

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC) MEETING
TUESDAY, March 19, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 303-THIRD FLOOR- CITY HALL**

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

Absent: Michael Ramsey, Jim Gaylord, John Evans

Staff: Keith Hamre, Char McLennan, Karen Olesen, Suzanne Kelley, Ben VanTassel, Jade Seelye (CD Intern)

Others Present: Reyna Crowe, Gerald Sayers

Roll Call: A quorum was present. Nyquist called the meeting to order.

Approval of Meeting Summaries

Due to lack of a quorum at previous meeting, the Committee needed to approve three past meeting summaries.

Carr motioned, Branley seconded to approve the meetings summary for December 4, 2012, and January 29, 2013, and February 26, 2013. Motion passed; Unanimous.

10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Update

McLennan gave a brief history of homeless funding. Historically, the City received \$125,000 annually in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding, but stimulus dollars brought that amount up to \$1.2 million. Those funds have been expended. Currently, under the new HEARTH Act, the City receives over \$200,000 in ESG, and works with St. Louis County to coordinate funds, CDBG Public Service grants to homeless service providers, countywide Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, and the State's Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) dollars.

HUD is requiring communities to work together to form a coordinated system addressing homelessness. McLennan provided a handout detailing the HEARTH Act, and a flowchart showing both the current homeless system that moves people from shelters, to transitional housing, and finally permanent housing; and the new preferred system based on a single point of entry and assessment, with people either receiving prevention services or being quickly re-housed, and permanent housing with support services to reduced future homelessness.

City and County staff have been working with providers for a couple of years preparing for these significant changes. Homeless agencies have been reluctant to embrace the new approach, which is disappointing, and could very well jeopardize future grants. The CD Committee has been supportive of initiatives that move in the new direction. An example is the coordinated "Flex Fund" that provides households with funds to address issues that may result in homelessness, or keeps people from securing housing.

However, for a variety of reasons including lack of capacity and staff turnover, an entity hasn't yet been designated to manage the Flex Fund account.

Staff is exploring aligning the funding cycle for CD funds with the other federal and state applications and awards, as a move towards more coordination. The CD Committee will be part of any decisions in that direction. Hamre stated that this year's community forums might be used to solicit input on changes to the homeless system.

Update on FY 2013 & Discussion on Potential Funding Target Changes

Hamre related the federal government is now operating under a "continuing resolution" through September 30, that implemented the across the board cuts commonly referred to as "sequestration". HUD funding is cut by 5%, which effects CDBG, ESG and HOME allocations to the City. Bottom line, FY 2013 grants awards will need to be reduced by about \$29,000 in HOME and \$11,000 in ESG. Because "set-aside" projects normally included in the CDBG formula grants were eliminated early on, we might have received a 9% increase in funds. However, the 5% cut comes out of the 9% increase, resulting in an additional 4% in CDBG. This equates to approximately \$95,000.

The CD Committee will hold a public hearing in April, to delete the 2010 Sidewalk and Accessibility project that was awarded \$42,000. Staff may recommend funding for flood damage not covered by other sources. Agencies will be aware of the changes in HUD funds, and will probably attend. There will be a memorandum in the meeting notice packet that details proposed changes.

Consolidated Plan High Priority Goals & Potential Changes

Hamre stated potential changes to the Consolidated Plan would be included in the public hearing. There was discussion on more emphasis on funding small multi-family rental buildings, or larger units with four or more bedrooms. This might encourage "co-housing". There was also a discussion on whether it was better to target funds to specific areas, or spread housing rehab throughout the City.

Election of Officers

Because of the absence of several members of the committee, and new members being appointed next month, it was decided to postpone elections until April.

Branley motioned, Nyquist seconded to hold election of officers at the April 23, 2013, meeting. Motion passed; Unanimous.

Announcement

Ben VanTassel has been promoted to Senior Planner. Hiring is underway for a new Planner II for the division.

Adjournment

Next meeting of the CD Committee will be April 23rd, and it will include a public hearing. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.