

Wandel & Company

Organizational Development Consulting/Business Growth, Development, & Research

710 North Meadow Lane
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

◆
Phone 608-238-6850

Fax 608-238-7495

e-mail: wancomp@aol.com

October 20, 2012

To: The Mayor, City Council, Community Services Committee, CSC Agencies, and the public,

Well, as I am told by staff my ten years as a Community Services Committee member is up in November. I can hardly remember the first meeting as a “newbie,” trying to figure out the who’s who in the line-up of Agencies, Committee, then Commission members, City staff, City decision makers and more.

So much time, change, growth and development have passed through my fingers I can almost hardly believe it. Along with that came increased challenges with ever increased need for funds to serve those changes.

We have seen our community blossom in size, ethnicity, complexity and again, a word I choose carefully, challenges. Together as a Committee and with responding Agencies and others we faced new languages, new styles of living, and new approaches to family lifestyles, new issues and greater need for understanding and flexibility to meet the tests that come with change.

Our Agencies rose to the challenge and many came up with creative ways to address need. We, as a group of (part time) volunteers, came to understand those needs through Agency visits, presentations at meetings (sometimes with large representations and many speakers), personal interaction and more to understand the Agencies we funded and the needs they presented and met. Sometimes we were horrified by what we saw. And, at other times we were elated by the direction and action we took to support the many innovative approaches to problem solving that our Agencies undertook.

As I reflect I am humbled for having been able to be part of an organization, Commission, Committee, unique in America that provides critical basic needs and services to folks that are having, sometimes great difficulty and stress, fitting into society.

Page 2

On the other side I am elated that I have been part of a City Committee/function that has done something else to help/aid/foster growth and development of our city and its citizens. We, as a Committee, have seen the other side of the coin through innovative programming for children, youth, and teenagers, young and older adults.

I've made new friends along the way, gone to unique events, financially supported some Agencies as possible and watched as the decisions we made as a Committee changed people's lives through the funding we provided.

What an Honor! To see change happen before your eyes tells a great story about the quality of the Agencies we funded. This IS what Community is all about. This IS how we, as a Community, shall and must raise to the challenges of the issues we face daily.

I leave the Committee with a certain amount of sadness and also look forward to many new challenges for me as well. I leave with the Committee in good hands and wish my colleagues well with their decisions and direction. There will never be enough money to meet all the needs whether they are emergency interventions or positive programming, events and so much more.

Ironically one of my last actions that became a Committee memo asked the City Council for an additional \$200,000.00 in funding. I cannot think of a better way to exit and I can only hope the Council and mayor sees fit to increase the Committee's funding capability. On that final note I wish you all well.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
David Wandel, Vice Chairperson, Community Services Committee