



Lowell City Council

Non-Profit Organizations SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 11, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, Lowell City Hall, Lowell, Ma. / Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Gitschier, C. Nuon, C. Mercier and C. Robinson. Also present were C. Belanger, C. Scott, C. Descoteaux and Robert Cox (Bridge Club).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Gitschier called the meeting to order noting attendance and agenda item regarding the Bridge Club.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mr. Cox provided an outline regarding the start up of the Bridge Club noting it was during Covid time. Mr. Cox noted the design of the program and that it was based on a Florida model he was a client of. Mr. Cox commented on his board of directors and their influence on the success of the Bridge Club, including C. Mercier. C. Robinson questioned growth of the agency. Mr. Cox commented on his journey and his participation in a program entitled "Easy Does It" (EDI), which involves manual responses during crisis. Mr. Cox commented on his search for the site in which the agency could be housed and his partnership with the District Attorneys Office. Mr. Cox noted that they never closed during Covid and that there never was an outbreak. Mr. Cox commented on the importance of grant funding and that C. Mercier and C. Belanger were helpful in that regard as part of



the Opioid Task Force. Mr. Cox commented on his partnership with MassHire and the use of recovery coach training. C. Gitschier commented on the transportation element of the agency as well as the many other programs. Mr. Cox noted it was grant funded and that only requirement is to be licensed. Mr. Cox noted the many partners involved and the many ways there are referrals to the program which include contracts with different correctional facilities. C. Nuon noted the many services available. Mr. Cox noted the facility saw about 150 people a day with 14 staff. C. Mercier noted Mr. Cox's life had a purpose and that positive results are evident. C. Belanger commented on the success of the Bridge Club and the effort of Mr. Cox and noted their involvement with the Opioid Task Force. Mr. Cox commented on newest program to provide transitional housing for veterans and was searching for a building to begin that program. Mr. Cox also noted upcoming St. Partick's Day Breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Mercier, seconded by C. Robinson. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk