

Community Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: May 16, 2016

Member Attendees:

Ms. JoAnne Hanrahan Mayoral Appointee, Chair
Ms. Mary Ann Callahan, 1st District, Secretary
Mr. John Young, 2nd District
Mr. Sean Massey, 3rd District
Ms. Majeedah Razzaq, 4th District
Ms. Jen O'Brien, 5th District
Mr. Jerry Kunkle 7th District
Ms. Debra Hogan, Mayoral App.
Ms. Meghan McGuinness, Member At Large

Member Absent:

Ms. Sharyon Gardiner Mayoral Appointee, Vice Chair
Mr. Stephen Comency, 6th District

Staff Members Attending:

Mr. Stephen Carson, Grants Administrator

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Chairwoman JoAnne Hanrahan, and roll call taken.

After the Secretary presented the draft version of the minutes, the Chair asked that they be approved. After a request by Mr. Massey, the minutes were amended to reflect a change in a comment made on page 3 of the minutes of the Public Hearing by Mr. Kunkle that referred to the value of Mr. Massey's expertise in regards to presentations by the Life Choices Center and Family Planning of South Central New York. The Secretary also added grammatical and labeling changes. A motion was made by Ms. Hogan and seconded by Mr. Massey. The minutes were then approved.

The Chair then turned to the finalization of CDAC recommendations for the Annual Action Plan and the budget in anticipation of the City Council meeting scheduled for June 6, 2016.

Ms. Hogan requested that a statement be added in reference to CDAC funds used for police walking patrols for the Northside of Binghamton which includes the center city area. She requested that the center of the city receive the same police presence as other parts of the city. She further stated that such a statement would help to ensure that the Northside is a focal point of the policing strategy.

The Chair inquired regarding the legitimacy of such a request being made by the CDAC.

Mr. Carson responded by referring the group to the blue areas of the CDBG map and confirmed that those areas are within the purview.

A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding issues of relevancy and efficacy if such a specific request. Comments included the fact that the center city would naturally be part of the police strategy for its

walking program, and that while the CDAC can make such a specific request, it would not be a binding request and that it also suggests that the intent of the CDAC could be seen as directing the Chief of Police in the specific use of CDBG funds. Mr. Kunkle questioned the timing of such a request, stating that it should have been taken up before this point in the budget recommendation process.

Ms. Hogan stated that she was asking for specific wording to be added to the CDAC budget narrative asking that the center city and police patrols for it be included.

Mr. Massey stated that he thought the request was an allowable one as it is the duty of specific representatives to advocate for their districts. If the perception is that the center city is not getting adequate attention, then it is perhaps justified.

Mr. Kunkle then stated he would suggest specific wording for his own district, but that it was his belief that the CDAC should not tell the Police Chief “where to put his horses”.

Ms. McGuinness then suggested that the request be phrased as asking that attention be paid to high crime areas.

Mrs. Jenn O’Brien did not think it was appropriate for the CDAC to micro-manage CDBG funds to departments.

After extensive discussion regarding whether the CDAC can make such recommendations regarding how allocated funds are used, with the Chair stating that there would not be a real benefit to any such specific statement in this matter, Ms. Hogan then stated that it was not her intention to create a problem, but rather to ensure that all areas of the city are represented equally in the use of CDAC funding. The discussion was then ended.

The Chair then returned to the discussion of the budget. A question on the park areas that were not eligible for CDBG funding.

Mr. Carson offered a list of ineligible parks, including Fairview Park, Ely Park, West End Park, MacArthur Park, the NYSEG baseball stadium, River Trail, South Mountain Park, and Ross Park.

Mr. Massey asked if the group felt the discussion of the milling and paving budget was final. The general consensus was that the recommendations made in the last meeting were good ones.

The Chair then asked if there were any further questions. Ms. O’Brien asked whether any funds had been specifically earmarked for the Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention in the ESG section of the grant. The Chair responded that they had not and that discussion of the actual allocations of the sum being recommended now would be completed in the Fall.

Mr. Carson added that the City was trying to get new agencies involved in rapid re-housing/homeless prevention, partially due to the fact that HUD is now shifting to permanent housing component of the block grant funding, turning away from transitional, a situation that may mean that rapid re-housing and homeless prevention may be able to be expanded.

The Chair then asked if there were any other items in the budget that required discussions. Mr. Carson reviewed the budget, reflecting no new adjustments.

Mr. Massey made the motion to accept, Mr. Young seconded and the budget recommendations were accepted unanimously.

A final attendance was taken for the record and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

The next scheduled meeting will be September 6, 2016.