

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

MARCH 26, 2003

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

5:30 P.M.

Present: Robert Layton, Chairman; Cicero Lewis, Vice Chairman; Nancy Emerson; Lynne Langley; and Gia Yannekis.

Absent: Jean Pecunies (notified staff); Dani Rooney (notified staff); Paul Staples (notified staff); William Thorpe; Russ Van Billiard (notified staff).

Staff: Cindy Hayden, Community Development Director.

Chairman Layton opened the hearing at 5:40 p.m. He said the purpose of the hearing was to consider amending the FY 2002/2003 CDBG Budget to reprogram \$34,859 from the existing Microenterprise Assistance Program line item, and \$25,000 from the existing Housing Rehab Loan line item, to an existing activity titled Atlantic Heights Streetscape Phase II. Chairman Layton said the purpose of this amendment is to enable completion of the improvements on Saratoga Way in Atlantic Heights in accordance with the technical specifications outlined in the design plans.

Chairman Layton asked Community Development Director Hayden to briefly provide some additional background information regarding the Saratoga Way project and the proposed budget amendment. Ms. Hayden said three bids were received for the Saratoga Way Streetscape Improvement Project in Atlantic Heights. The apparent low base bid was \$289,565, with bid alternates totally an additional \$11,519, for a total of \$301,084. Ms. Hayden said the engineer's estimate was just under this amount and the next lowest base bid was \$297,288. She also said that the project was more costly than originally envisioned due to the substantial drainage improvements needed. Ms. Hayden said the balance available in the Saratoga Way project line item, after engineering/design costs was \$233,088, and that a total of \$8,822.64 remained in the now complete Kearsarge Way project line item. She said the \$301,084 needed to sign a contract with the lowest bidder for the Saratoga Way project as designed would be made available by reprogramming \$34,859 from the FY 02/03 Microenterprise Assistance Program and \$25,000 from the FY 02/03 Housing Rehab Loan Program. She said that sufficient funding remained in the Housing Rehab line item to meet program needs, and reminded CAC members that the Microenterprise Program had been funded for the current fiscal year, but not carried out due to the decision to curtail the program following the departure of the program's business counselor.

Ms. Langley asked what the bid alternates were. Ms. Hayden said that a number of fences need to be relocated and that the bid alternate would fund new fence fabric for those fences. In addition, Ms. Hayden said bid alternates included the street trees and a new fire alarm pull box.

Chairman Layton then read into the record a letter from Ms. Stephanie Goodrich in support of the budget amendment, and asked for comments from the public. Mr. Ted Blood said he fully agreed with Ms. Goodrich's letter and said the City did a nice job with the Kearsarge Way project. He said the neighborhood very much appreciates the new sidewalks, curbing and trees on that street.

Ms. Stephanie Krenn, Chair of the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood Association said she also agreed with Ms. Goodrich's letter, and said that the neighborhood appreciates that the City has completed other projects in the Heights when bids have come in at more than the budgeted amount. She also said the Saratoga Way improvements will improve both the safety and the attractiveness of the street.

Chairman Layton asked CAC members if they had any questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Mr. Lewis made a motion to recommend to the City Manager that the FY 2002/2003 CDBG budget be amended to reprogram \$34,859 from the existing Microenterprise Assistance Program line item, and \$25,000 from the existing Housing Rehab Loan line item, to the Atlantic Heights Streetscape Phase II line item for the purpose of completing the Saratoga Way improvements in Atlantic Heights as designed. Ms. Langley seconded the motion. Ms. Hayden said she had Mr. Staples and Ms. Rooney's proxy votes in the affirmative. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Layton adjourned the public hearing at 5:55 p.m.