

Finance Committee

6/28/2022

Topic: Rutland United Methodist Church Request & ARPA funding review

Members present: Davis, Etori, Savage, Talbott, Whitcomb

Others present: Mayor Allaire, President Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, Gordon Drithchilo, Jennifer Yakunovich, Ellie McGarry

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

The first item addressed was the request from the Rutland United Methodist Church for \$15,000 in funds. Jennifer Yakunovich provided an overview of companions in wholeness and those served through the program. Jennifer described the challenges that Companions in Wholeness currently face in continuing to fund their initiative. Ellie McGarry provided an overview of a typical day in the program. Mayor Allaire inquired the current source of funding for their programing. Ellie explained that grants, fundraisers, and donations fund operations. Jennifer described partnerships they maintain among local churches to help sustain their mission. Alderwoman Davis asked if there was a partnership in place between other non-profits to ensure that there is not duplication in services. Ellie explained that they do engage with other non-profits to coordinate services provided. Alderwoman Savage noted that the school program is still providing lunches. Mayor Allaire asked if there was a way to identify the total number of individuals served from those currently lodged in local hotels. Ellie explained that there was not a way to identify where individuals were coming from, but that to be served individuals had to be physically present at their location to receive meals. The committee discussed that soon limits of those housed in local motels would be capped and the potential implications. Jennifer explained that the request for funding is to support a kitchen manager and to support the continued serving of meals. Alderwoman Davis inquired how the program would continue to be sustained as the funding would be a one-time request. Janet and Ellie explained that they would continue to seek grants and engage in fundraising.

Alderman Talbott made a motion to recommend that the Mayor authorize \$7,500 be released from the Mayor's contingency fund for the Companions in Wholeness program and to revisit this initiative in the next fiscal year. The motion passed 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the ARPA funds. The committee briefly reviewed money that already has been allocated, the requests remain outstanding, and the funds currently remain. Alderwoman Davis suggested to the committee that it may be time to close the fund to outside requests. Alderman Talbott expressed his concern with closing the fund, and the potential for missing out on a great idea. Alderman Etori expressed his belief that future actions need to be intentional in how we allocate funding, citing a mindful approach to how money is broken up. The committee agreed that prior to the approval of future requests, there should be a careful look at how the money has already been allocated and designations made for how future money should be awarded. No action was taken on this issue and it remains active in committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15