



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 22, 2022
Council Chambers

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair, Ron HUE, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ron Hue, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gary Earp
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bobbie Littrell, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vel Wright
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christy Watts	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruce Donner	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alisha Piper, Community Development Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christina Palmer, Director Management Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Millbauer, City Council Liaison

INTRODUCTIONS

Ron HUE welcomed the new Council Liaison, Jill Millbauer and had the committee introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron HUE opened the discussion on the August and September 2021 minutes and asked for a motion – Bruce DONNER motioned for the minutes to be approved as written – Vel WRIGHT seconded the motion – vote approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

OLD BUSINESS

2021 Project Updates: Alisha PIPER shared the Keewaydin Park project was complete and being well utilized. She also gave the report for the other service projects and how a couple of them were not able to utilize all of their funds, mainly due to COVID.

TBRA: Alisha PIPER explained the new HOME program, regular Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), is scheduled to be put out as an RFP by Richland in the next month or so. The County’s Housing Resource Center (HRC) still has rental assistance funds available so we are hoping to be ready before their program runs out of funds.

CDBG-CV3 Funds: Alisha PIPER shared that all of the projects from the second round of CARES Act money have been completed. We assisted 15 micro businesses the second round and 29 the first round, while also helping 25 families with water/sewer bills. We funded fresh food boxes, PPE, and sneeze guards for Meals on Wheels and their senior clients. Funds still exist and we are looking at two new projects, to spend the money. The committee asked how we could do the new projects and Alisha explained that HUD came out with new “tie-backs” for COVID money, specifically health and safety related. Christy WATTS asked if any of that money could be used for some hardscape repairs at the Museum, Alisha said she’d have to look at the tie-backs and talk to Ian Dezember from Parks.

WA Commerce Grant (CDBG-CV2): Alisha PIPER explained that the Food Bank may not be able to utilize these funds if they cannot meet the audit, record keeping, and financial requirements of the contract/grant. The City met with the Food Bank last fall and the initial idea of purchasing a truck was abandoned after they purchased a used one prior to an agreement being signed. The City met with the Food Bank again, and their current plan is to build a large storage structure. However, the grant requirements still have to be met, and that may not be attainable. We have been looking at other ways to use the grant, but it still has to tie-back to COVID which is becoming increasingly difficult the further we get from the height of the pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Members 2022: The member terms for Gary Earp and Bruce Donner both expire at the end of March. Gary will not be returning to the committee but Bruce has applied for another term. Two new members have also been interviewed and are scheduled to be approved by Council on April 5th. This would bring the committee back up to the full seven members.

CAPER: Alisha PIPER sent out the draft CAPER to the committee. It was advertised and copies were distributed to the libraries and City Hall. Public comments are due back by March 25th for timely submittal to HUD by March 31st.

2022 HUD Award: We have not yet received the 2022 grant award from HUD. The President signed the budget last week and CDBG was the only item that decreased rather than increased. We expect the CDBG amount will be less but the HOME amount will be higher than 2021 awards.

Meeting date: Management requested that we move our committee meetings to Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays to allow full use of the Council Chambers for their audio setup needs ahead of workshops and meetings. The committee did not seem to have any conflicts, so Alisha will update the calendar and the website to reflect the date change. We will adjust if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.