



City of Madison Meeting Minutes - Final

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMISSION

Thursday, December 7, 2006

6:15 PM

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Bruer, Cindy Thomas, Monya A. Choudhury, Kristina L. Dux, Arthur V. Robinson, Steven C. Bartlett, Carl G. Silverman, Justin O. Markofski and Charlie R. Sanders

Excused: Santiago Rosas and Sophia Angelina Estante

Others present: Enis Ragland, Hickory Hurie, Mary Charnitz

WELCOME - CHAIR'S REPORT

Silverman called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

Markofski updated the Commission on community development-related news.

PRESENTATION ON MAYOR'S PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Enis Ragland, Assistant to the Mayor, reviewed the major points of the plan to reorganize the Department of Planning and Development. His goals are to increase the economic development focus of the department, enhance services to neighborhoods, streamline the land use decision process, and improve coordination of human services.

In order to accomplish these goals, Enis reviewed these primary recommendations:

- a) place all financial assistance-related functions in several different offices and units into one unit to be called the Economic Development Unit. This would include CDBG, Community and Economic Development Unit, Office of Business Resources, Community Services and the Senior Center.*
- b) expand the neighborhood planning function;*
- c) establish a physical and virtual one-stop shop;*
- d) establish several studies and pilots to improve coordination among various department agencies providing human services.*

The Commissioners then discussed, clarified or asked questions regarding the plan:

- a) We have always struggled with the issue of delivery of neighborhood services. CDBG and OCS look at the same neighborhood center but without the two commissions talking to each other during the summer process. Community Services will cut core centers and not discuss that impact with the CDBG Office or Commission. I would like to know how the City as a whole supports neighborhood centers.*
- b) There are some funds that Planning, OCS and CDBG distribute to neighborhoods.*

CDBG used to provide some small grants to neighborhoods but found them to be uneconomical; then Planning started to make these small grants using City funds.

c) I do not see how the movement of little boxes will address the mayor's goals. Should not the changes be in the policies and not in the boxes?

d) We should take a less fragmented approach to challenge neighborhoods, and move it into a coherent CDBG/OCS/CDA coordinated effort. Neighborhood indicators are an important aspect of this approach.

e) CDBG has invested in both people and places. We want to look at the positive signs of growth, not just the negative indicators.

f) We need data to shape our financial priorities.

g) I went to the public hearing; what I heard was a concern that the organization chart shows everything under a label of economic development because it was a championed cause, but not much that addresses housing or neighborhood development per se.

h) Burr Oaks had a strategy of public safety. I do not know if that fits the label of economic development, but they were focused on income balance in their neighborhood, jobs. A focus on just businesses may not include that neighborhood or community perspective.

i) I am unclear about how the recommendations address the merger of the two commissions (Community Services and CDBG). Has there been more discussion about how these relate to staff operations. Wouldn't it be more practical to merge the staff, and then review the commissions' relationships to build a more holistic approach?

j) Could we save time for the community agencies if they came to the same office and commission?

k) Another puzzling item is the suggested administrative structure where three top managers report directly to the mayor. This is a set-up for conflict. If we do not have a focused line of command, then reorganization may not change the current problems. The plan seems pretty blurry to me.

l) The delivery of services should be cohesive and focused, and not split.

m) The report notes that there are three strategies: merge, assign the overlap to one or the other office, or separate with a clear delineation of who does what. I am concerned about the mission creep of Community Services into giving technical assistance to neighborhood associations, which was the traditional role of the Planning Unit and into revitalization activities, which was coordinated between CDBG and CED. Things seem less clear now.

n) Who is supposed to give clear direction to people in the department, currently, and in the new structure, with three different reporting managers?

o) You can have a lot of boxes or one box, but if you do not have a clear focus, it does not matter. You need a manager to keep people focused. This is clear with the Allied Drive situation.

Staff noted also that they will send some additional information on the current structure and functions of the related units within the department as part of the packet for the

January meeting.

Enis suggested that Commissioners send their comments to Janet Piraino and himself in care of the Mayor's Office.

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Amending Section 16.04 and relocating, amending, and renumbering Section 3.18 as Section 16.05 of the Madison General Ordinances to reflect the reorganization of the Department of Planning and Development as the Department of Economic and Community Development and to update existing references in various Chapters to reflect the changes in Department and Unit names.

Commission will take up this matter at their meeting on Jan. 4, 2007.

Rerefer to the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN CURRENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS OR FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS

Carryover of Funds

The Commission reviewed the following projects for carry-over into 2007:

** Hiestand concentration neighborhood plan implementation project funds, including two neighborhood park improvement projects and a neighborhood identity signage project for a total of up to \$126,300, because of some delays in the final approval of the plan and negotiations regarding the selection of projects;*

** South Madison/Bay Creek concentration neighborhood plan implementation project funds for projects to be identified in the plan, up to \$152,000; due to an extended planning process for the overall neighborhood plan, and changes in the composition of the neighborhood planning committee;*

** Common Wealth Development: Thornton Ave. Housing up to \$499,500 in HOME funds for purchase or partnership with the buyer of State surplus property in the East Isthmus area, until April 2007;*

** Movin' Out Homeownership: up to \$67,970 in HOME funds to assist low income households with disabilities move into homeownership;*

** Community Action Coalition: community gardens improvement, up to \$3,895 in CDBG funds to complete two physical improvement projects;*

** Wexford Neighborhood Center construction, up to a total of \$357,000 (CDBG and EDI), due to Center-School negotiations and fund-raising time-tables, through December 2008;*

** Arboretum Co-housing, up to \$383,200, and Habitat Erin/Emerald, up to \$88,000, co-housing and workforce housing projects (HOME and EDI funds);*

** C-CAP: Northport Commons Homeownership Assistance up to \$380,000 in HOME funds.*

A motion was made by Bartlett, seconded by Bruer, to approve the carry-over of 8 projects into 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

Project Home Prairie Crossing

Hurie announced that the Mayor will be meeting with the Director of WHEDA on Thursday and requested that the Commission refer the Prairie Crossing request to the January meeting.

A motion was made by Bartlett, seconded by Bruer, to refer the issue to the January meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 2 were reviewed.

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Bartlett, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by the following vote:

Excused: Rosas and Estante

Aye: Bruer, Thomas, Choudhury, Dux, Robinson, Bartlett, Markofski and Sanders

Non Voting: Silverman

STAFF REPORT

Staff noted that Commissioners were invited to send their comments on the Allied presentation concepts to the Mayor and to the CDBG Office so that they could be packaged and offered to the Allied Task Force. The Task Force will review the proposals and comments during the month of January and make recommendations to the Council. During February and March, the CDBG Commission will be part of the formal referral process to review the Task Force recommendations. The Mayor's goal is to have the Council act on the recommendations before the elections in April (2007).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Thomas, to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed.