

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC)  
MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – DULUTH CITY HALL**

**Present:** Debra Branley, Daniel Nyquist, Bill Kimbler, Michael Ramsey, and Daryl Yankee

**Absent:** Rita Tercero, Scott Wallschlaeger, Patricia Tyler, Jim Gaylord, and Kristi Gordon

**Staff:** Keith Hamre, Char McLennan, Suzanne Kelley, Charles Froseth, and Ben VanTassel.

**Others Present:** List Attached.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was present. Kimbler acting as Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1. Introductions**

Chair Kimbler welcomed the public and announced that a public hearing would take place, then read the following statement: “A public hearing will be held by the CD Committee at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, in Room 303 - 3rd Floor - City Hall. The purpose of the public hearing is for citizens to comment on the Draft Plan and the funding recommendations. Members of the public, especially persons having low and moderate incomes, persons of Color, and persons with disabilities, are encouraged to attend and comment on the 2012 Action Plan.”

**2. Overview of Public Comments received during the 30-day Public Comment Period**

Keith Hamre listed the public comments that were received by the Committee during the 30-Day Public Comment Period.

Summary of Comments November 5th Connect the Dots event  
Letter from Kris Ridgewell, West Duluth Community Development Corporation  
Letter from Kevin Peterson, Chris Francis & Blair Gagne, YMCA  
Letter from David Schaeffer, YMCA  
E-mail from Rick Klun, Center City Housing Corporation  
Letter from Steven Saari, MACV  
Letter from Russ Salgy, Copeland Valley Youth Center  
Letter from Cindy Petkac, Planning Division  
Letter Responding to CD Committee Questions from Todd Johnson, Boys & Girls Club  
Letter from Jeff Corey, Affordable Housing Coalition

Letter from Damiano Center Board of Directors  
Letter from Tim McLoughlin, Boys & Girls Club  
Letter from Pam Kramer, Duluth Local Initiative Support Corporation  
E-mail comment via Division's Website from Emily Larson, Duluth@Work

Hamre reviewed the Mini-bus bill that was passed by U.S. Congress which set the 2012 Spending Plan by HUD, which reduced CDBG Program by 12% and reduced the HOME Program by 38%. This puts the recommendations that were developed by the CD Committee in October over budget by \$308,100 in the CDBG Program and \$273,562 over in the HOME Program. One option open to the CD Committee is to continue the Public Hearing by one month.

Hamre gave an overview of the response from the Boys & Girls Club. Hamre reviewed an aerial photograph which identified what parts of the complex would be demolished and which part would remain. Costs include: \$309,426 for mechanical upgrades and \$245,160 for electrical and fire suppression system upgrades. Also, leasing costs are projected to go up.

Hamre mentioned that he is working to find more funds to alleviate making all of these cuts. He said it may be beneficial to wait until next month to finalize the recommendation to the council. The CD Committee informally agreed that they will probably go in the direction of suspending the hearing, after hearing from those signed up to speak now.

### **3. Opportunity for people to comment on the FY 2012 Action Plan Funding Recommendations**

Chair Kimbler opened the Public Hearing and advised those planning to speak that their comments will be limited to 3 minutes. Speakers included:

Kim Grogan- spoke on behalf of Center City Housing Corp. An anonymous letter from a CCHC participant was read explaining the benefits that the CCHC transitional housing program has provided them.

Steve Saari- spoke on behalf of Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, and noted that MACV was currently recommended to receive the biggest cut (15%) and this seems to be based on paperwork rather than the worthy needs of the program. Mr. Saari referenced the National Plan to End Homelessness and stated that MACV meets all the goals of this plan. Please reduce all transitional housing programs equally.

Ramona Earving- spoke on behalf of Center City Housing Corp, and stated that she first started out at shelter and then got into CCHC Transitional Housing. The program has helped her to stabilize her life and better her future.

Nancy Cashman- spoke on behalf of Center City Housing Corp, and stated that she appreciates the process and level of difficulty that these decisions hold.

CCHC is serving the most vulnerable families and such sharp cuts shouldn't come all to housing programs. Without these programs there will be a lot of people on the streets.

Alex Urrutia- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that he has been a member for 5 years. Club has helped him with decisions and been integral in planning for the future. Big part of his life and he now helps at the club with younger kids.

Dave Goldberg- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the B&G Club does a great job meeting the mission of reaching the youth. This new facility will solidify the future of the B&G Club for 50 to 100 years. It also will be great for the Lincoln Park Neighborhood.

Jaden Elstad- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the B&G Club is a place to socialize and take educational classes to better his future.

Tejeama M.- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated the B&G Club is important because it is a place to have fun, do homework, and feel safe.

Tim Caines- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated the B&G Club provides a needed safe place for the kids in that neighborhood. The B&G Club serves over 15,000 snacks and meals which the kids wouldn't normally get. The B&G Club helps a lot with kids education needs, because they are receiving no support from home. Often times the kids receive no help, other than this program.

Deja Barber- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the B&G Club is an important place to meet friends, do homework, and do active things. The B&G Club meets all my needs.

Dasia Starks- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the B&G Club has fun activities and art, and that without the club she wouldn't be able to do these things. She would have to be home alone if the B&G Club wasn't there.

Cassandra Mahlberg- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the teen center is small and there is not enough space for all the kids. There are lots of heating issues and cooling issues. The B&G Club is great for meeting her needs and the staff is supportive. The B&G Club lends support for meeting career goals. She asked for CD Committee to support the B&G Club.

Todd Johnson- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that Lincoln Park has long been neglected in Duluth and the B&G Club serves those who are in poverty and often come from single parent families. Annual membership to the B&G Club is \$10. The B&G Club serves over 900 area youth a year, and over 120 youth are at the facility each day. 80% of the youth served are eligible for

the free lunch program. B&G Club provides well balanced meals and supports building life skills.

Shawn Reed- spoke on behalf of the Boys & Girls Club, and stated that the B&G Club supports the Lincoln Park project. The project will lead to helping 1,030 youth from 400 different families served at the current site. Help address poor graduation rates and other issues in children's lives. Requested the CD Committee fund the Lincoln Park project.

Kim Crawford- spoke on behalf of Life House, and stated that Life House will serve 675 kids in 2011- helping them with housing, education, employment, and mental health. Life House serves a lot of individuals not just numbers, and CDBG funding helps them to make important connections.

Holly (and Xavier)- spoke on behalf of Life House, and stated that she is a Life House Futures Employment Case Manager and expressed that there are many benefits of connecting these troubled youth to employment.

Kayla- spoke on the behalf of Life House, and stated that she has been using Life House since age 14. Before Life House, she had been staying at many places and eventually lost her son to protective services and Life House helped her to get life back together and get her son back. Now working on employment and has earned a GED. She is now working on getting enrolled in college.

Laurie- spoke on behalf of Life House, and stated that she lives in a foster home, and will be starting school on Jan 9th. Before Life House she hung around the streets. If not for Life House, she would be on the streets or in jail.

Dave Schaeffer- spoke on behalf of the YMCA- Feeding Kids through Youth Programs, and stated that the program is the collaboration of YMCA, Copeland Valley Youth, Boys & Girls Club, and Grant Community School Collaborative which helps to provide over 64,000 meals. In 2012, over 1,540 youth will be fed during our programming. He urged the CD Committee to keep the funding at current level, when making the final recommendation.

Pam Kramer (LISC)- spoke on behalf of the Lincoln Park Project, and reiterated her written comment that was submitted. She encouraged CD Committee to take what is a loss in the Lincoln Park neighborhood and build for the future. She stated that other funding will be applied for and LISC will be a partner.

**Motion by Daryl Yankee, seconded by Michael Ramsey to suspend the Public Comment Period. Motion Passed, unanimously.**

**4. Approval of Meeting Summary for October 25, 2011**

Yankee asked to have the summary corrected in paragraph 11 of Section 3 and that the wording be changed to: “Yankee made a motion to fund only high priorities”.

**Motion by Daryl Yankee, seconded by Debra Branley to approve the October 25, 2011 Meeting Summary with the correction. Motion Passed, unanimously.**

**5. Final FY 2012 Action Plan and Funding Recommendations for Transmittal to City Council**

Kimble noted that due to suspending the Public Comment Period, the Final Recommendation for the FY 2012 Action Plan should not be made at this time.

Hamre noted the spreadsheet presented to the Committee should be corrected. The correct Public Service target amount is \$365,970, putting the current recommendation \$19,030 over.

Hamre also showed the funding recommendation percentages of what was requested for the Public Services categories.

Kimble then asked the CD Committee to spend some time discussing the needed reductions to the funding recommendations, and start to develop some direction for staff to develop recommendations to be presented at the next meeting.

**Public Services Category Discussion:** Hamre noted that the earlier statement during the hearing of cuts to Housing, was directed at the reduction scenarios listed in the Public Services Category and that it was recommended to make any reductions to the transitional and supportive housing programs only, and not the rest of the Public Services category programs.

**Housing Category Discussion:** Yankee noted that keeping people in homes by lowering the cost through weatherization seemingly should be a priority, rather than working to assist people in purchasing a home. Ramsey noted that using the evaluation scores listed for each program is a good measure and should be referenced. Yankee noted that input from the AHC would be valuable.

**Economic Development Category Discussion:** Hamre described the recommended reduction scenario of reducing each program by 1 participant or \$8,000. Kimble noted that the reduction scenario seemed feasible.

**Public Facilities Category Discussion:** Yankee noted that the Lincoln Park School Project discussion should be based on the facility application, not the

value and impact of the Boys & Girls Club programming, in order to be most productive. Todd Johnson (Boys & Girls Club) stated that the Lincoln Park project encompasses 30,000-35,000 sq ft of the existing building. Estimated that it will cost \$30,000 for the heating system. Johnson stated that if funding was not received this year, he would need to speak with the Developer about possibilities for next year. Also, stated that there are no other facilities in Lincoln Park that could be used and a similar facility would likely be much more expensive than this proposal. Hamre stated that the CD Division will be looking for any additional funding that has gone unspent in previous years, to help alleviate these funding reductions. Dave Benson (Damiano Center) stated that delaying the Soup Kitchen Project would most likely have to start over next year with getting matching funds. Kimbler stated that it would be helpful to see if we have additional funding and continue to develop recommendations.

Public Services Category Discussion: CD Committee discussed doing an across the board dollar amount cut, a prorated percentage cut, or eliminate one or two programs. The CD Committee would like to hear what staff recommendation is after meeting with the agencies.

HOME Program Discussion: Kimbler stated that the recommended reduction scenario makes sense. Yankee stated the insight from the Affordable Housing Coalition would be very beneficial. Hamre noted that 15% of HOME funding needs to go towards CHDO activities.

Kimbler requested a CD Committee meeting be held prior to the continuation of the Public Hearing on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Hamre stated the CD Committee could meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> to review the recommendations, which will be finalized at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Motion by Bill Kimbler, Seconded by Michael Ramsey to postpone identifying the Final FY 2012 Action Plan and Funding Recommendations until January 31, 2012. Motion Passed, unanimously.**

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Development Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and the Public Hearing will be continued on January 31, 2012.

**Motion by Bill Kimbler, Seconded by Daniel Nyquist to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed, unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted:  
Ben VanTassel

Attendance for Public Hearing (12/6/11)

Heather Smith- Salvation Army  
Robin Puglisi- Boys & Girls Club  
Kayla Gengler- Life House  
Xavier Gengler- Life House  
Azaleyah Gengler- Life House  
Laurie Briggs- Life House  
Mike Lattery- Northeast Entrepreneur Fund  
Sarah Priest- Community Action Duluth  
Lynne Snyder- HRA of Duluth  
Kim Crawford- Life House  
Angela Ryan- AICHO  
Greg Carlson  
Dawn Hautajari- Boys & Girls Club  
Gene Hautajari- Boys & Girls Club  
Nancy Cashman- Center City Housing Corp.  
David Mattson- SOAR Career Solutions  
Dave Benson- Damiano Center  
Pam Benson- HRA of Duluth  
Amy Westbrook- SOAR Career Solutions  
Susan Utech- Safe Haven  
Dave Schaeffer- YMCA  
Martin Lepak- AEOA  
Steve Saari- MACV  
Kim Grogan- Center City Housing Corp  
Tabatha Tremble Center City Housing Corp  
Sunny Wilson- Center City Housing Corp  
Kendall Doom- Center City Housing Corp  
Ramona Earving- Center City Housing Corp  
Alex Staffon- Boys & Girls Club  
Alex Urrutia- Boys & Girls Club  
Haden Elstad- Boys & Girls Club  
Tim Caine- Boys & Girls Club  
Todd Johnson- Boys & Girls Club  
Cassie Mahlberg- Boys & Girls Club  
Kelly Looby- NYS  
Holly Samuelson- Life House  
Cynthia Finley- MAC-V  
Janet- Safe Haven  
Pam Kramer- LISC  
Tim McLoughlin- Boys & Girls Club  
Brittany Robb- Grant Collaborative