

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER**  
**Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 4:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Present: Alderperson Chris Able, Mary Balte, Grace Brandl, Janet Breuer, Pat Chermak, Linda Hunter, June Kramer, Tony Mack, Joanne Vogds

Guest(s): Sue Sippel, Ralph Kramer

Excused: Mayor Justin Nickels

Minutes: Submitted by Linda Hunter

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:03pm
- II. City Update from Alderperson Chris Able
  - a. The Penney's mall would be dismantled by December and then the land sold.
  - b. The Manitowoc Farmer's Market will begin another season shortly.
- III. Guest Speaker – Sue Sippel, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Center
  - a. The first shelter, a small house, was established in 1980 on the grounds of the Manitowoc Company.
  - b. In 1988 the shelter on South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street was purchased. This property was a former convent and had nine bedrooms. This location soon became seriously overcrowded creating the need for a larger facility which will now be open mid-July 2015.
  - c. Several societal changes caused an increase in the need. Mandatory arrest was passed by the legislature. Domestic abuse was recognized as a crime. The O.J. Simpson trial in 1996 also raised awareness of domestic abuse, and it caused a demand for services from all income levels.
  - d. Transitional housing began in that period. The Domestic Violence Center owns a facility for that, but it requires knowledge of landlord issues, and they will eventually sell it. It is difficult to maintain. There is a two-year limit to living there, and case management comes with the option to use it.
  - e. Since 2008, families had to use the living room or library almost every night. Sue Sippel documented the crowded conditions. The winter of 2013-2014 required an expense of \$10,000 to house those who couldn't be housed in the shelter. Stays of individuals average 40 days, rather than 10. More services are offered. They serve about 500 people a year, 350 of those are abuse situations. Only about half stay at the shelter, there are 85 families. Those who use these services are coming from more dangerous circumstances.
  - f. In this new building administration is separated from housing for safety and confidentiality purposes. Each room also has a bathroom. Men are occasionally housed, but they are usually sent to a hotel. The tour was very interesting. We were invited to the Open House toward the end of June 2015.
- IV. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 09.01.15, beginning at 4:00pm at City Hall, 900 Quay Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220.
- V. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm