

Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 13, 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. Majeedah Razzaq, 4th District
Ms. Michelle OLoughlin, 5th District
Mr. Brett Pornbeck, 6th District
Ms. JoAnne Hanrahan, Mayoral Appointee
Ms. Kelly Weiss, Mayoral Appointee

Member Absent:

Ms. Debra Hogan, Mayoral Appointee

Staff Members Attending:

Mr. Stephen Carson, HUD Manager

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- Meeting called to order: 6:15 PM
 - Modified spring schedule approved (attached) (1-Hanrahan, 2-Foster, unanimous)
 - **CARES Act Update:**
 - Mayor will be doing a press conference to discuss how the money will be allocated. He will be giving citizens an email address where they can contact Stephen with questions about the CARES Act and how it applies to ESG and CDBG
 - There is also a meeting being scheduled this week with CoC to discuss ESG and give their recommendations on how the funds should be used
 - Brett wanted to know if it would be possible for neighborhood residents to be reimbursed for neighborhood expenses i.e. printing flyers. Stephen said that the neighborhood has to be city recognized and low income, along with other possible qualifiers for this reimbursement to be possible
 - Public Hearing (full transcript will be provided)
 - **Preston Evans – Achieve:** No long term decision has been made about how the Summer Program is going to operate if the social distancing goes into the summer. They are discussing the possibility of online services they could provide in home
 - **Alexis Pleus:** Stressed the importance for low income housing problem, especially when it comes to people with opioid addiction. They aren't able to shelter people and when they try to find low income housing for them it isn't affordable
 - She would like to see the funds given to ESG and CDBG be used to assist people in finding affordable housing and to help those who are shuffling from shelters to hotels to the streets and back to shelters.
 - Temporary closing of public hearing with option to reopen if more speakers at meeting (1-Hanrahan, 2-Weiss, unanimous)
 - The money given to ESG (\$570,000) from the CARES Act can be used to help people pay utility bills that are in critical situations, rent, hotel fees, security deposit if the person has to

- move, etc... The money must be used for Covid-19 causes not for causes prior or not caused by Covid
- A task force with homeless groups in the area will be meeting to discuss what's going on and to give advice on possible issues and stipulations that could pop up and be placed on how to use the CARES Act funds (i.e. HUD changing rules)
 - Agencies having issues due to Covid need to contact the Planning Office and let them know that they need funding. Food programs and agencies need to reach out and express that they need aid
 - A recommendation was made that the agencies that "211" has contact with should send out some type of notice/email informing these agencies that they can reach out to the Planning Office to receive Covid aid
 - It was stressed that if anyone is having issues with homelessness they need to call "211" – which is the Coordinated Entry Program provided by the United Way. 211 is able to assist and direct residents having issues towards the agencies that can provide them help
 - JoAnne recommended that Broome County should have a number that people could call so that they can get answers to any general question they may have, not just homelessness
 - **Angela Riley – Council District 3:** Wanted to know if CDAC is going to make a list of prioritized recommendations; Stephen informed her that this is something CDAC can do after we receive CoC's recommendation
 - **Colleen Bailey:** Wanted to know can the CARES Act funds be used to aid domestic violence victims during this time. Stephen informed her that if someone is affected by DV they can call 211, RISE or the YWCA they have specialist who are better equipped to assist and aid DV individuals. Colleen wanted to know if the hotels could be used because they have the space. Stephen informed her that they best people to decide whether the hotels or shelters was the best way to help would be up to the specialist at RISE, YWCA or 211 who are equipped to make those decisions. He also informed her that they would be meeting soon and could sent her the information on the meeting date and time.
- Meeting adjourned 7:41 PM (1-Razzaq, 2-Hanrahan unanimous)