

APPROVED ON 4-18-05

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CAC MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 7, 2005**

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Vice Chairman Cicero Lewis, Dani Rooney, Jean Pecunies, Lynne Langley, Barbara Driscoll, William Thorpe, Nancy Emerson and Stephen Lichtenstein

Absent: Chairman Bob Layton (notified staff)

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

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Vice Chairman Lewis chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Bob Layton. Vice Chairman Lewis moved to the first item of business, which was the meeting minutes of March 17, 21, 24, and 31. Mr. Lichtenstein moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Langley. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman then recognized Ms. Hayden to discuss the next agenda item, which was the FY 2005-2006 Budget. Ms. Hayden provided a revised draft of the budget and explained its contents. The revised draft budget includes funding for the Housing Rehabilitation Program, Residential Accessibility Grant Program, Affordable Housing Challenge Grant, Portsmouth Non-Profit Loan Program, and the Atlantic Heights' Preble Way and Crescent Way Streetscape Improvements.

Ms. Hayden made some general comments about projects proposed by the public for next year. The Atlantic Heights neighborhood came forward to request a master plan for the remaining interior street upgrades. Ms Hayden said staff felt that any additional studies needed in the Atlantic Heights neighborhood should be carried out closer to when construction funding for new streets might be available. This is because property ownership and other site conditions, as well as neighborhood opinions change over time.

Ms. Hayden said that unfortunately, the public facility projects identified by the Frank Jones Farm Neighborhood Association were not included in the budget for a variety of reasons, some having to do with ineligibility and some projects raised are being addressed through non-CDBG resources. She said she and Mr. Moore had met with the chair of the neighborhood association to discuss this.

Ms. Hayden said that the Affordable Housing Challenge Grant was specifically requested to be included in this year's budget by The Housing Partnership and Art-Speak.

Ms. Hayden reminded CAC members that the budget draft does not include funds for the Portsmouth Economic Development Loan Program. Ms. Hayden stated that demand for loans continues to be very low due to shifts in the local/regional economy and the availability of competitive private sector financing. She said the department would continue to manage the existing loans and conduct the required annual audit. She also said that if the economic climate changes, the loan program could be funded again at a later date.

After Ms. Hayden concluded her explanation of the revised draft budget, Vice Chairman Lewis asked how the public, who make requests to the advisory committee, learn about what

is or is not funded in the final budget. Ms. Hayden said that staff contacts those making requests by phone. In some cases, staff may meet with the public to further explain what projects are CDBG eligible.

After some general discussion about the public service agency grant program and the funding recommendations arrived at during the last meeting, Vice Chairman Lewis asked if a listing of the CAC recommendations for public service funding was available. Mr. Moore provided one to the CAC.

In response to a question from Ms. Rooney, Ms. Hayden then discussed the changes to the CDBG program being discussed at the federal level. Ms. Hayden said that while, initially, the federal budget process proposed to eliminate CDBG in the next federal fiscal year, it now seems likely that the CDBG program will remain intact. Ms. Hayden added that a possible formula change affecting all entitlement communities nationally could threaten the amount of funding received by communities in the Northeast. She said, in general, the CDBG entitlement grant has been decreasing, even without the current changes being discussed at the federal level.

Nancy Emerson moved to recommend the revised draft budget for FY 2005-2006 to the City Manager. Ms. Rooney seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Hayden then announced to the CAC that the waterfront overlook in Hislop Park in Atlantic Heights had been vandalized. She said some of the granite blocks had been rolled down the embankment through the fencing at the overlook and into the river. Ms. Langley reiterated the neighborhood's frustration and disappointment with the vandalism and said that they were actively working with the Police Department to find out who did the damage. Ms. Hayden said Department of Public Works staff had secured the site in terms of safety and Community Development staff were researching issues related to possible repair, including associated costs.

Mr. Moore was then recognized to update the CAC on the next steps in the consolidated planning process. He said that members would receive a draft FY 2005-2006 annual plan and new consolidated plan for the years 2006-2010 during the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the 30-day public comment period. He said that two public hearings had been held on the consolidated planning process and that numerous agencies and organizations concerned with those earning low and moderate incomes and other community development issues had been consulted in the process of developing the plan. He reminded the CAC that the public hearing for the FY 2005-2006 CDBG Annual Plan and Budget and Consolidated Plan for FY 2006-2010 would be on Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Vice Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.