



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMISSION

Monday, July 28, 2008

5:00 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 310 (City County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Carl G. Silverman; Thuy Pham-Remmele; Marsha A. Rummel; Monya A. Choudhury; Steven C. Bartlett; Justin O. Markofski and Charlie R. Sanders

Excused: 3 -

Tim Bruer; Arthur V. Robinson and Lina Trivedi

Staff Present: Barb Constans, Nancy Dungan, Pam Rood, Audrey Short, Sue Wallinger, Anne Kenny

Sanders called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

NOTIFIED ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public registered to speak under this item.

SPECIAL ITEM

11396

SPECIAL ITEM: PUBLIC HEARING ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR 2009-2010 FUNDING

Choudhury read the following statement from the CDBG Commission to funding applicants and members of the audience:

On behalf of the Community Development Block Grant Commission, we appreciate the critical thought and energy you put into this cycle's requests for funding. Between your written proposals and oral presentations, we heard about the complexities of living with poverty, violence, and disabilities in Madison. We saw the connections between the community development opportunities offered through each proposed program. Citywide, you have really responded to the emerging needs of neighborhoods: it is clear that as individual needs change, your programs are adapting to meet these challenges.

We understand that ultimately some of our funding choices will disappoint you. Collectively you proposed many innovative concepts, worthwhile program expansions and program continuations. As we are all too aware, the current economy precludes us from awarding grants above the amounts allocated in 2008.

We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year as other opportunities for funding may arise.

Optimistically,

The Community Development Block Grant Commission

Sean Winton, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center (WYFC)

Winton said that what he likes about WYFC is that it gives him some place to go and something to do. Before he started going to the center, he would hang out outside. His favorite thing about the Center is the Leadership Program. He said that he has learned to work hard from the program.

Shikira Twymon, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center (WYFC)

Twymon said the WYFC is a good place to go instead of hanging out on the streets, which is what she did before she started going to the center. Her favorite thing about WYFC is that it gives her a place to hang out with her friends. She also utilizes the computers and participates in the Leadership Program. She has learned not only leadership skills, but also how to communicate better.

Derrick Adams, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center (WYFC)

Williams said he likes to play basketball and hang out with his friends at WYFC. Before he started going to the center, he would play basketball at Elver Park. He said programs at WYFC have helped him communicate better.

Shakandra Madlock, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center (WYFC)

Madlock said she likes WYFC because of the things to do there after school and in the summer. Before she started going to the center, she would just be outside. Her favorite program is the Leadership Program. She has learned to work hard and not to give up.

Lloyd Harris, Wisconsin Youth and Family Center (WYFC)

Harris said that he has been working with kids at the center for four years.

He has tried to instill in them that "winners never quit and quitters never win." WYFC helps youth develop skills they need, helps them make positive choices, and helps them to do something productive with their lives. He asked the Commission to continue its support for the center.

Frank Staniszewski, Madison Development Corporation (MDC)

Staniszewski thanked Commissioners for their past support. He said he was here tonight to plead for support for the targeted Homebuyers Second Mortgage program. He said it has been a tough year, but we think we have a positive program with Second Mortgages. MDC started the program in April, and they are starting to see applicants. Many people who are inquiring about the program need credit repair. They are starting to see good interest in the program. He said MDC requests the Commission fund them for at least half of the \$138,000 request they made, which would be \$69,000. He asked that the program be included on the B-List at least. MDC would run out of funds for the program by the end of next year without CDBG funds.

Chris Brockel, Community Action Coalition (CAC)

Brockel thanked the Commission for support for the Gardens program. He said CAC appreciates the funding recommendations the Commission has made for the next two years for the Gardens program.

Clay Tschillard, Madison Area Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Committee (MAEJAC)

Tschillard said he was speaking tonight in support of the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Training (START) program. He said START has helped us identify barriers in selection procedures and to be more inclusive of minorities and women. START requires applicants to be able to get to and from class, but they don't require participants to have a driver's license any more. He has been involved with START for a while and wants to see the program continue. He said a shortage in the skilled labor force is coming soon due to retirements, which is why it's important to help people get into the trades now.

Lisa Subeck, YWCA

Subeck thanked Commissioners for their funding recommendations for the Second Chance program. She said she consistently hears that we need more tenant education, which is why Second Chance is so important.

She also thanked the Commission for support of the WYFC. She said the center is a positive addition to the neighborhood.

Ruth Rohlich, Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)

Rohlich thanked Commissioners for their continued support of WWBIC's Microenterprise Development program. She said she is excited about continuing the program at WWBIC.

Dan Beccue, WWBIC

Beccue, who is a loan officer for WWBIC, thanked the Commission for its funding recommendations.

Paul Terranova, Wexford Ridge Neighborhood Center

Terranova said that the new Lussier Center will be opening in about one month. He said they are conducting tours of the building on August 9. He asked the Commission to please think about the potential the center has to offer and to give consideration to helping us expand.

Greta Hansen, CAC

Hansen thanked the Commission for its funding recommendations for CAC's Financial Assistance program.

Howard Mandeville, Movin' Out, Inc. (MOI)

Mandeville thanked the Commission for its funding recommendations and said he appreciated the difficulty of the deliberation process. He said MOI's Homeownership program has helped 40 households become homeowners over the past five years, with an average of eight households assisted each year. He said the funding recommendations for 2009 will give enough money to help only about six households with homeownership, which isn't enough to meet the demand. He said MOI has the demand and the capacity to assist both homeowners and renters.

Mandeville said that initially MOI worked in partnership with WISH to do rental housing. MOI absorbed WISH through a merger and now does the program entirely on their own. He said that with the funding recommendations for 2009, MOI will only be able to purchase three units for rental. They will need additional funds to do more.

Mandeville said that MOI works with some of the poorest people in Dane County, with the average household at 20-30% CMI. To achieve housing success through rental and homeownership programs is very difficult, but they are able to help their clients maintain their housing with strong case management and support from MOI.

Marianne Morton, Common Wealth Development (CWD)

Morton thanked the Commission for considering the Vaughn Commons funding request at this Thursday's meeting. She also thanked the Commission for its funding recommendations for the Public Market in 2010. She said the CDBG funds will give us leverage to get other funds. She said the Public Market would help with local economic development and create a vibrant public space. CWD's goal is to have six minority vendors among the 40 vendors that will be at the market.

Michael Carlson, Habitat for Humanity

Carlson thanked Commissioners for their support over the last year for both Northport Commons and the Hauk/Marquette project. He said Habitat would appreciate any further support for upcoming projects. Habitat is considering starting a mixed-use center in the south Madison area and will be doing housing infill projects on North Avenue and Beld Street.

Megin McDonell, Tenant Resource Center (TRC)

McDonell thanked the Commission for its funding recommendations for 2009-2010. She said she wished to address questions Commissioners had about postcard mailings that TRC does. She handed out a sample of the postcard that TRC mails out with information about their Housing Mediation Service. She said they mail postcards because they have no other way to reach people who are being evicted. They get addresses of people about to be evicted each week through the court. The vast majority of these people do not have phone numbers or computers. She said TRC mails out about 3,000 eviction information postcards per year, and the postage is about \$1,290, which is not a huge cost to the program. She said that landlords will send out five-day notices to person they are evicting, but they don't include TRC's information.

Marcia Hendrickson, Boys and Girls Club (BGC) - Taft and Allied

Hendrickson thanked the Commission for its funding support for public services. She also thanked them for funding the new roof at their Taft Street location. The roof is in the process of being completed.

Gabriel Sanchez, Latino Chamber of Commerce (LCC)

Sanchez thanked the Commission for its support of LCC's goal to reach self-sustainability.

**Tom Solyst, Vera Court Neighborhood Center and
Bridge-Lake Point-Waunona (BLW) Neighborhood Center**

Solyst thanked Commissioners for support of both Vera and BLW centers. He said they have taken CDBG money and tried to leverage it for every other dollar available.

Others who registered in support of funding recommendations, but who did not wish to speak, included Mary Watrud for the START Program, Kate Gaines for Project Home, and Juan Carlos Reyes for the Latino Chamber of Commerce.

Sanders read an email from Annette and Mike Miller to the Commission supporting WWBIC and a letter from Marian Walluks to the Commission supporting WWBIC. These correspondences are available as an attachment to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Bartlett moved to adjourn, Rummel seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Kenny, recorder.