

# MINUTES

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING FOR CITIZEN INPUT FY2011 CDBG and HOME PROGRAM

January 12, 2010

Chairman Eric Johnson called the public hearing to order at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 715 Mulberry Street, Waterloo, Iowa. The Chairman stated the purpose of the hearing is to gain citizen input into the application process for FY2011 CDBG and HOME Program funding. The Chairman welcomed participants to the meeting, and indicated the Board members have copies of all applications before them.

**Board Members present:** Jim Carstensen, Mickye Johnson, Gary Rankin, Bernie Stroh and Chairman Eric Johnson.

**Also present:** Steve Schmitt, City Council Liaison; Rudy Jones, Community Development Director; Nancy Gulick, Community Development Coordinator; Perry Goodman, Neighborhood Services Coordinator; Ann Northey, Administrative Secretary; Joni Hansen, Jason Holt and E. J. Gallagher, Cedar Valley Hospitality House; Barb Prather, Northeast Iowa Food Bank; Billie Allen-Williams and LeKeisha Veasley of Operation Threshold; Tim Jamison, Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier; Danielle Rohret, Community Development; Patricia King, Eye of the Needle; Paul Huting and Rick Curran, Leisure Services Dept.; and Roxanne Fuller, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of N.E. Iowa.

### **A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved by Jim Carstensen and seconded by Bernie Stroh to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

### **B. RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE AFFIDAVIT FOR PROOF OF PUBLICATION FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Johnson indicated a copy of the display ad published in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 announcing the public hearing was available for review.

**It was moved by Mickye Johnson and seconded by Bernie Stroh to approve and place on file the affidavit for the notice published in the Waterloo Courier. Motion carried.**

### **C. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

**It was moved by Bernie Stroh and seconded by Gary Rankin to open the public hearing. Motion carried.**

Chairman Johnson indicated this is the first of two public hearings held before the Community Development Board. A final public hearing will be held before the Waterloo City Council. This is federal funding coming to the city from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program funds. A variety of applications were received prior to year-end. They have been compiled into a booklet for the Board to review. The Chairman informed applicants they may provide additional information at this time not included in their application or answer questions the Board may have concerning their application.

The Chairman explained that following this hearing process the subcommittee will meet and make their recommendation to the full Board. The recommendations will be published and then a second hearing will be held in February, giving applicants another opportunity to be heard. After the February hearing, the Board will make a final recommendation to the City Council, which will be published for a 30-day comment period. The Council will hold a final hearing in April to approve or recommend changes to the Board's recommendations for funding.

At this time the Chairman opened the hearing for comments and asked participants to identify themselves at the microphone, stating their name, address and project request. The Chairman reminded participants that each application will be read and noted there was no necessity to read applications to the Board. He indicated the subcommittee may be contacting applicants for additional information during the review process.

Perry Goodman, Neighborhood Services Coordinator for the City of Waterloo Neighborhood Services Department, thanked the Board for past CDBG funding and inquired if there were questions concerning his application. He noted that Neighborhood Services is seeking funding for an additional part-time staff person as a Neighborhood Specialist for two days a week. The primary job description would be to assist with data collection. Other duties would include on-going surveys and the development of what is called a thematic atlas, which would be housing focused. Public surveys would be conducted based upon the needs of other departments. Data collection would be on-going and this information would supplement the 2000 and 2010 census, providing grassroots information.

Paul Huting, Director of Waterloo Leisure Services Department indicated the play structures in Sullivan Park are over 15 years old. Rick Curran, from the facilities department, recommended these structures be replaced as they do not meet current standards for playground safety.

Paul Huting indicated they propose to match the \$40,000 in funds requested with another \$30,000. He noted they were asking the Council for \$80,000 for the upcoming year to spread throughout 50 city parks.

Board members inquired what age groups utilize the parks, and have any surveys been conducted. Paul Huting indicated they could conduct such surveys, and noted considerable activity has taken place at Lafayette Park where extensive renovations were made utilizing funds from a Brownfields Grant. The neighborhood and community changes when you upgrade the play equipment in a park.

Patricia King, representing Eye of the Needle, responded to a question from Jim Carstensen on the transportation item listed in her application. Ms. King stated they would offer transportation to and from agencies such as Jesse Cosby, Peoples Clinic, etc. for those who are unable to provide that service. Ms. King noted they house an increasing number of homeless and indigent clients who are searching for jobs.

Roxanne Fuller, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Northeastern Iowa spoke on behalf of two proposals; one for the MoneyMap to Homeownership for Housing Education Classes and Workshops and the other to seek Housing Counseling Services.

Chairman Johnson inquired if the homeownership proposal is geared more toward housing education.

Ms. Fuller indicated they assist individual clients with mortgage and credit issues or trying to purchase a home, and working them through these processes.

Jason Holt, Cedar Valley Hospitality House indicated their request was for \$127,000 to start-up and provide a daytime homeless shelter program.

Jim Carstensen inquired what matching funds or grants are included to help leverage funds and finance this program.

Jason Holt stated approximately \$12,000 - \$25,000 in assistance will be received through other organizations and individuals.

Chairman Johnson noted as their application was laid out it appears they are asking the Board to fund 100% of their request.

Joni Hansen, also representing Cedar Valley Hospitality House, responded they were not asking for 100% assistance. They are applying for another grant in March. They have also received funding from the Gallagher family foundation and several area churches and individual donations. To date approximately \$7,000 has been received in donations since they opened December 15, 2009. Ms. Hansen noted the house they wish to rehabilitate is located on Independence Avenue. The owner of that property has offered to donate the house if money can be received to rehabilitate it.

Jason Holt indicated the \$127,000 is for the rehabilitation of the house. They have a temporary setting at this time and the \$7,000 received to date supplies operating costs for these months of transition. He noted the \$127,000 request would help them refurbish and rehabilitate the house. Part of the funding request is also for a program coordinator.

Chairman Johnson stated this project has merit and looks very interesting. He questioned the funding source after this year; as the Board is not a long term funding stream.

Jason Holt stated we only anticipate requesting approximately \$10,000 per year from the city. Most of the funding will be through private donations and matching funds from organizations and other individuals.

Jim Carstensen indicated the homeless problems are very severe and there hasn't been many places for them to go during the daytime hours. Other metro cities have implemented similar programs.

Jason Holt stated there are no other cities in Iowa providing this service, but larger metropolitan areas do have hospitality houses, providing one-stop shops and resources for the homeless and indigent people. There will be telephone, Internet access, laundry and shower facilities available to assist them to move toward getting into their own residence.

Joni Hansen indicated if the \$127,000 request is more than the Board would consider reasonable for the start-up project, they would gladly accept less funding for their project.

LaKeisha Veasley of Operation Threshold, spoke on behalf of the CASH Course Expansion – Financial Literacy Programming. This program has been offered for several years, but the demand has increased with the troubled agencies. Most clients come from referrals and they provide individual and group counseling. Ms. Veasley reviewed the training materials they utilize.

Board members requested a copy of their training materials and the syllabus they follow for their training program.

Barb Prather, Northeast Iowa Food Bank indicated their project is at the halfway point of their Capital Campaign. Ms. Prather indicated their fund raising has almost reached \$3 million. A Homeland Security application is being submitted to assist with the development of their human services campus, as the Department of Corrections and Operation Threshold will also be located on this site.

Chairman Johnson asked for further comments from the public. None were received.

#### **D. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

The Chairman called for a motion to close the hearing.

**It was moved by Micky Johnson and seconded by Jim Carstensen to close the public hearing. Motion carried.**

Chairman Johnson indicated the total number of CDBG requests received this year are slightly over \$3 million. We project that our funding will be close to \$1.4 million, which is an increase over last year. We are grateful for this increase since during the past ten years we have experienced decreases in our funding. HOME funds total approximately \$850,000 in requests and we project the receipt of approximately \$600,000.

**E. PUBLISH INITIAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2010 PRIOR TO NEXT HEARING.**

Chairman Johnson indicated a motion was necessary to publish the initial subcommittee recommendations prior to our next public hearing on February 16, 2010.

**It was moved by Bernie Stroh and seconded by Gary Rankin to publish the subcommittee recommendation for the use of CDBG and HOME Program funding on February 7, 2010 prior to the next hearing scheduled for February 16, 2010. Motion carried.**

The Chairman stated the subcommittee members would be meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, January 15, 2010.

**F. ADJOURN**

Chairman Johnson thanked everyone for attending and with no further business adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudy D. Jones, Secretary Pro-Tem