

Minutes
Block Grant Working Committee Special Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - 4:00 p.m.
Community Development Division
Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor, Room 5B - 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chairman Lubshina

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Gerald Lubshina (Chairman), Terri Simmons, Maria Hernandez, Claudia Urrutia, Linda Cole, Dan Hoffman, Warren Barton, Ken Gaul, George Scowins

Members Absent: Veva Walton, Aziz Alam

Staff present: Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Tara Neff, Liz Carrizales

A. Introduction of Appointed Block Grant Working Committee Members

Newly Appointed Committee Members: Terri Simmons, Claudia Urrutia, Linda Cole, Dan Hoffman, and Ken Gaul.

Mr. Lubshina introduced himself as the Committee Chair. He asked the Committee Members to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes of meetings

A. August 7, 2019 – Regular Meeting

A draft of the minutes was considered. A motion to approve minutes from August 7, 2019 was made by Mr. Barton and seconded by Mr. Scowins. The newly appointed Committee members abstained from voting. The minutes were approved as prepared.

Ayes: 4

Abstain: 5

III. Old Business

A. 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (“Con Plan”)

Mr. Ragona provided an update on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. He stated that the Community Development Division (CDD) is nearing completion of the City’s 2020-2024 Con Plan. The Con Plan is a guide of the City’s goals and objectives for the next five years. He said that the CDD staff engaged with various stakeholder groups such as residents, businesses, non-profit agencies, and the Aurora Housing Authority to gather their input in developing the City’s highest priority needs. The Con Plan document covers housing, economic development needs, community development, homelessness and a variety of other research and statistics that were put into the five year plan. CDD staff will provide a draft version of the Con Plan to the committee in the next two to three weeks for their review and recommendations. A public hearing will also be held for residents to review and provide public comments. A tentative approval date by City Council is anticipated to occur at the end of January 2020. The Con Plan will be submitted to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) once the 2020 funding allocations are announced.

Mr. Ragona summarized the proposed updates to the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) Plan. He stated that the proposed NRSA map boundaries were expanded from the original boundaries to include the City's gateways on its North/South and West/East areas coming into the downtown. A copy of the proposed map and the reasoning for the NRSA boundary expansions will be provided to the Committee at their next meeting. Discussion took place.

IV. New Business

A. 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP) – Recommendations for CDBG/HOME/ESG Funding

Mr. Ragona provided the Block Grant Working Committee (BGWC) with a summary of the proposed 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP) recommendations. He stated that this year the 2020 AAP will be combined with the City's 2020-2024 Con Plan. This only happens once every five years and the next four AAPs will be submitted as stand-alone documents.

Mr. Ragona provided background on the recommendations. The City has historically used a competitive application process. In keeping with this, CDD staff held a mandatory meeting in May 2019 for all eligible nonprofits, businesses, and individuals who were interested in applying for CDBG funds.

With regard to HOME funds, CDD staff is holding a rolling application for HOME dollars. HOME funds are reserved for larger scale projects and typically will use multiple years of funding to complete projects.

Mr. Ragona stated that Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) dollars were only received in 2018. The ESG grant is targeted towards assisting those that are homeless or on the verge of homelessness. He briefly explained that allocation is based on poverty level, total funds available and the number of recipients throughout the entire country. Unfortunately, the City did not receive 2019 ESG funds and will most likely not receive 2020 funds. A competitive application was held earlier this year. He briefly explained that there are several program requirements that many nonprofits simply cannot meet to qualify for ESG dollars. He said that Hesed House met all the ESG program requirements and direct activity funds were allocated to Hesed House. CDD staff will work with Hesed House over the next several months to administer those dollars. Discussion took place.

Following his overview of the City's HUD funding allocation process, Mr. Ragona provided a brief summary of the applications received. CDD staff and the Block Grant Working Committee reviewed the following staff recommendations for 2020 *CDBG Program Funding*.

2020 CDBG PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS 10-2-19				
2020 Proposed CDBG Project Name		2020 CDBG Request	2020 Preliminary Recommendation 10-2-19	Funding Adjustments 10-2-19
1. Rebuilding Together Aurora	Safe At Home	\$177,292	\$140,000	\$0
2. The Neighbor Project	Safety First Program	\$235,000	\$235,000	\$0
3. Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity	514 Claim St. Rehab	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
4. The Neighbor Project	Individual Development Account (IDA) - Matched Savings Program	\$49,105	\$0	\$0
5. Senior Services Associates	Community Connection Center	\$40,000	\$27,500	-\$2,500
6. Breaking Free/Mutual Ground	Homeless Substance Abuse Treatment Services	\$42,422	\$10,000	-\$2,000
7. Mutual Ground	Domestic Violence Shelter Program	\$50,000	\$47,500	-\$2,500
8. PADS, Inc. DBA Hesed House	SEEDS Case Management	\$50,000	\$20,000	-\$5,000
9. Prairie State Legal	Aurora Housing Advocacy Legal Services Project	\$25,000	\$12,500	-\$2,500
10. City of Aurora - Innovation Core Services Dept.	Financial Empowerment Center	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$25,000
11. CARA Clean Slate	Cleanslate Workforce Crew	\$100,000	\$40,000	-\$10,000
12. Seize the Future DBA Invest Aurora	Micro-Enterprise Loan Program	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
13. Fox Valley Park District	Walters Park "Wellness Walk"	\$192,000	\$192,000	\$0
City of Aurora	CDBG Program Administration	\$310,123	\$310,123	\$0
	Subtotal	\$1,545,942	\$1,239,623	\$50,500
Unallocated Funds Available: \$591,390 • Amount reflects estimated prior year program funds in the amount of \$200,000				
City of Aurora	2019 Neighborhood Revitalization TBD* (Anticipated Strategy Areas include Opportunity Zones as well as other Low and Moderate Income Census Tract Areas)		\$510,990	-\$50,500
City of Aurora	Choose Aurora (Down Payment Assistance)		\$30,000	\$0
Overall Recommended Total			\$1,750,613	\$0

Consolidated Plan Goals		
<u>2020 CDBG Breakdown</u>	<u>Proposed Allocation</u>	<u>% of Allocation</u>
Housing	\$405,000	23%
Public Services	\$232,500	13%
Public Facility	\$192,000	11%
Economic Development	\$100,000	6%
Neighborhood Revitalization	\$510,990	29%
<u>Program Admin</u>	<u>\$310,123</u>	<u>18%</u>
TOTAL	\$1,750,613	100%

Discussion took place and a motion to recommend to the City Council the 2020 CDBG proposed recommendations was made by Mr. Scowins and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Other Matters

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events

A. Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – Block Grant Working Committee Regular Meeting (Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor-Room 5B)

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. was made by Ms. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Barton. The motion was approved unanimously.