

Community Development Board
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2010

Present: Emily Shaffer, Duane Loken, Jim Hartung, Sandy Weiss, and Kamber Parker

Members Not Present: Uriah Edmunds, Kathy Walters, and David Goodridge

Staff Present: Candi Beaudry, Brenda Beckett, Dina Billington, Doris Cole, Lynda Woods, Joanna Culver, and Mike Dummeyer

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m by Sandy Weiss, chairperson. Joanna Culver was introduced as the VISTA who is working with the Billings Area Resource Network (BARN) and the Mayor's Committee on Homelessness.

Public Comments: None.

Minutes: *Loken moved that the minutes of January 5, 2010, be approved. Parker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Staff Reports: Staff reports were distributed. Beckett noted that her staff is incredible. Woods' programs are almost fully committed; the Weatherizaton Program is almost fully committed: Project Homeless Connect was a complete success; the First Time Home Buyer program is extremely popular. Billington is auditing all of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Rental Rehab files, some of which are 20 years old. Woods has taken on the Homeless Initiative as of the January Mayor's Committee meeting, which moved from monthly to quarterly meetings. Staff had its annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consultation, which was extremely productive. Hartung inquired about the Neighborhood Stabilization program (NSP) being a standard on the agenda. Beckett noted that there are current no properties to review. She then discussed the approval process and noted that she will be going to City Council requesting signature authorization for the City Administrator to sign off on properties under \$150,000. She noted that the City only has 30 days to act on a property before it goes back to the Montana Board of Housing.

CDBG / HOME Applications – Site Visit Assignments:

- HN-10 – Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow – Uriah Edmunds
- HN-11 – Rebuilding Together – David Goodridge
- HN-12 – Housing Authority Section 8 Deposit Assistance – Duane Loken
- PS-1 – Big Sky Prevention of Elder Abuse – Sandy Weiss
- PS-2 – Big Sky Senior Helping Hands – Sandy Weiss
- PS-3 – Community Housing Reourse Board – Kathy Walters
- PS-4 – Easter Seals – PLAY Project – Kamber Parker
- PS-5 – Family Services – Duane Loken
- PS-6 – Friendship House – Emily Shaffer
- PS-7 – Interfaith Hospitality Network – Jim Hartung

Members are to report back to the Board at the March 2nd meeting. Beckett then discussed the preliminary budget figures. Discussion ensued regarding an application for clarification. Weiss will contact the Executive Director and inform the board by email of the correct interpretation of the application. Beckett distributed a summary of second quarter CDBG expenditures, noting that the information in red has combined account information for multiple years of funding.

Community Development Applications Review: Beckett then reviewed the CDBG and HOME administration applications submitted by the Community Development Division. Woods discussed the Housing Rehab, Minor Home Repair, Tree, and Paint applications. She noted a change in the Minor Home Repair Program to assist mobile and manufactured homes. Currently, the homes must be post-1976 and the change is to a 30-year threshold of the home. This will ensure the integrity of the program by eliminating older homes that are not feasible to bring it up to current safety standards. Billington discussed the First Time Home Buyer and Affordable Housing Development programs.

Neighborhood Concerns: A new list of board members was distributed and checked for errors. A new list will be distributed next month with changes. Hartung noted that he spoke to the South Side Task force about the need for a CD Board member and noted that he will also speak to the Southwest Corridor Task Force. He also commented on Project Homeless Connect and what a success it was. Weiss announced that Monograms Unlimited is going out of business and she is retiring.

Adjournment: The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2010. Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.