

APPROVED ON 1/11/05
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2004

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

7:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Bob Layton, Vice Chairman Cicero Lewis, Dani Rooney

Absent: William Thorpe, Lynne Langely, Nancy Emerson, and Jean Pecunies

Staff: Cindy Hayden, Deputy City Manager; David Moore, Program Manager

Chairman Layton convened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. and read out the legal notice specifying the purpose of the public hearing. He then asked Cindy Hayden to make a presentation.

Ms. Hayden provided a powerpoint presentation about the CDBG program, including eligibility of CDBG projects, recent past economic development, public facilities, and accessibility projects, demographic and housing characteristics, and programs funded to address affordable housing issues in the City.

After the presentation, Chairman Layton opened the hearing to the public and recognized Lisa Fisher Henderson, Interim Director of the Housing Partnership and Program Coordinator for the Workforce Housing Coalition. Ms. Henderson referred to a meeting held in partnership with the City of Portsmouth and The Workforce Housing Coalition where many housing advocates and others were able to learn about, and visit, some of the affordable housing initiatives of the recent past including Osprey Landing, Atlantic Heights and Cottage Senior Housing. Ms. Henderson discussed some of the challenges both entities face in providing affordable housing. She mentioned a possible new project to be proposed by The Housing Partnership and its interest in the Affordable Housing Challenge Grant and her hopes that it would be funded at some level in the next budget. She said she planned on appearing before the CAC in the near future. Ms. Henderson also asked about the Public Service Agency Grant Program and Ms. Hayden and Mr. Moore said that they would work with Ms. Henderson to determine which, if any, agency activities might be eligible for the program. Ms. Henderson said that The Housing Partnership had been awarded a CDBG non-profit loan for the rehabilitation of its leased office space on Islington Street.

Chairman Layton then recognized Dick Ingram who is a Member of the Board of Directors for The Housing Partnership, coalition member of the Workforce Housing Coalition and President of the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ingram spoke in support of Ms. Henderson's comments and noted that many in the community were supportive of The Housing Partnership's efforts. He said that the issue of affordable housing is not just a social issue but an economic development issue and that many business leaders consider housing among one of the most important issues facing the business community.

Ms. Hayden said that the Community Development Department would be soliciting ideas for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year through mid-April.

After Mr. Ingram, no member of the public wished to be recognized. Chairman Layton adjourned the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.