

MINUTES
City of Hot Springs
Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)
Thursday, January 2, 2014 1:00pm
City Hall, Board Chambers, 133 Convention Blvd, Hot Springs, AR 71901

1. Call meeting to order

Those in attendance:

- Erin Holliday, CDAC Position 1
- Leslie Ramsey, CDAC Position 4
- Terry Kent, CDAC Position 5

- Mike Scott, City of Hot Springs, Chief Building Official
- Michelle Sestili, CDBG Consultant to the City of Hot Springs

- Janice Jones & Cindy Rogers, Park Avenue Community Association
- John Lewis, Mark Toth & Verna Linder, Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association
- Doris Russell
- Tearessa White
- Patricia Davis
- Jacqueline Willis
- Eden Guinn
- Maari Guinn
- Virgil Hoskins
- Katherine Jones, Greenwood Area
- Margie Walker
- Frankie Walker
- Chuck Hanna, Project Hope
- Ruth Carney, District 6

The meeting was called to order by Erin Holliday at 1:09pm with a quorum.

A copy of the agenda, comment sheets, citizen participation survey summary, CDAC action request and Brownfields grant public meeting invitation were made available to all in attendance.

2. New Business

Michelle Sestili presented background information regarding the need to amend the CDBG 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and FY11, FY12 and FY13 Annual Action Plans. The amendment would reallocate some or all of \$400,000 in unspent funds.

Michelle Sestili reviewed the results of a November 12 – December 23, 2013 Citizen Participation Survey in which residents were asked how they would like funds reallocated. 348 responses were received. 79% of respondents wanted to fund neighborhood revitalization & affordable housing projects; 18% wished to fund housing rehabilitation projects; and <3% wanted to fund both.

<The complete survey results report is available at <http://cityhs.net/258/Community-Development> or in the City Planning & Development Office, 133 Convention Blvd, Hot Springs, AR 71901>

Erin Holliday opened the floor for public comment.

Janice Jones, Secretary of the Park Avenue Community Association spoke in support of neighborhood revitalization projects such as infrastructure improvements to meet the mobility needs of elderly & disabled residents, solving drainage and potential flooding issues, and increasing home ownership in the area.

Katherine Jones of the Greenwood area spoke in favor of housing rehabilitation funding for those on the waiting list that are in need of major home repairs they are unable to afford otherwise.

Maari Guinn of the Greenwood area spoke in favor of housing rehabilitation funding.

Mark Toth, President of the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of neighborhood revitalization funding, adding that the survey results were clear.

Cindy Rogers, President of the Park Avenue Community Association, spoke in support of neighborhood revitalization funding.

Doris Russell in the Walnut District spoke in favor of housing rehabilitation projects

Mike Scott provided a history of the CDBG housing rehabilitation program and procedures, and answered CDAC questions.

Michelle Sestili read the only submitted comment which supported neighborhood revitalization projects to convert vacant lots into community <food producing> gardens in low-income areas.

Erin Holliday asked if attendees wished to make any other statements or if committee members had additional questions. There were none.

Erin Holliday made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors an amendment to the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and FY11, FY12 and FY13 Annual Action Plans to reallocate an estimated \$400,000 in unspent funding toward neighborhood revitalization projects.

Terry Kent seconded the motion.

Erin Holliday, Terry Kent and Leslie Ramsey voted in favor. No abstains.

Erin Holliday, recognizing that the Greenwood area has needs and committed residents, requested that the Community Development Block Grant Administrator and neighborhood associations experienced with CDBG reach out to the Greenwood Area residents to help them organize their community for CDBG applications.

Michelle Sestili agreed. John Lewis, Vice President of the Whittington Valley Neighborhood Association offered to help residents of the Greenwood area as well.

3. Old Business

Michelle Sestili provided an update on the status of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan and 2014 Annual Action Plan. On December 13, 2013 HUD revised submission deadlines as described in the Code of Federal Regulations, 24 CFR 91.15(a)(1). In short, the changes move the deadline for City submission of plans until after HUD has set the fiscal year 2014 CDBG budget, historically June or later. Since the City submitted their CDBG plans on time

on the original deadline of November 15, 2013 the plans will remain in a pending status until HUD sets the CDBG budget. The City will then have the opportunity to revise the plans to match the actual budget, and then HUD will have 45-days to review and respond. The delay is not a reflection of any actions of the City of Hot Springs. This is a federal change in procedure. The City remains in compliance with all HUD CDBG grant rules and regulations.

4. Announcements

Next scheduled meeting Thursday, February 6th at 1:00pm at City Hall Board Chambers.

Michelle Sestili invited residents to attend a Brownfields public meeting on January 9th.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Erin Holliday at 1:58pm.