

APPROVED ON AS AMENDED_4-6-06_____

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CAC MEETING**

MARCH 23, 2006

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Bob Layton, Vice Chairman Cicero Lewis, Jean Pecunies, Lynne Langley, Nancy Emerson, Dani Rooney, Stephen Lichtenstein

Absent: William Thorpe, Algene Bailey (called)

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

Chairman Layton opened the meeting and recognized David Moore to explain a spreadsheet prepared by staff sharing two funding options for the FY 2006-2007 Public Service Agency Grant Program. Mr. Moore explained that the options shown were based on committee discussions to date. He said Option 1 provided level funding for all existing agencies with \$5,000 left over to be applied to new agencies or spread out among the existing agencies. Option 2, he explained, provided level funding for all existing agencies, provided \$3,000 for New Hampshire Legal Assistance, and left \$2,000 to be allocated as seen fit by the committee. He explained that the committee could adopt, amend, or create its own funding option.

A general discussion then ensued about agencies that had applied for funding. Ms. Emerson thanked staff for the options presented and said she tended to favor option one.

The CAC had a general discussion about agencies that applied for two programs such as Portsmouth Housing Authority and Families First. It was generally determined that in the case of these two agencies, the programs are different from each other and serve many Portsmouth residents. In addition, Ms. Hayden pointed out that the CAC had the option in the future to set a policy in which agencies could only apply for one program. She said, when two programs are funded by the same agency it may mean fewer funds spent on administrative overhead. The committee generally agreed that the practice of funding two programs within one agency was acceptable.

Mr. Lichtenstein asked staff if funding agencies at the \$5,000 level was cost effective or worth the agencies effort given the investment of time with regard to reporting requirements. Ms. Hayden said that these agencies can use the funding and are comfortable with the reporting requirements.

Ms. Rooney said that the Portsmouth Adult Basic Education (ABE) program at Rockingham Community Action (RCA) was different from many of the programs, which applied for funding. Ms. Hayden provided some background on the agency. She said that the CDBG program had funded one of its programs as late as 2002. Ms. Hayden said it appeared from their budget and presentation that CDBG funds would be used to replace existing RCA CDBG grant funds. Ms. Emerson and Chairman Layton both

agreed that the schools should take more responsibility for adult education. Ms. Emerson added that the schools had stopped providing the service in 1996 and the Adult Basic Education program at RCA began. Ms. Emerson said that the schools should also be responsible for English as a Second Language (ESL), she stressed that she felt the community needed these services but that they should not necessarily be provided by a non-profit agency. Ms. Rooney said that with the development of new jobs at Pease, ESL classes would remain a community need.

Committee members then discussed their own preferences for funding. Ms. Emerson stated her preference that the committee fund Planned Parenthood of Northern New England Portsmouth Health Center. She said that in her experience, teenagers do not tend to access services at family oriented health centers such as Families First. Ms. Rooney said that she had doubts about whether the Portsmouth CDBG funding was actually necessary given how large the agency is. Ms. Emerson noted that the committee chose not to fund the agency last year because they submitted a balanced budget for the fiscal year which they were seeking funds for. Mr. Lichtenstein then said that he would like to provide some funding for New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA). Ms. Langley said that she would like to fully fund the programs that benefit the City's senior citizens. Ms. Rooney thought it was important to look at the numbers of residents served when the committee looks at who to fund. In addition, Ms. Emerson said some agencies are better at raising funds than others and that those who can sustain themselves budgetarily may not need CDBG support as much as those who can't sustain themselves.

Mr. Lichtenstein moved to accept option one and noted the CAC could use other motions to expend the left over \$5,000. Ms. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Langley then moved to fund NHLA for \$1,000, which would support the fair housing forum to be held in Portsmouth. Ms. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rooney then spoke of her preference to give the remaining funds to agencies that would be able to directly impact clients. She suggested that the committee allocate additional funding for the Community Child Care Center (CCCC). Ms. Langley advocated that additional funding be given to the Area Home Care Homemaker Program. Mr. Lichtenstein suggested the committee split the remaining \$4,000 to be allocated to the two agencies suggested by Ms. Rooney and Ms. Langley. Ms. Rooney then moved to split the remaining \$4,000 between Area Home Care and CCCC. (\$2,000 to each of the two agencies). Ms. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Layton thanked the committee for its work and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Ms. Hayden reminded members that their next meeting is Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m.