

Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 7, 2020

Online Meeting

Member Attendees:

Mr. Karl Bernhardsen, At-Large Appointee, Chair
Ms. Mary Ann Callahan, 1st District, Vice-Chair
Ms. LaToya Foster, 2nd District, Secretary
Ms. Brandy Brown, 3rd District
Ms. Michelle O'Loughlin, 5th District
Mr. Brett Pornbeck, 6th District
Ms. JoAnne Hanrahan, Mayoral Appointee
Ms. Debra Hogan, Mayoral Appointee
Ms. Kelly Weiss, Mayoral Appointee

Member Absent:

Ms. Majeedah Razzaq, 4th District

Staff Members Attending:

Mr. Stephen Carson, HUD Manager

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- Meeting called to order: 6:15 PM
 - 3/04/2020 Minutes Approved (1-Hanrahan, 2- Pornbeck, unanimous)
 - Neighborhood Presentations
 - **Richard Jannaccio, Southside**

Members of the guiding committee put together a list of concerns:

 - Safe Housing: people are living in uninhabitable homes
 - Public Transportation: frequency concerns and bus stops not having signs causing new bus drivers and commuters to not know where bus stop is
 - Former Hess Gas Station on Vestal & Pennsylvania Ave and the Mirabito Gas Station: they would like to see them transformed into something instead of them just being vacant
 - Crosswalk Signals Needed: On Mary Street & Vestal Ave as well as by Ben Franklin Elementary School
 - Improving Health & Dental Care: people are leaving town to get better treatment
 - More Litter Baskets: they would like to see more litter baskets to reduce the waste that is on the streets and they would like to see the litter baskets that do currently exist get emptied more frequently
 - Safety Concerns with crossing on Vestal Parkway & Washington Street; also having some type of illumination on the Washington Street Bridge for people who use the Bridge at night
 - They would like help with promotion of their neighborhood assembly meetings; it could not be found on the City site when people went there to look
 - **Megan Brockett: City of Binghamton**
 - Wanted to clarify that neighborhood assembly meetings do exist for residents to attend and that she does attend these meetings as a representative for the Mayor's Office

- The concerns that she has heard so far from the residents at these meetings include:
 - Pot hole, sidewalk, etc... concerns
 - Clean up/beautification of the neighborhoods, one of those places being First Ward Memorial Park
 - More community policing/biking
 - Affordable housing
 - More volunteers to help out; as well as helping in spreading the word about these meetings, creating awareness and helping them get funding
 - **Janet McHenry, Northside**
 - Also interested in receiving help with the promotion of their meetings
 - They are concerns with what happens to some properties after they are taken down
 - Speeding: help with regulating the vehicles speeding down the streets with more police presence (Liberty Street among other streets are affected)
 - Sidewalk repairs: they have a small park with bad sidewalks on Cary & Bevier Street
 - Would also like to see renovations/upgrades to the park on Cary & Bevier; as well as maybe getting a camera placed in the community garden in that park to monitor crimes
 - Cheri Lindsey Park needs to be repaired as well as maintained
 - Unsafe and uninhabitable houses in the area
 - Would like to see more funds provided for home repairs
 - Salvation Army: they would like to see some advancement or some aid giving to the salvation army to help them with their advancement on the new site they are suppose to bring to the the old State St. Bowling Property Lot
 - Binghamton Plaza: needs repairs and renovations
 - **CARES ACT** – as apart of the CARES Act, ESG & CDBG will be allocated funds to help aid residents
 - ESG caps will be removed
 - The Mayor plans to help anyone who is having rent and eviction issues; he would like to do this for about three months; this would be done through the ESG funds. CDBG would then cover families or residents who wouldn't qualify for ESG funds but still qualify as low income
 - Low interest/No Interest Loans to businesses; Stephen suggested tying the loans to specific things i.e. utilities, payroll, etc...
 - Daycare Services: aiding daycare's that are providing care for medical and essential services first and then allocating to daycare providing care for non essential parents
 - Aiding Senior Services and people with immunity compromising conditions
 - Meal vouchers and certificates for essential workers
 - **Recommendations:** Recommends that the Mayor's Office create a digital flyer with information to where residents can find information on forms for Covid related aid
- Meeting adjourned 7:43 PM (1-Pornbeck, 2-Brown, unanimous)