

Community Development Board
Corrected Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2008

Members Present: Kathleen Gilluly, Emily Shaffer, Jim Hartung, Duane Loken, Sandy Weiss, Kathy Walters

Members Absent: Uriah Edmunds, Kamber Kelly, David Goodridge

Staff Present: Candi Beaudry, Brenda Beckett, Sarah McNamara, Doris Cole

Others Present: Patrick Chapel – Volunteers of America

The meeting was called to order by Chair Loken at 3:05 pm. with a request that only one member speak at a time. He then announced that there will be no July meeting.

Public Comment Period: None

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a motion by Hartung, seconded by Gilluly.

Volunteers of America: Beckett introduced Patrick Chapel, Volunteers of America, as per the revised agenda. Chapel discussed a Release of Grant Funds from the Veterans Administration for veteran housing from the Veterans Administration Per Diem and Capital Grant. The grant is to provide housing for homeless or seeking housing for veterans of war. This item is a request for the board to accept a reallocation of funds so that VOA can submit an application for CDBG funds through regular channels. Discussion included site acquisition, timeliness for application for federal funding, and that VOA is closely linked with numerous VA projects nationwide. The proposed project will be for transitional housing based on national models. Veterans will have access to healthcare at this facility. Ft. Harrison is attempting to establish a rural model of service called “Peer-to-Peer” leadership which is service enriched with a director and case management on-site. Cost (\$1.8 million) includes normal staff work hours, length of stay (Housing Authority may provide Shelter Plus Care vouchers), and partnerships (Veterans Upward Bound, College of Technology). VOA is contributing \$710,000 towards the project.

A motion was made by Weiss, seconded by Walters, to reallocate \$30,000 in Acquisition/Rehab funds to Affordable Housing funds for VOA. Motion passed unopposed.

Westchester Square Project: Request to allocate \$200,000 to Westchester Square project which includes building three units of affordable and accessible rental housing in the Heights area.

Beckett gave a brief description of the project that was discussed at length in May and noted that staff recommends support of this project and request for funding. ***A motion was made by Walters, seconded by Weiss, to allocate \$200,000 to the Westchester Square Infrastructure project. Motion carried with one opposed.***

City Council Initiative: Beaudry reported that City Council is in the process of overhauling the Board and Commission ordinance to provide consistency in all boards and commissions. She discussed the handouts: a new application, revised ordinance, and handbook, a more complete background document. She requested that board members review these documents and give feedback to either Brenda or herself by July 1. Staff will check the federal regulations for inconsistencies. Once the ordinance is approved, the board by-laws will have to be updated for conformance.

Allocation Process Review: *An opportunity for the Board to review the allocation processes and to make changes.*

Although the consensus is that the process went well, some City Council members would still like to see fewer projects/organizations funded with more money. A meeting with Tina Volek, Beaudry, Beckett, and Loken was held to discuss what City Council intends to do and to discuss meeting with City Council to for specific direction on next year's allocation process. The August meeting of the CD Board will further address questions not answered. It was noted that all who work on applications need to attend the public hearings to answer any questions presented by the City Council.

Staff Updates: Beckett reported that the Annual Action Plan has been finalized with an updated Homeless section. She thanked staff for all their help in completing this plan timely. Billington noted that she is learning how to complete Environmental Review Reports. McNamara reported that the FHIP RFP is out and that she would like to have a brief meeting of the Fair Housing Committee immediately after this meeting as the deadline for the FHIP grant is July 9. Committee members are Weiss, Loken, Goodridge, Shaffer, Beckett, Tammy Johnston, McNamara, and Cole.

Neighborhood Concerns & Happenings: Discussion of graffiti at 5th and Grand noted that there should be less graffiti now as four young people were arrested. Additional discussion ensued about gangs and tagging.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.