

DRAFT – Pending Approval

Minutes

Block Grant Working Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 - 4:00 pm

Neighborhood Redevelopment Division

Aurora City Hall, 5th Floor, Room 5B - 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. by Chairman Lubshina

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Gerald Lubshina (Chairman), Maria Hernandez, Earle Robertson, Warren Barton, George Scowins

Members Absent: Veva Walton, Helen Ratzlow, Debra Meeks, Aziz Alam

Staff present: Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Tara Neff

II. Minutes of meetings

A. November 28, 2018 – Regular Meeting

A draft of the minutes was considered. The minutes were approved as prepared.

III. Old Business

Mr. Lubshina announced that Marlin Mittag will be recognized at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Mittag resigned from the Block Grant Working Committee on October 17, 2018. He served on the Board for over thirty years. Mr. Lubshina invited Committee members and staff to the meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for 2018 CDBG Program Year

Mr. Ragona stated that this HUD report is filed annually, and this report is the second to last report for the City's five year plan. He said that because the City did not receive its 2018 funds until the last week of February 2019, the CAPER mostly reports on the City's public services activities as all other projects were placed on a hold until the City received its funding. Now that the City has received its funding the City can move forward with the other 2018 activities. The City received Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) for the first time in 2018, and can move forward and start building its program. As far as the Home Investment Partnership (HOME), for the City is looking for a project to utilize funding. Discussion took place.

A motion to recommend to the City Council the 2018 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report was made by Mr. Scowins and seconded by Mr. Barton. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. 2019 Outlook Schedule

Mr. Ragona gave a brief overview on 2019 Schedule:

- The 2019 Public Service projects are moving forward, although the City has not received its funding.

- The consultant to draft the City's Emergency Solutions Grant plan has signed the agreement, we will begin working on that program.
- Once the draft RFQ for the City's 2020–2024 Consolidated Plan is approved, it will be released this month. NRD staff will work with the consultant to draft the City's Five Year Plan.
- NRD staff has been working with The Neighbor Project to overhaul its Single Family Rehabilitation program, and the intent is to finalize the program changes within the next 30 days.
- NRD staff has finalized the Down Payment Assistance program new policies. Ms. Neff has been working with several low income home buyers for first time assistance.
- The Block Group and Census Tracts low-moderate income (LMI) percentages have changed. NRD staff are working with the City's GIS department to update the City's LMI data.
- NRD staff has been refining its policies and procedures and long term monitoring for its long-term affordable housing projects. Some of which will be monitored for 30 years.
- NRD staff is preparing for HUD's monitoring which is anticipated sometime later this year.
- At a future meeting, NRD staff will present agreement modifications to the BGWC for its affordable housing projects. The goal is to have this completed by the end of Summer 2019. These modifications will require approval from the BGWC and City Council.

Discussion took place.

V. Other Matters

Mr. Lubshina asked if the Paramount School of the Arts recognized as a college. Ms. Munro stated that it is her understanding that it does not have an academic affiliation. She will check on this and will follow-up with the Committee.

Ms. Munro announced that the Neighborhood Redevelopment office has moved to City Hall, Fourth Floor.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events

A. Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 4:00 p.m. – Block Grant Working Committee Regular Meeting.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at by Mr. Barton and seconded by Mr. Scowins. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:35.