

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC) MEETING
TUESDAY, February 26, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 303-THIRD FLOOR- CITY HALL**

Present: Daniel Nyquist, Justin Perpich, Barbara Carr, Debra Branley

Absent: Michael Ramsey, Daryl Yankee, Jim Gaylord, John Evans, Bill Kimbler, Kristi Gordon

Staff: Karen Olesen, Suzanne Kelley, Ben VanTassel, Jade Seelye (CD Intern)

Others Present: Reyna Crowe

Roll Call: A quorum was not present.

1. Sequestration and possible funding cuts for FY 2013

Olesen informed committee that the CD Division had no new knowledge on sequestration and possible cuts to funding for FY 2013. This will be an on-going discussion with the CD committee.

2. Neighborhood Plans and Priorities

Plans were completed by LISC with contributions from the City of Duluth. All of the plans are available on the City website.

West Duluth Neighborhood: Suzanne Kelley presented the West Duluth Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. West Duluth is a large neighborhood made up of smaller neighborhoods. The main priorities for the community related to CDBG funding areas are road improvements, sidewalks, rehab of housing, weatherization of housing and economic development. Housing rehab and weatherization, as well as Duluth at Work programming is currently funded by CD dollars. Another priority is removal of blight in the community. A success in West Duluth has been the Laura MacArthur school project and it's connection to other programs funded by CD money. The CD committee added the following issues for improvement in West Duluth: expansion of green spaces, cleaning up 58th and 59th Avenues above Cody Street, affordable childcare, and additional food shelves or meals served, as the community has only one food shelf and no meals served.

Lincoln Park Neighborhood: Ben VanTassel presented the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The priorities for the neighborhood were identified as acquisition and rehab resale projects, upgrade of multi-family housing units, blight removal, employment assistance, development of Lincoln Park Business district, pedestrian way finding, utilizing old Lincoln Park School, and street and sidewalk improvements. CD funds are currently being used for job

training programs that serve many Lincoln Park residents and to support small business growth through the Growing Neighborhood Businesses program. The CD committee discussed the following additional issues as priorities in Lincoln Park: access to food—both grocery and soup kitchen meals, safer routes to school and community activities and businesses such as Boys and Girls Clubs and Children’s Museum, and the future of the Seaway Hotel. Committee members pointed out that the Citizen’s Patrol is active and businesses are starting to come in to the area. Discussion about solving food issues included ideas about serving meals at Harrison Community Center or local churches, and creating more community gardens.

Morgan Park: Suzanne Kelley presented the Morgan Park Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Morgan Park is an isolated community with 1,800 residents but few employment options. Its natural beauty and location on the St. Louis River lends to the possibility of trail development and other recreation opportunities to create a tourism economy. The priorities in Morgan Park are economic development, housing rehab and weatherization, addressing the food desert issue, utilizing the old Morgan Park Middle School and possibly adding a trail head that would be consistent with the Morgan Park recreation plan. CD funds have been used for housing rehab and weatherization, but this is a challenge due to the historic nature of the housing. The CD committee discussed cleaning up the old US Steel site and using the historical aspect of the neighborhood to create tourism and economic opportunities such as a museum.

Central and East Hillside: Ben Van Tassel presented the Neighborhood Revitalization Plans for the Central and East Hillside Neighborhoods. Priorities included affordable housing, workforce housing, single family housing rehab, housing weatherization, street and sidewalk improvements, and removal of blighted properties. CD funds support the local youth programs through the Feed Kids project. CD dollars have also been used to fund Hillside Apartments, which will add to affordable housing in the area. The Firehouse Flats will provide additional affordable housing. CD funds also support this community through Duluth at Work programming located in Central Hillside. Reuse of Nettleton School is an opportunity for the Neighborhood. Committee members discussed making the rehabilitation of multi-family rentals a priority alongside single family homes.

3. Other

Suzanne Kelley shared information about the upcoming Empower Event, which is open to the public and provides education on improving one’s finances, housing, education, and employment. This event is on March 23 at the DECC. Karen Olesen related that the Duluth American Indian Commission’s next meeting is March 18 at 5:15 PM and CD Committee members Dan Nyquist and John Evans will be attending to present information about the CD Committee.

Next meeting of the CD Committee will be March 26 at 6 PM and is a potluck.