

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.  
DAMIANO CENTER- 206 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**Present:** Randy Brody, Barbara Carr, Reyna Crow, Hamilton Smith, Cruz Mendoza

**Absent:** Debra Branley, Kristi Gordon, Harrison Dudley, Kim Green

**Staff:** Keith Hamre, Ben VanTassel, Mike Palermo, Suzanne Kelley, Karen Olesen, Char McLennen

**Roll Call:** 5 present and 4 absent. A quorum was present.

Chairperson Barbara Carr called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

**1. Welcome and Introductions- B. Carr, Chair**

- a. B. Carr opened the meeting and roll was taken.
- b. B. Carr welcomed the Committee, Staff, and other persons present and called the meeting to order.

**2. 2014 Housing Indicator Report Presentation**

- a. K. Hamre introduced M. Palermo from Community Development and stated that M. Palermo was going to give an overview of the 2014 Housing Indicator Report and its findings.
- b. M. Palermo gave a presentation on the 2014 Housing Indicator Report. Duluth's population is steady although rent prices are increasing. The demand for one and two bedroom dwellings is increasing, therefore causing the price of rent to increase by 33% over ten years. The price of rent is difficult on families; those earning 30% of the median income could not afford rent for a two-bedroom apartment. The age of the housing stock in Duluth is older than comparable cities and without upkeep, will lead to deterioration and more condemned homes.

**3. Public Forum and Hearing on Community Development and Housing Needs**

- a. B. Carr opened with an ice breaker pertaining to the process a person uses to make decisions.
- b. The public was split into three groups in which they discussed the barriers to Housing, Economic Development, and Public Services. Each group involved the public and the committee members, and each group was given the same chance to speak on the three topics. Notes are attached.
- c. Committee members were asked to summarize the key trends they took away from their in-group discussions.

*R. Brody stated the need for transportation to support services was brought up numerous times.*

*H. Smith agreed on the trend of transportation, speaking on the need for reliable transportation to access services. Also, without a livable wage, many people find it difficult to pay for the basic necessities including rent.*

*C. Mendoza spoke on what he didn't hear, saying he didn't hear what to do about discrimination.*

*R. Crow followed in saying her group did discuss the intensity of the access/ barriers of discrimination in addition to the need for legal advocacy.*

*B. Carr addressed the need for people to learn life skills; creating an advocate center for people to access the services, and some sort of buffer would then allow them to get off the service. Transportation to jobs and the access centers is important.*

**4. Public Hearing on Substantial Amendment to the 2012 Annual Action Plan**

- a. A public hearing was held regarding the Substantial Amendment to the 2012 Annual Action Plan.
- b. The Substantial Amendment would reallocate \$50,000 from the Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln Park in which the funds were no longer necessary.
- c. *Questions were posed from the public asking for what if any restrictions are placed on the funds and what the deadline is that a decision needs to be made before the funds disappear. K. Hamre responded saying funds could not go towards public services projects because they are capped at 15%, otherwise no other restrictions, and the deadline is June of 2016.*

**5. Follow-up on Economic Development and Public Facilities Discussion**

- a. B. VanTassel gave an update on the city's economic development and public facilities process.
- b. Committee members commented on the need for a livable wage and the need for rehabilitation on existing homes in the city.

**6. Begin Discussion on Housing and Public Services**

- a. Discussions for next meeting.

**7. Review CAPER Public Hearing format**

- a. *R. Brody asked if the criteria and rating scale system would be made available to the committee ahead of time. Palermo confirmed it would be.*

**8. Approval of April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary**

- a. *B. Carr motioned, seconded by H. Smith to approve the April 28, 2015 Meeting Summary as submitted. Motion carried; unanimous.*

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.