the Wilmington Library Opening. She pointed out their job center, meeting room, and children's room.

NCC Reads – The spring program is *Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick. Books are going out to the book clubs soon. Program Meet the Author will be on April 10, 2014 at St. Mark's High School. Breakfast with the Author will be on April 11, 2014 at Brandywine Hundred Library.

Antoni Swart's Arrival - A program to honor the first civilian settler in New Swedes Colony Antoni Swart (aka Black Anthony) will be held on February 8, 2014 at Old Swedes Church, 606 N. Church Street, Wilmington, DE ; 3Pm – 3:45 pm.

V. Old Business

Sports and Athletics Subcommittee – Joseph McNesby reported on the Subcommittee's mission and goals along with inviting anyone on the Board to be a part of the committee. An overview was given of the sports staff, service levels and current initiatives. The Subcommittee is interested in enhancing current initiatives and have the community recognize the partnerships needed to promote and provide these programs. Next month a meeting will be held at the Hockessin PAL Center to brain storm these issue. The Subcommittee plans to meet twice a year to update and help with the counties programs. The next meeting will be February 12, 2014 at Hockessin PAL 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome.

VI. New Business

Annual Report – An annual report will be developed and e-mailed to the Board for their review and comments, voting on the Annual Report will be at the next meeting.

VII. Other

Deborah Neff asked what the biggest hurdle was for the Department of Community Services - The recession on people has effected our hole society and the way people look for day to day living resources. Libraries are becoming ground zero for Social Services (housing, educational training, job searching, tax prep, health care, etc.)

Lucretia asked about some of the programs the County offered: The Senior Home Repair program is doing well. Additional funding has helped in keeping up with the requests. Section 8 is asking individuals to downsize their housing if they can in order to keep the number of clients they presently helping on the rolls. The Department continues to give foreclosure counseling through the AG Office.

Lucretia mentioned AARP will be offering an Advocacy Program in the spring and some of their AARP Chapters offer website services.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. by Joseph McNesby, seconded by Debora Neff, all were in favor.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 19, 2014, Garfield Park Community Recreation Center, 5:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,
Sheila Carlisle, Secretary