



# Rochester City Council

## Community Development Committee

### MEETING MINUTES

**James Gray, Chairperson**

**Elaine Lauterborn, Vice Chairperson**

**Sandra Keans**

**Jake Collins**

**Donna Bogan**

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	September 24, 2015	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilor Bogan Councilor Collins Councilor Gray Councilor Lauterborn	<b>Members Absent:</b> Councilor Keans
<b>Guests/Staff:</b>	Julian Long, Community Development Coordinator Joanna Gagnon, Courage Wall Supporter Nevaeh Breton, Courage Wall Supporter Jessica Meserve, Courage Wall Organizer	

Councilor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Motion was made by Councilor Collins and seconded by Councilor Lauterborn to approve the August 27, 2015 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

<b>Public Input</b>	There was no public input.
<b>Courage Wall Presentation</b>	<p>Ms. Meserve requested the Committee's support for bringing the Courage Wall, a community art project of the organization We Live Big, to the City of Rochester. She expressed concerns over the heroin deaths that have been reported in Rochester recently, and she advocated for the Courage Wall as a way to help prevent substance abuse in the community. She also mentioned that she had been in touch with Bridging the Gaps: The Rochester Community Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Prevention to potentially coordinate efforts and was interested in a high-activity area for the Courage Wall location, such as the Rochester Commons or Community Center.</p> <p>Ms. Breton stated that she was concerned about the substance abuse issues in the community, as well as school bullying. She added that she believed the Courage Wall would help her learn to express and stand up for herself.</p> <p>Councilor Bogan expressed concerns about potential vandalism. Ms. Meserve volunteered to do daily checks on the Courage Wall installation.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn mentioned that the Community Center is a high-activity area and suitable for the project. She also stated that the Courage Wall project proposal had been referred to the Arts and Culture Commission, as well.</p> <p>Councilor Collins expressed support for the project and asked for some</p>

	<p>additional background information from Ms. Meserve. Ms. Meserve stated that she was a 2006 graduate of Spaulding High School and had loved ones who were affected negatively by the heroin addiction increase in the community.</p> <p>Ms. Meserve and Ms. Breton stated that they would handle fundraising to cover the associated costs of the project.</p> <p>Councilor Gray asked Mr. Long to serve as liaison with Ms. Meserve, to look into the requirements for obtaining space in the Community Center for the project, and to develop written policies for the proposed project. Councilor Gray also requested that the Courage Wall proposal be added to the October Community Development Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Long stated that he would do so.</p>
<b>Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report</b>	<p>Mr. Long gave a brief overview of the draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the City of Rochester met or exceeded its set goals for CDBG program performance. The Committee did not request any revisions to the draft report.</p>
<b>CDBG Projects Program Report</b>	<p>Mr. Long gave a brief update on the Rochester Public Library HVAC project. A bid invitation was reissued, and one bid was received. Mr. Long also mentioned that Project PRIDE is now known as MY TURN.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn asked if the newly-constructed Hanson Pines Pavilion is being used. Mr. Long stated that the pavilion is used daily, often by students at the neighboring Spaulding High School.</p> <p>Councilor Gray provided updates on Bridging the Gaps developments. There are a number of reports due to be submitted to the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) over the next several months. Mr. Long stated that a corrective action update was provided to SAMHSA this month. Councilor Gray also mentioned that Bridging the Gaps has arranged to use the Rochester Police Benevolent Association's 501(c)(3) status for fundraising.</p> <p>Councilor Gray requested that information on the Rochester Public Library's status as a public cooling and heating center be mentioned to HUD when the Rochester Library HVAC project is reported. Mr. Long stated that he had a note in his files to do so in the FY 2015-2016 CAPER.</p> <p>Mr. Long stated that news reports indicate a potential federal government shutdown starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that he had consulted with relevant City staff and did not believe a shutdown would have major immediate impacts on the CDBG or Bridging the Gaps programs.</p>
<b>Other Business</b>	<p>Mr. Long distributed a news article on new HUD funding guidelines that reward grant applicants that have sought to reduce the "criminalization of homelessness" and that penalize grant applicants that create panhandling ordinances, loitering ordinances, etc., that HUD believes target homeless persons. Councilor Gray mentioned the homeless presence behind the</p>

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Lauterborn and seconded by Councilor Bogan. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

**Next Meeting** – OCTOBER 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall

**Topics** – Courage Wall Presentation, Continuing CDBG Projects, Future CDBG Projects

Re: Proposal and Permission Request

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jessica Meserve. As a concerned member of this community, I have struggled to understand a lot of issues that have been plaguing our society lately. For example, the multiple heroin deaths reported weekly. What follows is a request for permission to add to this community's unity and encourage a positive, powerful change in the hearts and minds that live here and save lives of citizens who have felt hopeless and lost for far too long.

In searching for a way to make a positive impact, I came across an organization called "We Live Big". We Live Big is a movement to raise awareness about living life on purpose. It's about courage and vibrancy. It's about finding your passion and creating a meaningful life. They encourage people to uncover their authentic selves, continue to grow and make contributions to the world. This organization has created a Community Art Project called the Courage Wall and encourages others to keep this movement of positive change moving. Please see the attached photo sheet for exactly what this looks like.

This wall gets passersby a chance to ask themselves the question "What would you do if you had courage" and a spot to write out what they would do if they could find that courage, overcome that fear. With this first step of simply writing it, naming it, it will give them that push to actually put into motion that courage that we all have within us to change the very course of their lives. Once a fear is named, it's power starts to fade.

What I am writing for today is permission for a location to make this wall a reality in our community. My first thought is a high activity area, such as the Commons. Imagine the communication this wall would open up within families and groups of friends who pass by. This project has put such a passion in my heart, to make a difference, to affect change in a positive way. This project is having such a positive, healthy impact across our country. It would be incredible to start this here.

I look forward to hearing from you and discussing this project, its location and the future of this community further. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

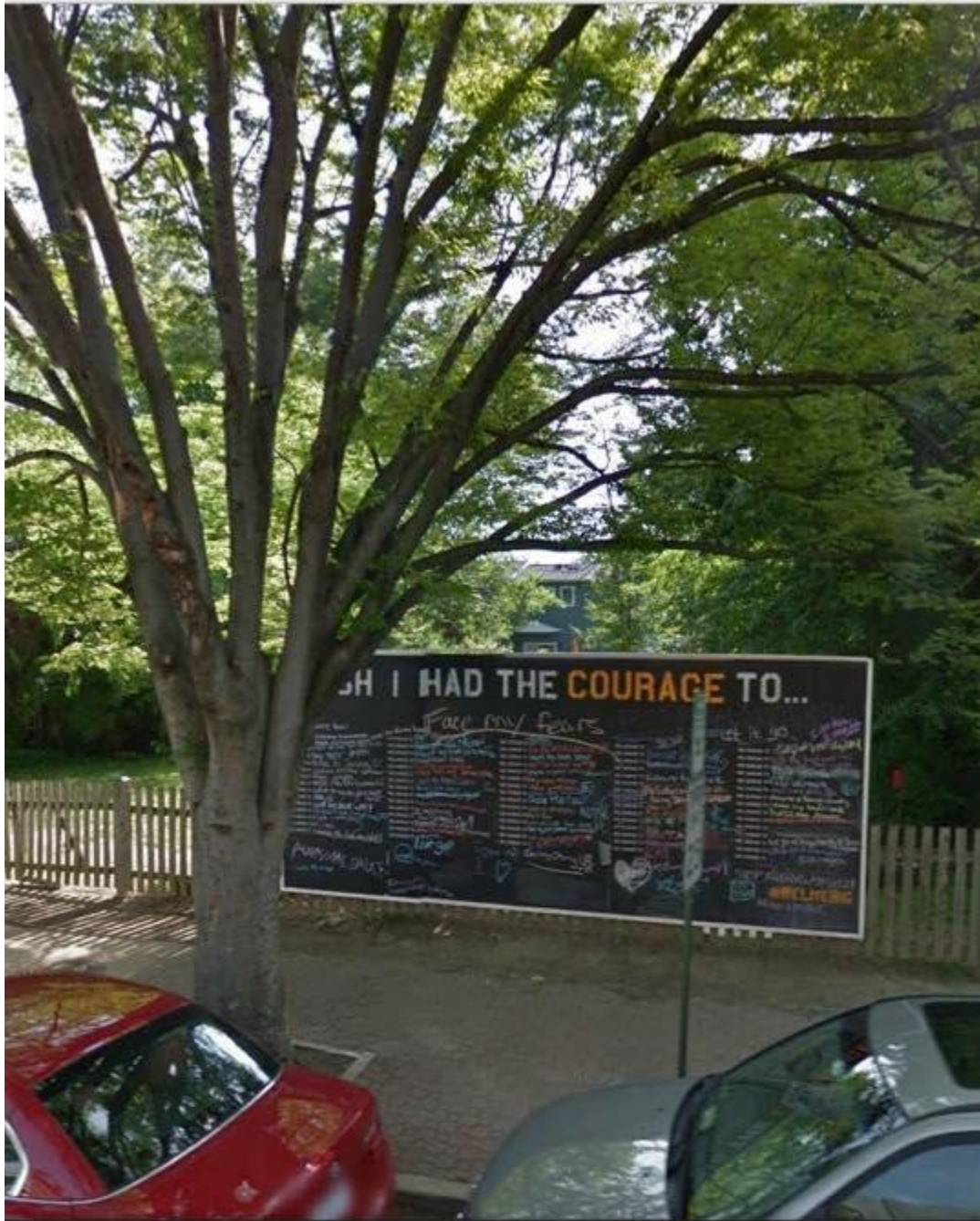


@rachaelpaz



Repost & Regram App





500 Richards Lane, Alexandria, ...



Auf dem Weg zurück zu meinem...



[Untitled]



# We Live Big

Yesterday at 8:30 AM · Edited ·

Thanks to @joyguestmessick for the shot of Reston's new Courage Wall. What would you write on it? #welivebig



8 Likes



THE COURAGE TO TO STOP MY DRUG ADDICTION

THE COURAGE TO BE everything My Family <sup>الشجاعة</sup>

THE COURAGE TO Get Married one day

THE COURAGE TO SAY EVERYTHING

ELVIS

IDS  
ARTUR

PROJECT

ave/  
ut a  
net


h't

THE COURAGE TO <sup>Feel</sup> Tryout for a solo

THE COURAGE TO stand up for myself

THE COURAGE TO feel beautiful in my body

THE COURAGE TO bike and scuba Perfectionist.

THE COURAGE TO be me 

THE COURAGE TO do my best at everything I do 

THE COURAGE TO go in a shelter 

THE COURAGE TO RUN for office

THE COURAGE TO BE A BAKER 

THE COURAGE TO Help some ONE

THE COURAGE TO SAY NO TO MY CHEF

\*BE  
HAPPY\*

\*To tell more people  
about my awesome  
business! Arbonne

... I feel

Hi I think the curage  
wall should be put up  
because people are dying  
from drugs every day  
every second. And this is  
my opinion. I think the  
courage wall will help people  
~~express~~ their feelings  
like me I wish that I  
had the courage to  
stand up to people stand  
up for my self I get  
bullied and I don't like  
that. And I'm standing  
up here sharing my  
feelings with you guys  
and I think that right  
now I am building up  
my courage to say stop  
you are hurting my feelings  
and I don't like that.

If you want this  
courage wall up here  
in this park  
say hi hip  
hi ray.





The First Lady @FLOTUS · 30m

The #CourageWall is inspiring people of all ages to #ReachHigher and pursue their dreams: [abcn.ws/1HccNV8](http://abcn.ws/1HccNV8)



158



View photo

IMG\_7233.JPG

IMG\_7621.JPG

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Shannon Foster likes this.



**Shannon Foster**

Very excited for The courage wal...

Yesterday at 7:15 AM · Unlike · 1 · Reply



**Kristina Fernald**

I think that the courage wall is a very good idea. It gives people a chance to express their feelings without being judged. Sometimes all it takes is writing your feelings down on a piece of paper (or wall) just so u dont have to hold those feelings in. Holding feelings in causes stress and worry and in return stress and worry can cause bad decision making ( like suicide and drug use). I think what u want to do will be life saving to some (hopefully a lot) people. I SUPPORT THE COURAGE WALL!!!!!!!!!!

15 minutes ago · Unlike · 1 · Reply



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# BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO END HOMELESSNESS

## HUD PUTS TEETH INTO EFFORT TO STOP CRIMINALIZING HOMELESS PEOPLE

Written by [admin](#) on September 18, 2015. Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program for \$1.89 billion for Fiscal Year 2015. The CoC Program distributes funding to homeless projects in communities throughout the nation. The deadline for applying for the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition is November 20.

For the first time, HUD will examine whether applicant communities are preventing the criminalization of those experiencing homelessness. In a 2014 report, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) found over 70 cities that had or were considering restricting the sharing of food with people who were homeless. Other laws that disproportionately affect people without a permanent home include bans on camping in public spaces, bans on loitering or begging, even limits to the time someone can spend sitting or lying down on a city sidewalk or park bench.

“The National Coalition for the Homeless is pleased to see HUD continuing the federal proactive approach against the continued criminalization of people experiencing homelessness,” state Megan Hustings, Interim Director, NCH. “NCH is the leading homeless civil rights organization in the nation and have been advocating for this position for at least two decades and our advocacy has finally paid off. If communities continue to enforce anti-homeless ordinances, now they risk losing valuable points in their CoC application, which means a potential loss of funding,” continued Hustings.

Specifically, the NOFA states that up to 2 points will be awarded to applicants that demonstrate their communities have implemented specific strategies that prevent criminalization of homelessness, affirm further fair housing, and ensure that outreach is conducted to homeless individuals and families who are least likely to request housing or services in the absence of special outreach.

This is especially critical given the recent Department of Justice [DOJ] [statement of interest](#) in the Bell v Boise, et.al. case where DOJ argued that for communities that lack housing alternatives of for homeless people, anti-camping ordinances violate the US Constitutions 8th Amendment as “cruel and unusual punishment” and as “misguided public policy.”

“It is a new day for protecting the civil rights of homeless people. Lets hope that this is a wake up call for communities to now focus on creating affordable housing that will end and prevent homelessness,” states John Parvensky, Board Chair, NCH and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

NCH is an advocacy organization focused on organizing and giving a voice to those who have experienced homelessness. NCH’s mission is to prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.

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\*

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