



## ***Fiscal Committee - Board of Representatives***

Jay Fountain, Chair

# **SubCommittee Report**

**Date:** Monday, April 15, 2012

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room #1, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06905-2098

The "Outside Agency" Budget Review Subcommittee of the Fiscal Committee met at the above time and place to review the below listed outside agencies. Present were Chair Fountain and Rep. DeLuca. Subcommittee Members DeLuca and Fountain met with the following outside agencies:

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\* Community Centers (376)  
[Historic Society](#) (378; c120)  
DSSD/Downtown Beautification (378)  
Harbor Commission  
Inspirica (377)

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**\*Community Center - Chester Addison** (p. 376, \$30,000)

**\*Community Center – Glenbrook** (p. 376, \$23,175)

Mr. Fountain met jointly with Mr. Jerry Pia of Glenbrook Community Center and Mr. Mike Hyman of Chester Addison. Both referred to the 25% cut to all community centers in the 2010-11 budget year. This has hurt them in the long term.

Mr. Pia recognizes that they can't get more money from the City. The city funds assist with utility bills.

The GCC has a capital request for \$50,000 (p. 72); these funds will be used for code compliance and to make the building handicapped accessible.

**Stamford Historic Society** (p. 378, \$30,000)

Ms. Pamela Coleman stated that they received \$43,000 in 2010 (which represented 45% of their budget at the time). The allocation was reduced to \$30,000 in the 2010-11 budget year. They are barely getting by on the new appropriation and are using their endowment funds. (\$30,000 represents about 31% of the current budget.) They requested \$49,000, which would bring them back in line with the budget percentage received in 2010. Ms. Coleman also reported:

- They have 60-70 volunteers and 2 part-time employees.
- The scope of their work includes lectures on history (e.g., Founder's Day). They have programming on Sundays that features an aspect of their collection.
- They have a research library, and it is now on line. They get about 15,000 visits each month. They also have a photo archive.
- They are responsible for Barnham House on Bedford Street, which was built in 1699. They have some money in the capital budget (\$50,000, p. 120) toward accumulating funds for a major, extensive building renovation on the exterior to make the building weather proof (new roof, sealing leaks, etc.).

After the meeting, Ms. Coleman forwarded the [attached information](#).

**DSSD/Downtown Beautification** (p. 378, \$130,000)

Ms. Sandy Goldstein stated that there are three different programs: 1) downtown beautification (\$20,000, 12% of budget); Pops in the Park (\$20,000, 7% of budget); and 3) the Ambassador Program (\$60,000, 25% of budget).

- They raise about \$2 million from their special service tax district. They raise about \$2 million from sponsorships, such as the Arts Project and Alive-at-Five. They were cut by about 40-50% in 2010.
- All of their ambassadors are trained in defibrillator use, and they have saved at least one person's life. Ambassadors make about \$15-\$20 per hour. They are now talking with the Mill River Collaborative about coordinating their ambassador programs.
- The DSSD area is from Mill River on the West to Grove Street on the east to the railroad tracks on the south and Forest Street on the north.
- The DSSD generates a lot of use of the Bell Street garage.
- Ms. Goldstein has lots of data available on number of participants in events, etc.

**Harbor Commission** (p. 374, \$19,067)

The Harbor Commission was represented by Frank Fedeli, who stated:

- \$15,000 of their request pays for a professional consultant to handle the increased demands on this Commission (South End activity, BLT projects, Bridgewater, etc.). This technical consultant is a marine engineer, and DEEP is requiring more of his time.
- Cummings Marina will require additional effort also.
- Some of their budget is for printing of maps.

**Inspirica** (p. 377, \$43,200)

Mr. Jason Shaplen stated that the \$43,200 makes up about 7/10 of 1% of their budget of about \$6 million. He added:

- There are about 331 homeless people in Stamford. This program covers about 200 of them.
- A study was done that demonstrates that one homeless person costs a City about \$42,000 per year. In supportive housing, the cost is about \$17,000 per year (there are other additional costs to this that add another \$9,000 per year, for a total of \$26,000), resulting in a savings of about \$15-16,000 per year.
- They have 190 people per night. They have programs for both men, and women with children. They have 11 buildings in Connecticut. They are all open 24/7. 60% of their clients are women. They have 225 beds and some cribs.
- Federal funds are being reduced, and they may lose \$185,000 this year. The Affordable Care Act will also impact the budget now that they are required to provide health insurance for their employees.
- They have now built a children's services program, and they are working with Child Guidance and the Stamford School System. They are very proud of his program. 100% of their students graduate from pre-school and 90% have a B or better average.

**Shelter for the Homeless** (\$36,800, p. 377)

Rafael Pagan reported that they received a 25% cut in 2010. He added:

- They have 75-100 people per night. About 540 separate individuals are seen each year. Most are male, with 45% Caucasian, 22% Hispanic and 33% Black. They are seeing more young adults in the shelter. 24% of their clients are between 18 and 30 years of age.
- There has been an increase in chronic homelessness, i.e., those who are homeless for more than a year or who have 4 episodes of homelessness in a single year.
- They are not certain how much funding from the federal government will be lost. They charge \$8 per night to those who can pay; those who cannot pay are required to work.
- They are working to contain health care costs for employees.
- Ten of their clients work at Fairway, 4 are working for BLT's contractors. These individuals are staying in the shelter because they can't find affordable housing.
- There are separate programs for building affordable housing. They hope to have 7 units and 17 people in these units within a year or so. They have 29 total units of affordable housing.
- 40% of their population has a job.
- People have to be off the street by 8:00 p.m. or they cannot get into the shelter.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jay Fountain, Chair

*This meeting is available on [video](#).*