

ACCEPTED JUNE 23, 2010

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Nancy Emerson, Vice Chairperson Dani Rooney, Bob Layton, William Thorpe, Algene Bailey, Constance Carmody, Lynne Langley

Absent: Jean Pecunies (called)

Staff: David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and entertained a motion relative to the meeting minutes from January 7 and January 21, 2010. Mr. Bailey moved to accept the minutes and Mr. Layton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson then opened the public hearing for a proposed budget amendment to the FY 2009-2010 CCDBG Annual Plan and Budget and recognized David Moore, Assistant Community Development Director, to provide background information. Mr. Moore discussed the need for the budget amendment, which included reprogramming \$10,000 in FY 2009-2010 contingency funds to a new line item titled "City Hall Entry Way Accessibility Project". Mr. Moore noted that the activity was eligible for CDBG funds, because it removed an architectural barrier to accessibility. In addition, a reduction in energy usage (and utility cost) would be realized due to a more efficient operation of the City Hall's main public entrance. He clarified that an automatic single sliding door would be installed and that he was working closely with Public Works on insuring compliance with CDBG rules and regulations. Ms. Emerson opened the public hearing to the public, but no members sought to be recognized. The CAC then discussed how the amendment would result in improved accessibility for people in wheel chairs as well as people with other mobility impairments since the door would be automatic. The CAC also clarified that funding for this project would not impact allocations to previous programs. Ms. Rooney moved to approve the amendment as written and Mr. Thorpe seconded the motion. All voted in favor.¹

Mr. Moore then reviewed a draft budget for the upcoming CDBG Annual Plan and Budget (FY 2010-2011). The draft budget included funding for the CDBG programs housing, accessibility, public services grant, and non-profit loan programs as well as general administration and contingency. One new neighborhood project, construction funding for the Streetscape Improvements in the Atlantic Heights neighborhood, was also included. Mr. Moore noted that the engineering and design request for proposals was issued in late January and bids are due on February 19th. He hoped that design work could be completed in time to bid a phase of the Porpoise Way and Concord Way

¹ The vote on the amendment took place at the end of the meeting; this allowed time for members of the public not yet present, but who wished to comment on the amendment, more time to do so.

improvements shortly after July 1st. The CAC discussed the draft budget generally, including that there did not appear to be a lot of new projects proposed by the public. The CAC discussed the demand for the public service agency grant program. Mr. Moore indicated that the budget would be presented again to the CAC in early April, in preparation for the public comment session and public hearing set for the end of April 2010.

In response to a question regarding the current uses of the Gosling Recreation Center in Gosling Meadows Mr. Moore reported out on a conversation he had with Joe Couture, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Housing Authority and Emmanouella Vendouri, Risk and Prevention Coordinator at the PHA. He said that recently, the PHA had hired its part-time coordinator to full-time and that Ms. Vendouri was working diligently to expand programming for the over 200 elementary, middle and high school-aged children currently served in the program. The program is based at the Gosling Recreation Center and transportation is provided to residents of Wamesit to Gosling Meadows. There was general discussion about the need for this type of programming for the family housing developments in Portsmouth (Wamesit and Gosling).

Mr. Moore then provided an update on staff efforts on the FY 2011-2015 five-year consolidated plan. He reported back to the CAC on a homeless consultation, which took place during a Continuum of Care meeting. Minutes of this event were provided in a mailing to the CAC. The CAC discussed the notes from the meeting and the various critical housing issues facing homeless subpopulations such as prisoner releases, those with mental health impairments, drug and alcohol abuse, victims of domestic violence, and families with children. Mr. Moore explained the Continuum of Care process and its intent to convene homeless service providers and advocates to discuss challenges facing the homeless population and ways to assist effectively. Mr. Moore explained the Consolidated Plan is an opportunity to identify needs of homeless populations and to address homelessness prevention for those at risk of homelessness.

Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.