



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 2, 2012

5:00 PM

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

There may be a quorum of CSC, ECCEC, COA, Conference Committee and Funding Process Subcommittee Present.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

STAFF: Charnitz, Kenny, Wallinger, Dungan, Rhodes, Miller, Noel, O'Donnell, Host, Wendorf-Corrigan, Rodriguez

Markofski called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: 7 -

Lauren Cnare; Matthew J. Phair; Robert M. Hunter; Monya A. Choudhury; Daniel A. O'Callaghan; Justin O. Markofski and Russ Whitesel

Excused: 2 -

Tim Bruer and Liz Dannenbaum

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one registered to speak.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

NEW BUSINESS

[27206](#)

Authorizing up to \$37,970 of CDBG funds to make accessibility modifications to the YWCA's Empowerment Center.

Rachel Krinsky introduced herself and Larry Allen. She explained that they're here to request funding to increase the accessibility and ADA compliance at the Empowerment Center at 3101 Latham Drive. They provide four types of programs out of their center: the YW Transit program, the Girls, Inc. program, employment and training programs, and some of their racial justice programs and other community events. They hope to complete the following

modifications with the CDBG funding assistance: providing an ADA-compliant main entry access with power assist on all the doors; lowering the reception desk and cabinetry access; switching the hardware on the doors and bathroom faucets to lever style; removing the shower that will make space for one of the bathrooms to be ADA accessible; and restriping the parking lot and providing ADA signage for parking.

Whitesel asked if the revisions were based on a complaint they had.

Allen said there was no formal complaint made. Allen said that the impetus for this came about when someone who was in a wheelchair came to the Empowerment Center. The person could access services but had some difficulty maneuvering part of the building. and at that point, the Empowerment Center staff did a self assessment of the building's accessibility level. He

Whitesel asked if the requested funds were sufficient to complete the project.

Allen said he believes they can complete the project with the requested amount.

Choudhury asked if removing the shower would create problems.

Allen said they don't have a need for the shower, and if it were kept it would limit the amount of turn-around space available to make the bathroom accessible.

Hunter noted that the building hasn't had a recent appraisal, and it's pretty close to the 110% loan-to-value (Correction: The limit is 115%)(LTV) ratio limit right now.

Krinsky said that because they're a non-profit, they don't have to get it accessed.

Hunter asked if it were going to go above the 110% (115%) LTV ratio.

Krinsky said she didn't think so.

Charnitz said that if it turns out that the LTV ratio is over 110% (115%), then staff would recommend they come back to the Committee for a waiver to that requirement since the project improves accessibility and accessibility is one of CDBG's high priorities.

O'Callaghan moved to approve staff recommendations to include moving \$9,382 from the Housing Reserve Fund to the Acquisition/ Rehab Funds, with the further condition that the CDBG Committee approved a waiver of the 115% loan-to-value limit to allow the YWCA to incur a loan-to-value of up to 125%. Choudhury seconded. Unanimous.

Ald. Cnare made a motion for a 15 minute recess. O'Callaghan seconded. Unanimous

The CDBG Committee reconvened at 5:33 along with the Community Services

Committee.

Community Services Committee (CSC) Members joined CDBG Committee members for the public hearing. Present from the CSC were Fay Ferington, Jean MacCubbin, Alan Sweet, and Paul Van Rooy. Sweet noted that Fay Ferington is the chair of the Committee on Aging and that Scott Peters, who is in the audience, is the chair of the Early Childhood Care and Education Committee.

Members of both Committees introduced themselves.

PUBLIC HEARING

Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director of the Kennedy Heights Community Center, thanked the Committees for their time. She noted that this year, neighborhood and community centers were not included in the Summer Funding Process because they are being studied right now. When the Mayor directed departments to submit budgets with a 5% cut in City funding, all neighborhood and community centers received an equal and proportional cut. She asked if the Mayor resorted the 5% if all the neighborhood and community centers would receive an equal and fair proportion of the funds restored. She wanted to remind the Committees that community centers are out there doing high quality work.

Stephanie Rearick, Director of Dane County TimeBank Youth Court, said they applied for funding to replace Office of Justice assistance funding that they received in their first three years of operations, but they weren't recommended for funding through the CSC. She requested that they be considered for additional funding if the Office of Community Services (OCS) receives additional funding. One of the unique components of that the Dane County TimeBank Youth Court program is that they work with kids at point of arrest and take referrals directly from the police department. They work on improving the relationship between police and kids, which is the first step in the racial disparities they see growing at every step in the justice system. They are also connected with a neighbor-to-neighbor time bank, which connects kids with neighborhood resources and reduces their conviction to lower level offenses, which tends to work better for kids. The schools that they work in use the TimeBank to access more community resources. Rearick believes they are a very good prevention and early diversion program, which addresses many priorities the City has laid out, including stopping the school-to-prison pipeline.

Dan Guinn, Executive Director of the AIDS Network, said he wanted to thank the Committee for its past and present support. AIDS Network appreciates the ongoing funding. He said he was available for questions.

Lucy Gibson, supporting Mentoring Positives, asked the Committee to reconsider funding for Mentoring Positives. She handed out a copy of her comments to the Committees. She said she joined the Mentoring Positives board because they were doing what she wanted to see done. She tried to mentor children whose mothers were addicted, which caused her great stress and heart-ache and fear for the future of society. She said Will and Becky Green have been working on a shoestring budget for a long time, and they

essentially provide free services for a number of children in the Darbo-Worthington neighborhood. Last year, they achieved 501(c)(3) status. They and the Mentoring Positives board are working hard to make Mentoring Positives sustainable. She asked the Committee for support to keep them from burning out before their goals can be achieved.

Lindsay Kubicek, supporting for Mentoring Positives, shared her story about how Mentoring Positives helped her address her negative behavior. She handed out a copy of her comments, she said Becky Green of Mentoring Positives helped her change her life forever, and she is still Kubicek's mentor, role model, inspiration, and biggest supporter. She feels like her life has meaning and that her purpose is to help others in the same way Becky Green helped her. She said Mentoring Positive's approach to helping at-risk teens and families is realistic and unique. They teach kids mindfulness and discuss real life problems and solutions. They discuss topics that raise awareness about emotional grooming, peer pressure, mindfulness, and creating boundaries. If funding is not given to Mentoring Positives, kids will lose the one thing they need the most. Mentoring Positives is not just an organization; it is a movement that will forever change the way the community relates, communicates, learns from, and teaches kids.

Mark Richardson, of Urban League of Greater Madison, thanked the Committee for Schools of Hope funding and JSMP funding. He said Industry Specific Training was not funded, and he requested it be funded if any funds are restored. Their goal is to attract private sector businesses and have them be customers who hire their trainees. That's what Industry Specific Training is designed to do. They offer training in customer service, IT, health care administration, food service, and foundations for the trades.

Rachel Krinsky, CEO of YWCA, and De'Kendrea Stamps of YWCA's YW Transit Program, thanked the Committee for the time they've put into the process. Krinsky said their biggest remaining concern is YW Transit, which is slated for a significant cut that will matter to them. YWCA took on this program at the City's request. The program earns a 3:1 match from WEPAP, and match comes from City funding, rider fares, and other sources of fundraising. Also, she said they believe that the recommendation to make a cut stemmed in large part because the Committee and staff felt that the Night and Day Program belonged in the Access to Services area. She would like to see the City consider the program in the Access category and fund the proposal in full. She said YW Transit is the only affordable transportation option at places and times that can't be reached by bus service. It's free or affordable for riders and cost effective for funders. It offers free safe rides in Madison at night. It offers job rides to any place in Dane County that can't be reached by bus. Most of those rides begin or end in the City of Madison. The average cost of a YW Transit ride is \$15.54, which is much less expensive than their former average. They increased the number of rides by so far 25% this year. The average cost of a ride in the city is \$9.66, where a comparable cab ride would be \$25. The average cost of a ride to and from outside the city of Madison is \$19.31, where a comparable cab ride would be between \$30 to \$50. Those averages are based on one passenger, and most of their rides are shared rides.

Stamps said that YW Transit averages about 19,000 rides/year. She described some of the clients YW Transit has served. Job ride clients contribute to the city's economy in a variety of ways. She said she would appreciate it if the

Committee could restore their funding.

Margie Zutter, Executive Director of RSVP of Dane County, thanked the Committees for the opportunity to speak. She also said they really appreciate the funding they've received from the City all these years and hopes that if there's additional funding, the Committee will restore RSVP funding to this year's level. She passed out copies of their annual report. Their mission is twofold. They place seniors in a variety of different non-profit and public agencies that serve the city. Also, staying active and having meaningful volunteer work contributes to the health of seniors. People need to have meaning to their lives, and RSVP can help them do that. They provide personalized placement and find something that each volunteer wants to do. They have two volunteers who are over 100 years old. They have assignments for younger retirees and older adults. They screen volunteers who are working with vulnerable populations, and they provide follow up to make sure volunteers are happy with their current assignments. Research indicates that volunteers have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those that do not volunteer. She said it's important with the growing senior population to keep people active and independent, and RSVP can help with this.

Kelly Krein, Board President of RSVP, said she wanted to stress the range of public and private agencies that RSVP volunteers serve. A number of those agencies are City agencies or City-funded agencies. The annual report gives statistics on the number of hours RSVP volunteers have served at the various agencies. They just did a survey for their Community Connections program, and the survey results came back overwhelmingly positive. The need for RSVP volunteers is even more critical now with cuts in public funding to agencies they serve. She thanked the City for its continual support.

Tom Solyst, Executive Director of Vera Court Neighborhood Center, said he recognizes the hard work the Committee had to do this summer. He said that if the Committee is able to restore cuts, he asks that they do it proportionally across centers. He asked the Committee to remember the community centers and said he hopes that the Committee restores the 5% cuts community centers have received. He noted that community centers have not been part of this Summer Funding Process, but community centers provide wonderful programs in all parts of the city, and their needs are expanding. He sees part of the Committee's role as being advocates for all the programs and agencies they support.

Whitesel said that the Conference Committee restored the 5% cuts to centers on their B-list of recommendations.

Michael Johnson, Executive Assistant of Boys and Girls Club, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak and said he wanted to reiterate some of the things Solyst said. He said he realizes that the Committees have tough decisions to make. He just wanted to remind the Committee of the great work BGC does with youth and adults. He shared statistics. The BGC in Madison was named one of the top 10 clubs in the nation to receive the Be Great Graduate award. Also, they were named one of the top five clubs to receive an award for financial literacy. They are the only Boys and Girls Club in the U.S. to have a full service credit union inside their Boys and Girls Club. More than 500 kids have accounts. Over 650 kids this summer participated in their local

programs. He described some of the programs and gave statistics. They run the largest college preparatory program in the county. All kids in the program graduated high school, and 95% of them are in college. They have 40 tutors working in 20 classrooms and five area high schools. They have served 40,000 meals to members so far this year and have a food pantry at their Boys and Girls Club. They have expanded the number of young people they have served this year. They provide service in five high schools and two middle schools, as well as to kids in the Brentwood area. They also have 75 partners utilizing their buildings. They started a GED program this year and started two alternative schools in partnership with the school district. They also created a music studio and a created a media arts program and a dance program. With the support from the City and philanthropic community, they also purchased new vans to pick up kids from 14 different schools every day. He encouraged the Committee to protect the funding of the centers in the community.

Peter Gray, a business person and volunteer with BGC, said he was here to represent the business community. He chairs a committee of business leaders who partner with BGC to support it, and the BGC has a lot of support in the business community. He said they would be disappointed if their funding got cut. The BGC has shown the capacity to help the City in Brentwood. Personally, he went to a Boys and Girls Club when he was a kid. He knows what a great organization it is and what an incredible force for good in the community it is. It deserves its funding increased or maintained.

Isadore Knox said the needs for youth are increasing. The BGC is clearly expanding its services. He really likes BGC's collaboration. He is part of South Side Raiders, which collaborates with BGC. It couldn't continue to exist if it didn't collaborate with BGC. Some of the City's processes don't lend themselves to support small groups. He said the community needs to look at changing its priorities if it's going to serve the needs of everyone in the community.

Victoria Harris said she has been in the South Madison community all her life. She is before the Committees representing some of the BGC workers. In her role as Parent Engagement Coordinator, she works with and reaches out to parents to help them get involved in their school community and more involved in BGC. She grew up in South Madison when the center was the South Madison Neighborhood Center. Her children went through the BGC, and both children want to give their time to BGC. It's so important to maintain what we have and not decrease what we have so that the children have a bright future.

Christina Mackay said her daughter goes to the BGC, and she participates in several activities, including cheerleading with the Raiders, dancing with the CAPA Program, participating in the College Club. The BGC is a good support for her family, and funding needs to be increased.

Rita Blilie said she is a long-time resident of the south side. She has two children that attend the BGC. The programs and services offered by BGC have made a huge impact on her family not only because of the programs her children participate in, but also because of the programs that have helped her advance in her career. BGC helps her focus on her career by helping her with daycare assistance. Other programs that have helped include the College Club and summer camp with its book reading program and field trips. The club has

also allowed her to volunteer with such groups as the South Side Raiders and the cheerleaders. It helps when all the parents are involved. The Club is open to all children, and funding needs to be increased.

Deonte Seroy said the Boys and Girls Club is a great place for him to go during the school year and during the summer because he can play with his friends and hang out. They have a lot of good sports going on there, and he said he can use the computers there also. He likes the BGC and thinks it's a great place for him to go to.

Delevius Culver said he's been attending the BGC since he was seven years old. It is a great place to go for kids his age and younger. They provide food, and the staff at the club really cares. They are considerate and do a great job. He thinks the funding should be continued.

Denzel Irby said he was the BGC's Youth of the Year. He said he is a product of what the BGC can do. He was nurtured by the BGC and educated there as well. College was kind of a dream, but at the Club he was expected to go to college. He's now going to DePaul University studying acting. He thinks the Club has great opportunities for kids with dancing and singing. He thinks funding should be continued.

Joyce Gilmer said she had three points to share about the BGC. First, kids need a safe place. Second, it provides increased opportunities for diversity. And third, it helps reduce the negative crime stats. She said she is a parent of a student at the BGC. She spoke mostly about the stigma of racial disparity in Dane County. Funding is always a real issue. She said most people create crime based on lack of need and lack of opportunity. BGC has really expanded in the last few years. The BGC is reaching a larger number of individuals in the county than ever before. She spoke about racism and racial disparity.

Whitesel asked everyone who didn't get a chance to talk to raise their hands if they agreed with the speakers. Markofski asked everyone to give a "Go Club" shout out.

Gayle Westfahl, a volunteer with Mentoring Positives, thanked the Committees for their service to the City. She said she worked in the Darbo neighborhood for more than five years at the Salvation Army Community Center. She has been in contact with Mentoring Positives on almost a daily basis for about three years. She observed the need to support this organization. Mentoring Positives has applied for City funding three times and been denied all three times. Mentoring Positives is unique. It handles an extremely wide range of kids' needs. Will and Becky Green have both worked in the juvenile court system and are referred some of the toughest cases and the kids no one else wants to work with. Will is a fatherly role model in a neighborhood noticeably lacking in present fathers. He commands a respect and authority that few could establish and money can't buy. Will and Becky's vision for what Mentoring Positives could do in the neighborhood is ambitious and unique. To not offer them funding for their efforts would be unfortunate. She described different programs Mentoring Positives has held in the community. Their heroic efforts are unsustainable if they do not receive extra funding. This is not a presence the City wants to lose. Funding them makes economic sense. The battle for the hearts and minds of these kids is not easy amidst the negative pressures and chaotic events of the Darbo neighborhood. Will and Becky are

giving it all they've got, and to ask to them to do it alone is unthinkable.

Jim Jenkins, a board member for RSVP, thanked the Committees for what they do. He is also a volunteer for RSVP. He described his experiences when he first went to volunteer with RSVP. He said RSVP found a place for him to volunteer that has been extraordinarily meaningful to his life. He's involved with the Red Cross and is a disaster team leader. Without RSVP he would be sitting at home watching TV. He encouraged restoration of RSVP's funding.

George Hagenauer, data coordinator of 4-Cs, handed out the data report for 4-Cs by zip code. He said that 4-Cs does a very successful Latino project that works with about 50 low income providers in the City of Madison. There are about 100 other low income providers that speak English. They don't even put proposals together for that because they know there's no money to fund it. Last week the Mayor talked to the Chamber of Commerce about the state formulas and how X amount of dollars leave Madison and X amount of dollars comes into Madison. We really need to start doing something about that. The first level would be to create a City subcommittee that studies it and double checks the numbers. And then come up with something that basically trains County Board members, City Council members, members of the community, and the Chamber of Commerce on how that affects economic development. It affects economic development majorly. He would suggest that the Committee does an internal process to look at that. We're looking next year at a potential cut of 8% to human services at the Federal level. If that goes through a strainer, it will increase it to 10% or 12% at the level of the City of Madison. Then we're further pushed behind. He's suggesting taking advantage in the Mayor's interest in that.

Linda Lane of Independent Living, Inc. (ILI) thanked the Committee for the confidence in her agency and its programs as demonstrated by the funding recommendations. ILI's two programs are OT/Home Assessment Safety program and the Home Share program. She understands the challenges the Committee has in this economic environment, and she just wanted to tell the Committee she appreciates its support.

Dave Peters registered to speak on homeless issues. He said he's been in Madison for about a year-and-a-half. He described his first night in Madison near the Capitol and how difficult it was for him. Since he's been in Madison, he has known three people to die of exposure. He said the obituaries attributed their deaths to natural causes. He asked since when has indifference or apathy been the natural cause of freezing to death. If someone would have offered them a cup of coffee or allowed them in their establishment long enough to warm up, it might have given them a chance. He was a member of Occupy Madison which is made up of people of social conscience trying to make a difference. This winter they opened up a camp that gave shelter to over 100 people. People slept in tents at the camp. They are trying to make a difference. We have a governor whose only concern is about the 1%, the richest people who will feather his nest. We have a mayor who is in denial about homelessness. What we need to do is to address the problems in a multi-disciplinary approach. We have to find adequate housing for these people. Governor Tommy Thompson abolished a program where the County would pay for people to have a place to stay off the street. The prices of rent in Madison are extremely high. We need to have affordable housing. Coops might be the answer. We need to try old ideas that have worked and implement new

ideas. Madison is a place that has opportunity. We could have a model that other cities want to emulate, but it's going to take money, commitment, and an inter-disciplinary approach. We need shower facilities and bus tickets to help people get jobs.

Michelle Dolbeau Anak of Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative (WWBIC) thanked the Committee for its continued support. She said WWBIC would continue to work with Madison Black Chamber of Commerce and Latino Chamber of Commerce as closely as they can. She is a business assistance counselor with WWBIC. She is considered a resource person. She is on the frontlines every day with Madison businesses. She works with them very intensely with their financials, cash flow projections, and strategic marketing ideas. The businesses really do have a lot of support from WWBIC beyond just resources. She has the opportunity to see these businesses through challenges and expansion and growth. She said this is allowing them to make a huge impact with these businesses and to create jobs.

Fausto Rivera of WWBIC thanked the Committee for funding. He said WWBIC provides funds to individuals who are looking for a little extra capital to satisfy their contract requirements or hire extra people to help them meet deadlines. Since the last time they were before the Committee, they actually approved three new loans that are going to create eight new jobs.

Sharyl Kato, Director of the Rainbow Project, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. She said she was going to talk about some of the national data that has been reflected locally. She gave statistics on child abuse and said that five children die every day as a result of abuse and more than 75% are under the age of four. Almost half of the fatality victims from abuse or neglect involve children under the age of one. Nationally, three women on average are murdered by their boyfriends or husbands every day, and 3.3 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. In the past five years, there were 111 child fatalities in Wisconsin, and 92% were under three years of age. Wisconsin's domestic violence homicide reached a record high in 2009. Sixty-seven deaths were attributed to domestic violence, and least 52 children were orphaned or left with one parent. Locally in Dane County, one in four women and their children will be victims of domestic violence. They are suspended, hospitalized, and discharged from early childhood programs, and they are groomed as early as kindergarten for gang involvement. She said she was here to speak for vulnerable children who are young and absent oftentimes from the City budget. They're not always in crisis, but they will continue to be if they don't have trauma and early intervention services. She wanted to talk about the flowchart she passed out at the last hearing on July 23. The flowchart talks about seeing more hospitalizations and out-of-home placements. Rainbow needs the BGC, and every single agency represented tonight Rainbow has worked with. It is a very strong, interconnected community, which can be whittled away in one fell swoop. She said she is hoping that the \$7,000 the Committee is recommending to be cut from the 2012 funding will be overturned because if not, Rainbow will have to cut people they're currently funding without even addressing the waiting list.

Christie Howell-Yrios said she is Executive Director from Animal Crackers and is here to support Rainbow. She also thanked the Committee for considered funding for the Animal Crackers' grant. She said that many vulnerable children have been at and are currently at Animal Crackers. They are located on the

southwest side in the Hammersley neighborhood, which is one of the neighborhoods the Mayor has shown a lot of support for. There's lots of internal community support also. She said it really does take a village to raise a child, and most of the organizations that spoke before her, she has worked with, is currently working with, or will work with in the future. In the past four years, their families have experienced a high level of stress due to the economy. Domestic abuse, murder, and attempted murder of children have all been on the rise. Homelessness is also on the rise. Their centers have needed support dealing with these issues, and the only program that can handle these sorts of situations currently is Rainbow. Rainbow's mission is to provide healing and hope for young children and their families, and that really says it all. It also matches the Animal Crackers mission, which is to provide all children with equal access to high quality City-accredited daycare. Some of these circumstances that children and their families have experienced have led them to be let go or removed from other early care and educational programs. In order to continue to work effectively with these children and their families, Animal Crackers needs the best resources and support from agencies such as Rainbow. She asked the Committee to consider the children.

Nicole Hoffmaster spoke on behalf of Rainbow and said she was a product of Rainbow. She was married to an abusive man, and she had two children with him. When her boys were ages two and four, she was referred to the Rainbow Project. Initially, they offered her family therapy and personal therapy, which helped her to gain some self esteem and get rid of some of the guilt that she was feeling. Rainbow helped her with her situation, which provided her with the strength to leave her husband, move on, and go forward with her kids. Her children are doing wonderfully, and she is now a student at Edgewood getting a degree to become an advocate for children. If it were not for the Rainbow Project, she would still be with her husband. She asked the Committee to reconsider funding for Rainbow.

Bruce Wallbaum spoke on behalf of Tenant Resource Center (TRC). He gave a brief overview of TRC's application for funding for a homeless day center. It's a center that provides laundry facilities, showers, and other basic needs that aren't being met in the community right now. They're trying to meet with people on a one-on-one basis throughout the town. They've spoken with the police and private businesses. The County has talked about buying a building for the center. A new Committee on Homelessness met on Tuesday night, and he wanted to address a couple of objections to this idea that came up in that meeting. One objection concerned not knowing how many people this will serve, and Wallbaum said they serve roughly 40-50 people in a four hour block on a day that they have service. He gave an example of the day center in Rockford, IL, and said that center serves roughly 96 people per day.

Allen Barkoff spoke on behalf of TRC. He said that after listening to the various groups advocating for their very worthy causes, he's a little frustrated and angered that people have to come before the Committee and ask for money. He said he doesn't envy the Committee its job of parceling out money. It shouldn't be this way that a small percentage of the population is getting more than their share and other people are left begging. He wanted to put in his pitch for providing TRC the money for the homeless day shelter. It will be a resource center. He said he volunteers at the laundry program, and during the course of the week 70 to 80 people who are literally living on the streets come in to use the facilities. A large source of the homeless problem is due to the

unemployment rate. He would ask the Committee to consider the people who are unable to use the laundry and shower program because they can't afford transportation to get there. All the City has is an inadequate overnight shelter. Without good facilities for showers, laundry, and other basic needs, homeless people face a greater challenge of making themselves presentable to find jobs and get themselves on their feet.

Edward Kuharski said he is an architect in support of the day shelter. He said we're really good at recycling everything except people. He said we are going into austerity, so we might as well get good at it. A lot of what sustainable design and thinking is about is getting smart and getting lean and still living well. In the process of that, we can get a roof over everybody's head and health care for everyone. He wants his city to pioneer civilized life in austerity. The first step is to have commitment. He encouraged everyone to go to the Capitol Rotunda to see the art exhibit. It's heart rending but it puts everything in perspective. He said that he wanted the Committee to commit to getting things done. He said we have plenty of housing and wealth even though we're in a depression. Mr. Kuharski states he is providing pro bono work to make sure this thing can go. Let's get to it.

Greg Markle of Operation Fresh Start (OFS) thanked the Committees for the opportunity to speak and said that OFS is slated for about a 90% cut in funding directly to programming through this process. That's about \$180,000, and those cuts can substantially impact other funding sources. He said he wasn't here to talk about the demise of OFS. He said it's an interesting time in the organization. He said that Urban League, Centro Hispano, and Boys and Girls Club worked with the County Executive to try to get more slots at OFS for folks that they've referred because they understand that the program works. The school board has just implemented a major effort with OFS to end the achievement gap. United Way has selected OFS as a lead agency to work on the drop-out and low employment rate of youth in Dane County. Through this process, the City is drawing back its resources and dedication to helping at risk and disconnected youth. It's interesting to see the difference. He is really here to talk about the process of why that difference may have occurred. Ten years ago he was an alderperson, and ten years ago the Community Service folks and the CDBG folks probably wouldn't have been sitting at this table together. They probably would have been arguing about everything in sight. Ten years ago, right before he left as an alder, he threw out an idea of creating an affordable housing demand reduction plan because he noticed that these groups weren't working together. Some good things have come of it, like the overall Community Development Division, the Conference Committee, and the two Committees are sitting here together, but there's still the inability of the community of the City to look at the holistic impact of organizations. And because of that, the Committees are not grasping opportunities to use the funding available most efficiently. There's a Conference Committee that looks at employment but doesn't look at affordable housing and doesn't look at other impacts in the community. There's a CDBG Committee that graded things on housing proposals, whereas if you look at the list of CDBG goals, seven of them aren't housing, yet they weren't included in that grading process.

PUBLIC HEARING continues

Whitesel asked if OFS is intending to follow up with a proposal. Markle said

that WPHD and OFS are answering the questions requested by CDBG staff, which have to be returned by tomorrow. Mr. Markle encouraged the committee members who have additional questions on OFS's proposal to email them directly to OFS.

Trina Clemente spoke on behalf of the TRC homeless day center and said the amount of creativity has been inspiring. She was involved with Occupy Madison and experienced the really fascinating community that developed there and watched what happened when people had a say. People have spoken before the Common Council. There are people involved with the laundry program and out at the campground. The day center will provide storage, which everyone needs. Storage lockers are definitely needed. The homeless also need a place to have messages left for them, a place for their mail, a place to take showers, and a place to sleep.

Hap spoke on behalf of the TRC day center. He stated he wanted to share his experience of being homeless and living on the streets. He said a day shelter for homeless individuals not only provides services; it also provides pride and a sense of self worth, things homeless people don't have. Homelessness promotes alcoholism, and the day shelter would give them a chance to get away from that environment, a chance to get off the street and get their lives going. He said he's been sober for a little over a month because of Hope Haven and programs like that. Without those types of programs and without shelters, Madison is never going to solve the problem of homelessness.

Ald. Cnare asked Hap if he thought it was important that there be service providers like Alcoholics Anonymous at the day shelter.

Hap said it would be a good idea.

Ald. Cnare asked what other services he would like to see at a day shelter.

Hap said he's starting to go to AA meetings, and it's nice to hear you're not alone. It's nice to see people who've been sober for 10 to 15 years. It's nice to have sponsors. Anything to help the homeless feel better and give them self worth would be important.

Ald. Cnare said a day shelter is a new concept for Madison, and we want to make sure that we get the right building and the right services inside the building.

Hap said that there are successful programs in other cities like Seattle, and maybe the City could research those programs as models.

Clemente said they want to bring in students as volunteers to help with programming. They are also interested in the TimeBank.

Will Green with Mentoring Positives (MP) said that MP does a lot of good work out in the community. They work with kids on the way outside the community or reentering the community. He and his wife come from a criminal juvenile justice background. They know if the community sends kids away to juvenile facilities for treatment or corrections, it costs \$9,000 to \$10,000 per month. If they catch kids on the front end, they can keep them in the community for \$2,500 to \$3,000 per month. He's been in the Darbo-Worthington neighborhood

for eight years. He and his wife have done close to 800 hours of unpaid work. They go out and work directly with kids. The work they do is tough. They have to engage teenage at-risk youth who have a lot of things they'd rather do than hang with him and his wife. They cannot work on any achievement gap or get kids jobs until a significant relationship has been built with them. If the community doesn't engage these kids, they're going to pay the price. He wants the Committee to consider that this program is unique. They do a lot of grass roots work and don't have a lot of overhead. They're a "mom and pop shop" that does a lot of work for the community. He said a lot of the Committee's funding went toward the south side, and if he were an eastsider, he'd be upset that nothing was in the budget for them.

Ald. Cnare said the City first funded MP with an Emerging Neighborhoods Grant and asked if that was the last time they received money from the City.

Green said no, he has been supported through the City with other small grants. They did get another Emerging Neighborhoods Grant from the City this summer.

Ald. Phair asked Green to elaborate on the Urban Ag part of their proposal.

Green said they started the Urban Ag program about three years ago. It's a program on the east side where they produce salsa. They've been very fortunate to have received a donation of an acre of land from Holy Cross Church, so they're growing all their tomatoes, peppers, and collard greens. They're trying to create a micro-enterprise to create revenue to support their work. Urban Agriculture gets kids involved.

Raphael Ragland said he's been with Will Green since he was 10 years old. If it weren't for MP, he doesn't know where he'd be at this point. He was running around being bad on the streets before MP. Will taught all of his friends to be men. He's in his second year of college, and he still comes back to get that knowledge to be a better man.

Maurice Banks said he's been in the program since he was 11. Will came to the gym and tried to teach us, but Mr. Banks said he wanted to be bad so he resisted at first. But then he came to his senses and tried the program. Will gave them knowledge about obstacles they'd face in life as they got older not having a father figure in their lives. Some of their friends who did not join MP are now in jail.

DeShawn said before he moved to the Darbo neighborhood, he was looking up to a negative figure that would've steered him down the wrong path. Will gave him a close up and personal example of what it was like to be a man and most importantly a selfless and civilized human being. He can truly say that Will cares about them. He said that Will would take money out of his own pocket to help them or feed them at any time. He believes funding is necessary to assist other kids in the community.

Ald. Marsha Rummel said she was disappointed when she read the Committee's recent funding recommendations for three programs in Darbo neighborhood, two for MP and one for the Salvation Army, and none of them got funded, which she said is unfair. She said that Darbo now has an NRT focused on it. MP is a great organization that does great work that's never

received money through the Summer Funding Process. It's a really important message that we send to kids to learn these life skills and to participate in mentoring and peer groups. All these programs for young people are being cut, like OFS. She said she wants to make sure that young people of color do not get neglected. She asked the Committee to reconsider their funding recommendations and find some money for MP and the Darbo neighborhood.

Dionte Prewitt thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak on behalf of MP. He's been a mentor with MP for five years. This program is unique in that they seek to initiate, develop, and maintain relationships with hard-to-reach, at-risk youth, kids that society often labels negatively and sometimes as irredeemable. As a mentor, he has seen Mr. Green and his wife Becky work countless hours to help youth with a passion and commitment that is hard to match. Specifically, he wanted to talk about the lives they have touched with their Skills Development Group at the Salvation Army. They use basketball as a hook, not to develop stars on the court, but to build and instill character, discipline, and responsibility in the youth. They have mandatory discussions about real-life topics, like growing up fatherless, conflict resolution, love for yourself and others, and giving back to the community through positive role modeling. He knows that the influence that MP has had on youth on the east side has been so tremendous and it would be a shame to see that influence be minimalized due to a lack of funding for such a unique, life-changing, and much needed program.

Cindy Crane from the Northside Planning Council (NPC) thanked CDBG for its support of one of NPC's projects that will affect neighborhoods, economic development, and social issues on the north side. She said she was here to speak to the CSC and thanked them for including NPC in their budget. She had a rhetorical question of the Committee: Why are there categories? They were told they were in one category for the capacity building of neighborhoods, but she felt that each organization was being compared to every other organization. She said it takes a majority vote to move money from one category to another. She appreciates the need for spreading the money out, but she would also say that NPC has a long dynamic history. It impacts the neighborhoods on the north side. The mayor helped to start the organization, and she would invite the Committee to stay true to the process, to really look at each category for what they are, or to abolish the categories. She said the neighborhood section took a big hit, and she's asking that if there's money put into the budget, to please include planning councils in that 5% increase.

Antonio Molina Rivas Vice President of the Latino Chamber of Commerce (LCC) introduced others in his group. He thanked the CDBG Committee and staff for their recommendation and support for the LCC proposal. He said the LCC has experienced an amazing 436% growth in the last few years from 25 members to 134 members. Much of the growth and success is in large part due to the investment and support of the CDBG dollars. According to the US Census from 2000 to 2010, Latinos in south Wisconsin have grown 61%. Many of them want to start their own businesses, but they face cultural, linguistic, and legal challenges, which the LCC helps them overcome. Latinos need LCC's services and expertise and seek out LCC's technical assistance and support because they want their businesses to succeed and thrive. With CDBG's financial support, they can continue to assist Latino businesses so they contribute good services and products and so they can create jobs necessary for a prosperous community. They want a strong Latino middle

class.

Juan Jose Lopez said he wanted to echo what Rivas said and thanked the Committee and staff for their support. He said Latino businesses are emerging like never before to realize the American dream. Creating LCC was challenging. They went to Madison College for support. They need to access funding to provide services and technical assistance to Latino businesses with the intent that they develop jobs in the City of Madison. He said Latino businesses are sometimes overlooked, not given the same opportunity and access that they should have, but Latino businesses work hard. They hire not only Latinos, but also non-Latinos as well. The LLC wants to expand opportunities for Latino businesses in Madison, so that's why they asked for \$43,000 in their proposal. They partner with Madison Black Chamber of Commerce, WWBIC, L'Academia, Madison Development Corporation, and Centro Hispano. When they develop Latino businesses, they develop jobs and impact the economy. They help stabilize families, and kids do better in school. When they're thriving economically, their families are also thriving. He hopes that the Committee will add \$10,000 in their recommended funding for LCC.

Sonya Lindquist with East Madison Monona Coalition of the Aging said they are one of four coalitions in the city. They serve primarily low to moderate income seniors. She wanted to express her gratitude and appreciation for the Committee's work and for the recommendations that came out of the Committee on Aging. They wanted to extend their appreciation for keeping the funding for Senior Case Management and Focal Point funding the same for 2013 as it was in 2012. She said in times of shrinking budgets, their seniors have benefitted from this support. Because of the level of funding for Senior Case Management in 2012 and because of efficient service delivery practices, they have increased the number of seniors they serve each month by 20%. However, they have an ever growing waiting list of seniors who need their services. These services support low income seniors and help them to connect to resources, such as food share, energy assistance, and home chore services. She also extended her appreciation for the \$3,000 recommended allocation for senior activities. They are increasingly aware that many seniors in the east Madison area have few places to socialize. There's no senior center, no community center, and no county meal sites in the east Madison service area. Between 2000 and 2010, there was a 30% increase in the number of seniors in this service area. Research has shown that seniors often suffer from a lack of social support, particularly when they live alone or when they have no access to community resources. This isolation produces not only loneliness, but also contributes to increased rates of depression and decreased health and nutrition. For seniors socialization is as important as nutrition, and regular exercise to maintain health. Again, she wanted to extend her appreciation for the \$3,000 allocation, and she would encourage the Committee to allocate the additional \$3,700 for senior activities.

Joseph Roy, President of the Madison Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC) thanked the Committee for the proposed funding of \$30,000 for 2013 and \$20,000 for 2014. They feel this funding will assist them in filling the needs of the Black entrepreneurs in Madison. This funding will allow MBCC to serve the Black entrepreneurial community in a way to promote commerce in the Madison community and the state of Wisconsin. CDBG funding will assist with the costs of operation and also provide funding for a desperately needed 50% FTE Program Coordinator position. The hiring of this position will allow the

organization to better meet the needs of Black entrepreneurs, as well as provide the administrative support needed to move forward with plans and goals for the future. Mr. Roy said he has been a business owner for the past 12 or 13 years. The MBCC has partnered with and will continue to do more work with the Urban League of Greater Madison, WWBIC, Madison Development Corporation, Madison College, UW Small Business Development Center, the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Summit Credit Union, McFarland Bank, the City of Madison, and many other such organizations.

Lori Mann Carey said the Boys and Girls Club has touched the lives of so many people in the community. All five of her children have been members of the BGC. She said BGC partners with every organization they possibly can, and they try to seek donations wherever possible. Even so, they are probably still not meeting the needs of all the children. She spoke on behalf of BGC for increased funding.

Sweet clarified that the BGC and other community centers were not acted upon during this Summer Funding Process because they are being studied. He said they did receive a 5% cut of City revenue as did every other funded agency due to the need to submit a budget to the Mayor with a 5% cut.

Marilyn Feil works for the Joining Forces for Families team in the Darbo neighborhood. They've seen positive effects from Mentoring Positives (MP) in the neighborhood. It's great to have them there to help with youths' behavior. MP has helped the neighborhood to be more stable, and she urged the Committee to do what they could to find funding for them. They do a lot of things in the neighborhood that they don't get paid for. If the City supports them, it's going to send a message that the City believes in the work they are doing and thinks it's important, whereas if the City doesn't support them, it sends the message that they don't really care about what they are doing. She urged the Committee to put dollars where its values are and to support MP.

Brenda Konkel of Tenant Resource Center (TRC) said she put lockers on her porch because she really wanted to help some of the homeless people she saw carrying stuff around. She gave examples of how the lockers have helped people. The need for basic resources is the concept behind the homeless day shelter. She thanked the Committees for the job they had to do. There were some staff talking points that went out about the project, one of which was that staff wanted to be involved early in the project. She said she thought she wasn't supposed to talk to the staff or she would have spoken to them about her proposal. She was frustrated that people are saying the application wasn't good enough. She said she filled out the application that was provided for the Summer Funding Process and said it didn't have the level of detail that people wanted. They have that level of detail and are working on a business plan to flesh out some things. She reported some good news. She's had a \$25,000 pledge toward the project, and she has a realtor who is volunteering their time. She has an architect helping with the project and some engineers who are going to evaluate the building and help with some of the environmental issues. She had a company volunteer to provide them with materials for renovation that they would need, either at cost or for free. They also offered to donate labor. She has a foundation looking at whether they can make a commitment to operate the building on an ongoing basis. Unfortunately, they're caught in a fight between the City and the County. This is a community group effort. She

wanted to reiterate that the building is for sale. She wanted to end by saying that dignity and self worth mean everything to the homeless. The day shelter would help make that happen for them. It's something that needs to happen, and she feels that TRC is the group to do it.

MacCubbin asked about the building.

Konkel said the building is located at 1440 and 1444 East Washington Avenue. It's about \$575,000, and County Board supervisors have looked at it. TRC is doing its due diligence. There are some issues with the building, but they have architects and engineers looking into it. It's on a bike path and bus line.

There were no more registrants.

O'Callaghan moved to close the public hearing. Choudhury seconded. Unanimous.

Ald. Cnare asked if CDBG and Community Services Committees could talk about each other's items, and Markofski said that right now we don't have a mechanism to discuss each other's items. The two Committees will reconvene separately after a fifteen minute recess.

Before recessing, O'Callaghan asked the members of the committee to go round robin and give feedback about the testimony they heard.

Van Rooy said that a lot of people testified, and there's certainly a lot of need out there, much more than the City can meet unfortunately. He thinks the Committees did the best job they could in allocating the funds. He said he would like to give a lot more organizations a lot more dollars, but the CS Committee has developed a secondary list for project funding if their budget is increased.

MacCubbin said a couple of people talked about the process and wondered if globally the Committees were aware of the needs of the city as a whole. She said she hadn't considered whether the money was geographically allocated equitably around the city. She felt tonight was an eye opener.

Ferington said the highlights for her were the lack of funding for Mentoring Positives, the need for a homeless day shelter, and Rainbow's continuing request to support vulnerable children.

Ald. Phair said he'd never been through three hours of more heartbreaking testimony. He said It's tough to see all the need and hear all the great testimony and realize our job is so tough. The theme he came away with was kids. He said maybe that was a bias of his because he's a teacher, but the City needs a different approach than throwing money at police for problems. He said we need to do more for our neighborhoods and our kids. He said that something like Mentoring Positives is the exact thing the city needs.

Hunter said he generally agrees with everything that's been said already. He has ridden the bike path two or three times a day for seven years, winters included. And probably they do need lights, but he could get along without it. He believes that resolution to these problems is not going to happen here in these Committees. It has to come from higher up in the process.

Choudhury said that flat funding is a huge issue and liability for the agencies we purchase services from, as is asking them to increase the level of their productivity without new money. It makes it difficult to fund new organizations that haven't received City funding in the past. Current research states that programs like Mentoring Positives are the single most effective way to deter crime and reintegrate disenfranchised youth into their communities.

Whitesel agreed with what everyone said. He observed that what we hear at a public hearing demonstrates how complicated the funding systems and programs are. The need is so great. There is an awful lot that we are doing with the resources we have.

Markofski said our pie is small, and our resources are not enough, and we've had our consciences pricked by the human need demonstrated tonight. He said it's easy to be calloused to the fact that people don't have housing and people have many needs. So, he appreciates those that come to speak at these hearings and tell us that everything is not okay. He appreciates seeing examples of the Will and Becky Greens who are taking action and initiative out of the goodness of their hearts. We can't give money we don't have to all of these programs, but he's glad we're being challenged to look at the needs and the absence of resources.

Sweet said he hates the funding process. He stated the committees are victims of our own process, and he thinks our process is not good. We do the best we can with what we've got. Our pie is small, and we don't have enough to go around. He thinks there's something fundamentally wrong with Mentoring Positives not getting funded because CSC enforced a rule that said no new programs. The Committees need to take one giant step back and look at how we do business in our funding cycle. It's fundamentally flawed.

Ald. Cnare said she has sat on the Community Services Committee and the Committee on Aging and now CDBG. The CSC has it hardest. CDBG is easier because of the smaller number of programs and applicants that we work with. CDBG has really defined rules thanks to the Federal government. She said hats off to all who sit on CSC. She did want to encourage us to look a little deeper at the reasons for some of the items in the budget. She doesn't get why Mentoring Positives doesn't get funded year after year. She said perhaps it was a process problem.

O'Callaghan said we're always going to be stuck at this same point in the conversation every two years if we don't take that step back and reexamine the larger picture, which is how the money gets there that is allocated in the first place. To a large extent, this is part of a City budget conversation. And the rest of the Common Council needs to get the benefit of this. Unless someone is looking at the big picture and the long-term and making budgeting decisions based on that, we're always going to be here at this table with too many programs to fund, not enough money to do it with, and projects competing with one another for a shrinking pie. He doesn't know how you would fix it, but that's his observation.

Whitesel said he agrees, but even if we had a perfect plan, we might still wind up at the same place because if resources were increased, then demand might also increase. He doesn't think the process is so flawed that it needs to be

thrown out, but he does think it can be improved. One of the things he saw as a shortcoming was the outcome of the OFS and Mentoring Positives proposals. He said MP should come to the CDBG Committee with a business plan and their Urban Agriculture program. He thinks it's important to say the process is frustrating, but we do a service to the City Council to wrestle the difficulties here.

Hurie said that everyone has worked as hard as they could with the resources that they had. He said he and his team would come up with a consolidated B-list based on the Committees' observations.

Sweet said that having the two Committees sit down together is a giant step forward. He thinks it's really cool that we're here and that there's a Community Development Division. He thinks there's room to move forward to make it more unified. He hopes the City and the County can make the homeless day shelter move forward because it's really needed.

Markofski said that the two Committees would now separate for further discussion of recommended funding.

27207

Discussion and Final Recommendation for 2013 - 2014 CDBG Office funding.

The CDBG Committee reconvened in five minutes.

Markofski asked Charnitz to explain the funding recommendation numbers on the spreadsheet.

Charnitz said provided a connection to the Neighborhood House Allocation which should be #37,753.

Charnitz said she wanted to comment briefly on the Mentoring Positives (MP) discussion. The Urban Ag proposal came to CDBG prior to the date agencies new to the process were to turn in their letters of intent. Staff met with them and encouraged them to come in for a Futures Fund application so that they could get some assistance in developing a business plan and in identifying the next steps for them and specifically how they can get the salsa business off the ground with costs, staffing needs, and public health licenses. Staff has linked them up with a consultant who would help them fill out the Futures Fund application and complete a business plan.

Ald. Cnare said she has had experience with MP and with Will Green, who is a fabulous person. His applications over the years have improved. When they first came in for Emerging Neighborhood funds, they weren't even a 501(c)(3), which they are now. She said she is glad that staff is coaching them on how to fill out an application and develop a business plan. She said it is the responsibility of staff and the Committee to help people get in the right position to do their good work and be successful at it. She asked Charnitz to write a letter to the CSC about the amount of help the CDBG staff has given to MP. Charnitz said MP will hopefully submit an application for Futures Funds very soon.

Choudhury said she is a huge fan of the mentoring model, and she has a lot of respect for the grass root organizations. It's sometimes difficult for grassroots

organizations to make the leap to coalition building because of the administrative requirements that go along with it.

Whitesel asked if we should make the request for MP to come in for Futures Funds as part of the Committee's recommendation. O'Callaghan said he would support that.

Markofski asked the Committee to look over once again the funding recommendations that they would be finalizing tonight. He asked if there were any changes the Committee wanted to make other than to recommend MP to come in for Futures Funds.

O'Callaghan asked Charnitz if the list was okay as is with no gaps in the numbers.

Charnitz said that everything is balanced and that the Committee developed a solid slate recommendations. Charnitz said staff would add the recommendation that the Committee encourages Mentoring Positives to apply for Futures Funds to assist them in developing a business plan for their Urban Ag program and salsa program. O'Callaghan asked Charnitz to tack on the concept of "with the emphasis toward building organizational capacity" to the recommendation. Ald. Cnare said the phrase "work closely with staff" should be also added.

Whitesel said he fully expected to hear Habitat for Humanity at the public hearing. So, one way or another, we've found an area where perhaps past funding has done what it's supposed to do and they're now self sufficiently able to corral the resources they need. Choudhury said Habitat will probably come to us when they need funding in the future.

Choudhury said she really appreciates how well the recommendations were put together.

Whitesel moved to accept the staff's final funding recommendations with all the contingencies. Hunter seconded. Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Hunter moved adjournment, and Choudhury seconded. Unanimous.

Anne Kenny, recorder