

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL**

Present: Debra Branley, Randy Brody, Barbara Carr, Reyna Crow, Hamilton Smith, Justin Perpich, Harrison Dudley

Absent: Kristi Gordon

Staff: Keith Hamre, Ben VanTassel, Suzanne Kelley, Mike Palermo

Roll call: 7 Present and 1 Absent. A Quorum was present.

Chairperson Barbara Carr called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

a. B. Carr opened the meeting and roll was taken.

B. Carr welcomed the Committee, Staff, and other persons present and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of March 24, 2015 Meeting Summary

a. *R. Brody motioned, seconded by H. Smith to approve the March 24, 2015 Meeting Summary as submitted. Motion carried; unanimous.*

3. Review Consolidated Plan priorities and goals

a. K. Hamre introduced the topics for discussion tonight and handed over the meeting to B. VanTassel. B. VanTassel framed the night's discussion as an opportunity to think about what the committee would like fund under the FY2016 grants and who would we like to invite to apply. He then introduced M. Palermo from Community Development to discuss the Duluth at Work program.

b. M. Palermo presented on Duluth at Work highlighting that the program's overwhelmingly work with households with no to extremely low income. Most participants that reach the 2 year goal have over 100% increase in income but still remain below the poverty level. However, tracking is only for 2 years so any growth after that is not accounted for.

R. Crow asked if we had information about participants with disabilities. M. Palermo explained that they do not ask that question on their quarterly reports but it could be something to include in the upcoming cohort.

K. Hamre explained that a living wage is calculated at around \$8 for a single family household and it jumps to \$18.55 when you add a child. H. Dudley discussed that most trade industries only require a High School Diploma for which most participants of the Duluth at Work program has. He would like to see our agencies make those connections to trade unions and possible get those participants into well-paying jobs at Cirrus and AAR.

R. Crow also would like to see more minority outreach. She discussed a movement last year to hire a community organizer who can help make those outreach connections in the community. The proposal is still in the planning stages.

H. Dudley pointed out that there are issues when transportation is required. The trade union training tends to occur up the hill.

B. Carr wondered if we could fund a position like Americorp to do recruiting to encourage more minority participation.

Perpich was wondering if we tracked the type of business that participants were being placed. He was curious if they were more large employers or small businesses and if they were placed in positions with high turnover. That information was not collected.

B. VanTassel brought up the committees directive last year that program providers try to make connections with the trade industry. He explained that this year's invitation to apply can be used to require that connection.

H. Dudley asked what the programs really look like, do they just provide support finding jobs. K. Hamre explained that is job training for a specific organization but its not as connected as the Portland Model which this was based on. In that case large employers like Nike and the Port came in a ran some classes on what they are looking for from employees and what to expect in an interview. B. Carr was curious if we even had enough training occurring in Duluth and cited a friend who had to go to travel to another city to be trained on special equipment. Discussion continued about Lake Superior Collect and their new downtown training facility and connection with airplane manufacturing industry. K. Hamre saw opportunity for retooling the programs to connect to the trade industry. B. Carr would like to see some outreach to schools to get recent high school and college grads. Brody thought we might be able focus on retaining Duluth's talent. J. Perpich asked about opportunity to have an incentive program for businesses. K. Hamre explained the City's experiences with incentivizing employers. The issues include having to provide public data and employers were reticent to ask applicants what their income was and having to verify that information.

K. Hamre said that it might be a good idea to invite Paula Reed from the Duluth Workforce Center to discuss the Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization. He explained that they are part of the Duluth at Work collaborative and work on similar opportunities.

S. Kelley briefly described the Entrepreneur Fund's Growing Neighborhood Business program. Crow would like to see more effort for NEF to connect with minority business owners. She see lots of opportunity, especially in the native community to do artistic work. She wondered if an organization like Community Action Duluth would be a good fit to work with artists and craftpeople on business training.

Discussion occurred on developing a business incubator or a Co-op space for artists or food related businesses such as Jefferson People House. Other potential items would be for SOAR or Community Action Duluth to do classes in business management for artists.

B. VanTassel went on to discuss the public facilities projects and explained the requirements for us to invest CDBG funds into a facility. He explained the variety of types of projects that could be funded including accessibility upgrades, building improvements, and infrastructure projects. Public facilities can be outside the box projects like the Denfeld Food Hub.

B. Carr asked if this would be a type of project that could be used for the Jefferson People House kitchen space. R. Crow said that this could be an opportunity for that. B. Carr thought it would be nice to have some sort of Public Market Space in Duluth. Other thoughts included investment into the Lincoln Park Commercial District, streetscaping or branding for western neighborhoods, and using levy possibly to leverage investment.

4. Review current and potential program partners

- a. B. VanTassel presented to the committee a list compiled from the Twin Ports Council of Non-Profits which includes non-profit organizations that meet have a mission statement that aligns with the Community Development and would likely meet federal requirements for funding. K. Hamre asked the committee if they would like to evaluate potential applicants in a sense certifying them as CDBG ready. The Committee thought it would be a good idea.

5. Identify goals/structure of the Community Development and Housing Needs Public Hearing on May 26th

- a. K. Hamre discussed the purpose of the two public hearings next month. The first will be to discuss community needs. He asked the committee for a location and style format for the hearing. The committee agrees that small group breakout sessions were most informative. The also discussed possible locations and decided Damiano Center would be the first choice as we had invested in the building with Harrison Community Center as a backup given its proximity to the western neighborhoods, with a third option of the Washington Center. Hamre also discussed the possibility of moving funds from Coordinated Access back to the Housing Action Center. He explained that there is a lack of direction and no formal proposal yet for the funding and given new developments in the Housing Access Center's funding it might be worth looking at. The Housing Access Center was the number one goal to come out the most recent Homeless Summit. The second public hearing will be a substantial amendment to drop the Lincoln Park HVAC Installation Project. The HUD requirements did not fit with the overall development.

6. Motion to adjourn:

- a. *Perpich motioned, seconded by Brody to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM. Motion carried; unanimous.*