



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 6, 2011

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 260 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL AT 5:04 P.M., JUSTIN MARKOFSKI IN THE CHAIR

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Clingan, Pam Rood, Lorri Wendorf-Corrigan, Mike Miller, Julie Spears, Teresa Cothrine, Tammy Peters

LATE: Tim Bruer (5:15 p.m.); Matt Phair (5:15 p.m.); Monya Choudhury (5:07 p.m.)

LEFT EARLY: Tim Bruer (6:40 p.m.); Shiva Bidar-Sielaff (6:15 p.m.)

Charlie Sanders was in attendance at this meeting. The committee wanted to recognize the great job Charlie did serving as the Chair of the CDBG Committee. Bill Clingan presented Charlie with a plaque honoring his service to the CDBG Committee.

Present: 8 -

Tim Bruer; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Robert M. Hunter; Monya A. Choudhury; Daniel A. O'Callaghan; Justin O. Markofski and Russ Whitesel

Absent: 1 -

David A. Smith, Sr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by O'Callaghan, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS - NONE

COUNCIL REFERRALS

1. [23825](#) That housing be recognized as a human right, and that the City of Madison will work with Dane County, surrounding municipalities, and community partners to develop a Housing Plan and address housing issues in the region.

Heidi Wegleitner from the Affordable Housing Action Line appeared and thanked Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff for introducing this resolution. Federal and state government cuts to affordable housing are attempting to undo decades of local laws that protect housing rights. The existing affordable housing rights need to be maintained in addition to creating new ones. Heidi requested that benchmarks such as dates and how many individuals need affordable housing be added to the resolution and that the resolution be considered by a City-County joint committee to maintain consistency between the City and County.

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff indicated there is a plan and a fiscal impact associated with the resolution. She is comfortable stating that there should be benchmarks, but there are too many unknowns to specifically identify the benchmarks at this time. The City is prepared to move forward and can't speak for how the County will react and how collaborative they will be with the City. She will review the current resolution to see if benchmark language can be added at a later date.

Ald. Matt Phair met with members of the coalition and agrees with the goals. The plan should include landlords, especially problematic landlords.

Russ Whitesel thanked Heidi for her hard work on the grassroots project and thinks it will affect some real change.

A motion was made by Whitesel, seconded by O'Callaghan, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [23920](#)

Approving the Community Development Division's HUD required 2012 Action Plan.

Pam Rood stated the draft plan was distributed at the last CDBG Meeting on September 8, 2011. No public comments have been received on the plan. The only change that has occurred is a correction to the location of the public hearing (the public hearing was at Warner Park instead of the MMB). At this point in time, it is still unknown how much HUD money the City will be receiving. The plan may need to be amended at a later date, but it is due by November 16, 2011.

A motion was made by O'Callaghan, seconded by Whitesel, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. [24078](#)

Section 3 Plan

Pam Rood indicated that the Section 3 regulation has been in existence since 1968 and HUD has not been enforcing it until recently. The Department of Civil Rights, Community Development Division (City and County), and other agencies have collaborated on the plan.

Russ Whitesel asked if this plan is replacing a different plan. Pam stated that this plan is not replacing anything, but it is a new plan for the City.

Dan O'Callaghan asked how many projects are likely to be impacted by this plan. Pam stated the threshold is \$100,000 and could possibly impact a handful of projects.

The Committee supported staff efforts and the concept and direction of the plan.

Refer to the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE and list on the agenda as an action item.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. [24079](#) Neighborhood Center funding process

Lorri Wendorf-Corrigan stated an operational study has been occurring on how the Community Development Division funds Neighborhood Centers. A survey has been sent out to all Neighborhood Centers asking them to prioritize their importance to their neighborhoods and an inventory of activities. We don't want Neighborhood Centers to be viewed as serving only low-income citizens. Surveys and meetings will occur in November with the Neighborhood Centers. In December, staff will be making recommendations. In January, the committee will act on the recommendations from staff. In February, the Neighborhood Centers will be informed of the new process and implemented incrementally. No centers will be shut down or disenfranchised.

Monya Choudhury requested that staff ask the Board of Directors for the Neighborhood Centers if a gradual change is helpful or harmful. The centers can be viewed as being supported by the City and it can actually cause more issues.

Russ Whitesel stated that it is important to be upfront and honest about the money scarcity within the City to the centers.

Monya stated that agencies are used to weathering problems and do have coping mechanisms.

Russ asked about the status of Neighborhood House. Lorri stated the Conference Committee needs to be scheduled. Once the meeting is convened, the committee will determine how much (if any) money will be allocated to Neighborhood House. Lorri will be introducing Neighborhood House documentation at the next meeting.

Discuss and Finalize.

5. [24080](#) 2012 Budget

Bill Clingan stated that a 5% cut from the 2011 City Budget was submitted at the Mayor's request. The Mayor introduced the budget and restored all funding

to the Community Development Division except for supplies/administration costs. The Common Council will debate and make the final decisions regarding the budget in mid-November and if any changes are made to the Community Development Division budget, the division and supporting committees will need to revisit previous funding decisions. The Federal Government is proposing a 25.3% cut in HOME funds (House version) and a 14% cut in CDBG funds and a 37% cut in HOME funds (Senate version). There will likely be federal cuts and previous funding decisions may need to be revisited. Staff is trying to analyze how to best address the situation by looking at trends to better estimate what that means to Madison. The Federal Government fiscal year starts in October.

Discuss and Finalize

6. [24081](#)

WWBIC Presentation

Ruth Rohlich, Project Director, and Fausto Rivera, Loan Officer, appeared on behalf of WWBIC. They distributed several handouts including: upcoming workshops, success stories, loan fund fact sheets, and 2010 client facts. WWBIC provides over 100 education programs and workshops in Dane County per year at libraries and Villager Mall. They partner with the Latino Academy, Latino Chamber, WHEDA, and MDC (Madison Development Corp) and advertise their services in the Northside News. Programs are open to anyone who is interested and not just women. They have considered changing their name, but want to retain their historical value. Currently, they have \$221,990 to lend to the City of Madison and have closed \$136,000 in loans, including 17 business loans this year. 75% of their clients are female, 25% are male and 50% are minority-owned.

Bill Clingan asked how WWBIC interacts with the Hmong community. Ruth stated that they hold entrepreneur training classes for Hmong farmers on Mondays, including translation services. There is little written documentation for the Hmong Community and there has not been a high demand for it. Trust is very important for this population and they are often self-financed. Bill suggested utilizing the WORT radio program and the New Year celebration as outreach tools to get the Hmong population familiar with the community.

Russ Whitesel asked if WWBIC's name deters certain individuals from applying for their services. Ruth stated that she hopes that is not the case, but it is possible. They are using the acronym WWBIC more frequently as opposed to Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corp to attract new people. They advertise their services as helping all people and not just women. Monya Choudhury stated that she respects WWBIC having an annual conversation about the possibility of changing their name and empathizes with them.

Tim Bruer asked Ruth if WWBIC interfaces with CDA Facade Grants or the Capitol Revolving Fund. Ruth stated that WWBIC does interface with those programs. WWBIC looks forward to working more closely with those City programs in conjunction with their services.

Discuss and Finalize

REPORTS

7. [24083](#) CDBG October 2011 Staff Report

Bill Clingan updated the committee on the status of Green Madison. Dane County wants to partner with and provide additional money to the City of Madison for Green Madison. The DOE approved this partnership.

Bill stated the Mayor has asked the division to work with Owl Creek on the Southeast side of Madison. Owl Creek is very isolated from public transportation, however, Latundra Davis will be working with several entities involved with Owl Creek approximately 10-15 hours per week.

Pam Rood reviewed the Dane County Economy Fact Sheet that was included in the CDBG packets. Dane County had the fastest growing population of any county in Wisconsin, growing at a rate of over 9% in the last decade.

Pam Rood stated that DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) returned approximately \$15,000 in Federal ESG funds allocated to them by the CDBG. They received an unexpected donation which will be used in lieu of the ESG funds. The money is returned to the Federal ESG fund so it can be reallocated.

Discuss and Finalize

8. [23760](#) Report from committees with CDBG Committee representation and designation of Commission representatives.
1. Gardens Committee
 2. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award Committee
 3. Committee on Office of Neighborhood Support
 4. Community Development Authority (Bruer)
 5. Other Commission representation or relationships

Matt Phair stated that he is very excited to be a member of the Community Gardens Committee. His dad started a community garden and it has flourished over the years.

Discuss and Finalize

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Whitesel, seconded by Choudhury, to Adjourn at 6:43 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.