

Mary Shepherd Home Veterans' Citizens' Advisory Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Shepherd Home 112 Bow Lane Middletown, CT
Ground Level Meeting Room

Attendance: Atty. Ralph Wilson, Councilman Sebastian Giuliano, Veterans Larry Riley and Phil Cacciola, Carl Rodenhizer, Chief Real Estate Officer for Columbus House, Christine Garriga, Property Manager for DeMarco Management Corporation, Mike Black, MBA, MS Psychotherapist of Gilead Community Services, Vinnie Loffredo, Community Member

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Atty. Ralph Wilson.

Public Session: No members of the public attended.

Minutes of August 21, 2019 Approved

Old Business

Update and discussion on Soldiers, Sailors, Marines funds and the eligibility of Veterans residing at Shepherd. The committee received a copy of a letter, dated September 16, 2019, from Charles Minor, a veteran residing at Shepherd that grants permission to Shepherd Home and / or Columbus House to engage in discussion with SSMF regarding their decision of denial of rental assistance.

Carl Rodenhizer reported that "Nick Teeling called this afternoon to report that Sen. Lessor wants more time to explore legislative action before he meets. Nick did say that someone from the VA was visiting Shepherd on the 23rd and would bring some applications for a program that should assist with our tenant's rental problem more quickly."

New Business

Mike Black, of Gilead Community Services, shared with the committee the support services program that Gilead is providing through him to the veterans residing at Shepherd. They include services that support veterans experiencing substance abuse and other challenges. This outreach program for the vets is being provided through a grant that Gilead has received for one year from CVS. Depending on the success of the program, future funding will be determined.

Annual Stand Down Event sponsored by the Department of Veteran Affairs to be held on Friday September 20, 2019 and the issue of transportation was discussed. Christine Garriga and Carl Rodenhizer reported that MAT was providing transportation for the Shepherd vets to the Municipal building where they would meet the VA bus to go to the Rocky Hill VA.

The committee reviewed the tenant demographics and arrearage with Carl Rodenhizer and Christine Garriga.

Rent arrearage	Total	1,076
	Median	128
	High	426
	Low	13
	Count	6
Gender	Male	30
	Female	1
Wait List		Yes
Move-In Income	Median	13,532
	High	23,840
		0

The committee reviewed all of the accounts of those tenants with arrearage and discussed what steps are being taken to resolve them including an anonymous donation.

Discussion of tenant or building issues

The need for carriages to assist tenants to get their groceries and other materials to their rooms was reviewed. The committee was assured by Christine Garriga that it would be immediately addressed.

Meeting Date Change

Committee voted to change its October meeting from the 16th to the 23rd.

A further discussion of meeting times in November and December will be discussed at our October meeting. The fourth Wednesday meeting time change presents a conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Adjournment: 6:25 p.m.