

ANC6A Community Outreach Committee

May 21, 2012 Minutes

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith annex, 1235 C St. NE

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Committee members present: Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), Jean Kohanek, Rose Williams, Pat Joseph, Louis Barbash (quorum)

Community members present: Joseph Barnes, P'Tones Studio Manager at Sherwood Recreation Center; Raphael Marshall, Director of Sherwood Recreation Center; Mark Roy, representing Eastern SHS PTSA

I. Agenda

Adopted.

II. Status report on ANC/COC activities.

Nothing to report.

III. Ms. Nelson gave a brief status report on the balance in the grants budget, noting that there was \$4,294** left in the budget. She suggested that since each of the two grant requests were for \$5,000, both applications be presented and discussed before any discussion of funding would take place. This was agreed to, unanimously, by the committee members. ** this number is in error; there is actually \$4,998.53 left in the budget.

IV. Joseph Barnes presented a grant application on behalf of P'Tones to pay for recording equipment to be installed at the Sherwood Recreation Center for use in the after-school program they operate at that site.

1. Mr. Barnes explained that the program, which is nationwide, has been operating at Sherwood for about a year. It serves high-school students (approx. 60 per semester) who are allowed to continue through the end of the summer of the year in which they graduate. The program receives support (financial and personal) from many well-known persons in the recording industry and has a \$40,000 investment in equipment currently in use at Sherwood. Rather than focusing solely on the music itself, students (who apply on-line) are assigned to different tasks in the recording industry based on interest and ability. There is an emphasis on engineering and business aspects. The program provides a safe environment and stresses the importance of professionalism. Mr. Marshall attested to the effectiveness of the program and, in response to questions about the 6A benefits requirement, said he is confident that a significant percentage of current participants are 6A residents. He also said that it was beneficial to have a program at the Center that was not aimed at athletes, as not all youth excel in that area. Ms. Joseph remarked that she likes having something other than sports offered. Similar observations were expressed by other committee members.
2. Ms. Barbash inquired as to how the interns who staff the program are recruited. Mr. Barnes replied that they come from local colleges and universities, including Howard and UDC. He is an intern himself and feels that the program offers an excellent internship experience and that mentorship is a key component of the program.

3. Mr. Barbash also asked if P'Tones would be able to make good use of partial funding, in the event that full funding would not be provided. Mr. Barnes said that smaller sums could be put to good use. Ms. Nelson asked why the equipment was necessary, given that they already had a functioning recording studio. Mr. Barnes replied that some of the equipment was becoming obsolete. Mr. Marshall added that equipment also wears out.
- V. Mark Roy presented a grant application on behalf of the Eastern SHS PTSA to pay for uniforms and storage equipment for the use of the Band Program.
1. As the committee members are very familiar with the program, there was little discussion of the program itself. Mr. Roy explained that equipment previously purchased has inadequate storage and improved containers are necessary to protect the existing investment. Also, sweat suit uniforms are needed because they are far less expensive than formal uniforms but can often be used in their place, thus extending the useful life of the more expensive uniforms. Ms. Williams asked if the PTSA could raise funds some other way, but Mr. Roy said that couldn't be done in the necessary time frame as Eastern Motors has agreed to use the band in a commercial and make a donation to the PTSA's general fund but only if the students perform in the sweat suits.
 2. Ms. Williams asked if the price quoted is for the full sweat suit; Mr. Roy confirmed that is the case. She also inquired about the number of students in the program, given limited enrollment at the school. Mr. Roy explained that 30% of all students at the school are expected to participate in the band program next year. Many middle school students also participate.
- VI. Ms. Nelson returned to a discussion of the status of the grants budget. She said that, in the past, it had been necessary to encourage potential applicants to request funding and that, in some years, the entire grants budget had not been disbursed. So, it hadn't been necessary to have a policy or guidance on how often organizations could request funds, how organizations might "compete" for funding, "holding back" funding to a later point in the fiscal year, or anything of that sort. But that with increased interest, it probably is necessary to consider a new approach. This will be the primary topic at the June COC meeting. The discussion then turned to how to allocate the remaining funds in the grants budget given that both applications (P'Tones at Sherwood and Eastern SHS PTSA) were worthy of funding if availability of funds were not an issue.
1. Ms. Nelson stated that Eastern SHS PTSA had received approx. \$8,000 for the band program over the course of the past three fiscal years (about twice as much as any other applicant)- and quite a bit more in previous years. But nothing had ever been given toward programming at the Sherwood Recreation Center, although a little more than \$2,000 had been spent to support the landscaping efforts of Sherwood Neighborhood Volunteers.
 2. Mr. Barbash noted that Eastern SHS serves a large number of people so, per capita, so maybe previous grant funding is not disproportionate.
 3. Ms. Joseph stated that the difference in past funding does make a difference in her opinion.
 4. Ms. Kohanek said that past funding is an important consideration but that protecting a prior investment makes good sense.
 5. Ms. Williams commends what the Eastern SHS Band Program is doing but likes it that P'Tones is doing something new. On the other hand, the band program may be a reason why students choose Eastern.
 6. Ms. Nelson encouraged the Eastern PTSA to seek other sources of funding as they were relying, perhaps too much, on ANC 6A funding. In particular she

recommended that both applicants contact ANC 6C, which does make grants for which they would likely be eligible. Mr. Roy said that his associate, John Gibson, had approached ANC 6C but had never received a reply.

7. There ensued a discussion of whether or not the COC should recommend that ANC 6A increase the grants budget. Ms. Joseph and Ms. Kohanek asked if the ANC did have additional funds that could be moved to the grants budget. Ms. Nelson said that the ANC did have savings, though she was unsure of the amount. She also said that the commissioners might reasonably feel that it was important to maintain sufficient reserves. There was a more detailed discussion of how best to allocate limited resources. Ms. Kohanek suggested that sufficient funding be provided to the Eastern SHS PTSA such that they could acquire storage systems to protect the existing investment but that the remainder might be allocated to P'Tones. At this point, some math errors on the Eastern SHS PTSA application were discovered; Mr. Roy will be sending a corrected version.
8. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A provide \$533 toward the cost of storage carts and pole bags as requested in the grant application from the Eastern SHS PTSA. Seconded by Ms. Williams. Vote 5 in favor none opposed.**
9. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A provide the remaining balance of the grants budget (\$4,465?) to fund the application from P'Tones to purchase recording equipment for use at the Sherwood Recreation Center. Seconded by Mr. Barbash. Vote 5 in favor none opposed.**
10. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC recommend that ANC 6A add to the grants budget sufficient funds to complete the grant request received from P'Tones (Total \$5,000) to purchase recording equipment for use at the Sherwood Recreation Center and that the grant be funded in full. Seconded by Mr. Barbash. Vote 5 in favor none opposed.**
11. **Motion: Ms. Nelson moved that the COC suggest that, if the commissioners feel they have sufficient reserves, they move additional funds to the grants budget to complete the grant request from the Eastern SHS PTSA (Total \$5,000) to purchase uniform sweat suits and storage racks. Seconded by Ms. Kohanek. Vote 5 in favor none opposed.**

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

VIII. The next meeting will take place Monday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. at 1235 C St. NE