

APPROVED ON 12-08-05

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CAC MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Bob Layton, Vice Chairman Cicero Lewis, Dani Rooney, Jean Pecunies, and Stephen Lichtenstein

Absent: William Thorpe, Nancy Emerson, Lynne Langley, Barbara Driscoll

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

Chairman Layton opened the meeting and moved to the first agenda item, which was acceptance of the minutes from the April 18, 2005 meeting. Vice Chairman Lewis moved that the minutes be accepted and the motion was seconded by Ms Rooney. All voted in favor.

Chairman Layton then recognized Mr. Moore to give an overview of the progress made on CDBG projects in FY 2004-2005. Mr. Moore stated that the evening's presentation would illustrate the progress explained in the FY 2004-2005 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which would be submitted to HUD by September 30, 2005.

Mr. Moore said the Preble Way and Crescent Way Streetscape Improvement project, Phase I was complete except for the punch list items. He said the contractor worked well with the neighborhood and that neighborhood feedback on the project had been very positive. He reminded the committee that it had recommended funding for Phase II of the Preble Way and Crescent Way work in the FY 2005-2006 budget and that the City plans to competitively bid that portion in the late winter of 2006.

Next, Mr. Moore said that remediation of the vandalism had been performed at the newly renovated Hislop Park at a cost of about \$10,000. Ms. Hayden said that approximately \$4,365 had been collected from the City's insurance company. Vandals had dislodged the granite blocks and rolled them down an embankment earlier this year. Mr. Moore said that the blocks had been replaced by anchoring them in concrete with steel reinforcement. The chain link fence as well as plantings, which had been damaged, were also fixed.

The renovation of 24 apartments for the physically disabled at Betty's Dream on Longmeadow Lane continues. Mr. Moore reminded the board that a total of \$150,000 had been spent to aid the refinancing and renovation. The assistance came in the form of a \$125,000 CDBG funded Non-Profit Loan, a \$32,000 CDBG grant, and \$23,000 in City of Portsmouth funds. He showed photographs from the test unit, which had been completed earlier this year. He said the project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2006.

Mr. Moore also showed pictures of completed handicapped curb-cuts at the corner of Hancock and Washington Streets in the City's downtown, which were funded last year through CDBG funds.

As part of the construction phase of the Non-Profit Accessibility Grant program the Community Development Department worked with Cross Roads House to construct a handicapped-accessible bathroom facility and associated laundry improvements. Mr. Moore said funds were leveraged from Cross Roads House to complete the laundry room renovation at the same time that contractors were completing the bathroom improvements. Mr. Moore said the department is also working with the Portsmouth Housing Authority to install handrails on its first and second floors of the Senior Center on Parrott Avenue.

Finally, Mr. Moore showed photographs of the completed construction in front of Cross Roads House on Route 1/Lafayette Road. He explained that the improvements were funded with \$35,000 in CDBG funds, COAST Transportation as well as, State and City General fund monies. He said this recently completed project improved the safety for residents who want to cross busy U.S. Route from Cross Roads and Wamesit Place, the adjacent apartments managed by the Portsmouth Housing Authority. New pedestrian signalization, improved sidewalks along the western side of the road, and a bus pull-off area with shelter have been completed.

After Mr. Moore's presentation, Chairman Layton recognized Ms. Hayden. Ms. Hayden said that due to the continued high level of activity under the Residential Accessibility Program (RAP) staff may come back to the CAC with a request to reprogram funds from the Housing Rehabilitation Program line item to the Residential Accessibility Program line item. She said staff would call a meeting when and if there is a need to reprogram funds. She said the Housing Rehabilitation Program has more than enough funding for the program year.

Ms. Hayden also sought input from the board about appropriate meeting dates and times for development of the FY 2006-2007 budget recommendation to the City Manager. After some discussion it was decided that Thursday was a good meeting time. Those present also said that, in general, moving the meeting time later in the evenings would be helpful on days, which are not Thursdays.

Hearing no other business, Chairman Layton adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.