

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (CDC) MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 303-THIRD FLOOR- CITY HALL**

Present: Barbara Carr, Justin Perpich, Reyna Crowe, Randy Brody, Debra Branley, Harrison Dudley

Absent: Kristi Gordon

Staff: Keith Hamre, Karen Olesen, Ben VanTassel, Michael Palermo, and Suzanne Kelley

1. Introductions and Roll Call
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of Meeting Summary from February 25, 2014 CD Committee meeting.
 - a. **Motion by Carr, seconded by Brody to approve the meeting summary for February 25 as submitted. Motion approved; unanimously.**
3. FY 2014 Funding Update
 - a. Hamre updated the Committee on funding; there was a \$38,300 reduction in CDBG and a \$38,656 increase in HOME funding. Staff will work with the Housing Resource Connection (HRC) to redistribute these funds in home program.
 - b. The ESG program was awarded an additional \$27,866 for flex funds.
 - c. The adjustments will be finalized in April with contracts to follows.
4. Follow-up Info on the Housing Market Analysis
 - a. Olesen explained how the number of foreclosures was decreasing in Duluth, but there were homes still being foreclosed on. She explained that the Land Trust home have a success rate of 95% when compared to other programs, but they represent about 1% of homestead properties in Duluth.
 - b. Due to the age of the housing stock in Duluth, there will be an emphasis on rehabbing and remodeling homes to meet demand of suitable housing. The rehabbing and remodeling will also help in revitalizing neighborhoods.
5. Review of Economic Trends and Duluth at Work accomplishments
 - a. Palermo presented a power point showing the Duluth at Work accomplishments. He explained the program assisted people in improving their soft skills, and the cohorts shared common social issues. This program works more intensely with people and assists Work Force in helping people become employed. The goal is for people to make 25% above minimum wage and reduce their need for public assistance.
 - b. Committee members have the following comments/questions, with staff's response:
 - i. Do all the agencies have the same training? Is it equal?
 1. Answer- each program has a tailor training program to meet the needs of their population.
 - ii. How effective is the training? Should there be a specified number of

hours for training?

1. Answer- benchmarks are used to measure performance.
- iii. Would it be reasonable to have expectations for each year?
 1. Answer- fund allocation relate to actions (ie people working) for some people it takes longer than others
- iv. Why are there more African Americans in the program then Indigenous People?
 1. Answer- that will need to be researched, but more than likely it is due to cultural differences
- v. How could this program benefit employers?
 1. Answer- assist employers in hiring qualified and trained people who may have some issues but are being assisted by the agencies in the Duluth at Work program.
- vi. What happens when the people leave the job?
 1. Answer- usually they are not tracked
- vii. Are job coaches provided?
 1. Answer- yes, but not on site.
- viii. It is important for these people to have success, they have not had much success in life and they would not be sent somewhere where they will not succeed.
- ix. Maybe the benchmarks should be revised to be at 6 months to a year.
- x. A major problem with employment is transportation, not all of the employers are on the bus line.
- xi. How will the new livable wage impact the program?
- xii. What are the growing industries in Duluth?
 1. Answer- Aviation mechanics, nursing, and home health care/aid
- xiii. The construction field also needs workers; it is becoming difficult to find people who are interested in working in this field.
- xiv. Should scholarships be provided to children who want to work in the trade? Something they could start training in the summer months?
- xv. The schools offer college programs in the high school; could they create a similar contractor trades program?
- xvi. Since many homes in Duluth will need to be rehab, is there a way for people to be trained and paid to rehab these homes?
- xvii. Daycare is still a major issue with employment.
- xviii. How is diversity being addressed in the program?
- xix. It appears that a cohort not being addressed is single fathers; the focus should be on single parent.

6. Neighborhood Plan Priorities and Accomplishments Discussion

- a. This item was moved to another meeting.

7. Pre-application Process and Funding Models

- a. Hamre summarized the process:
 - i. A letter of intent will need to be submitted by an interested agency.
 - ii. There will be a meeting to review the letters of intention.
 - iii. The agencies progress will be evaluated. The agencies will be

interviewed based on previous accomplishments.

- b. There are 32 organizations that are or have received funding and this process will create a more objective review.
- c. The Committee members should be thinking of questions they would want to ask agencies, such as “what would you change in your program to get better results”

Next Meeting: The next CD Committee meeting will be **April 22th, 2014, at 5:30 pm.**