

APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 10, 2011

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

JANUARY 11, 2011

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

Present: Vice Chairperson Dani Rooney, Bob Layton, Algene Bailey, Jean Pecunies, Constance Carmody, Lynne Langley

Absent: Chairperson Nancy Emerson (called), William Thorpe

Staff: David Moore, Community Development Director

Vice Chairperson Rooney opened the public hearing and recognized Mr. Moore to make a presentation on the FY 2011-2012 Annual Plan and Budget process. Mr. Moore also presented an overview of past CDBG projects and described the eligible requirements for CDBG-funded projects.

After the presentation, several members of the public sought recognition.

Phil Cohen, Co-Chair of the Atlantic Heights Area Neighborhood Association (AHANA) thanked the Committee for its past support of projects in the neighborhood. He also requested continued support for public improvements in the neighborhood including the construction of the Concord & Porpoise Way Streetscape Improvements. He noted that the construction of the streetscape improvements was the neighborhood's highest priority. He also requested the Committee consider funding support for the installation of pedestrian scale street lighting as well as improvements to the public park located under the Interstate 95 bridge known as Maynard Park.

Byron Grant of Operation Blessing, asked the Committee for its support in addressing the accessibility needs of its building located on Lafayette Road in Portsmouth. He noted that seniors and disabled persons are unable to access the second floor of the agencies building and the agency would like funding support to install an elevator. He indicated that the organization has served over 157,000 people in the last 15 years.

Cynthia Shanley, Director of Wentworth Connections, a program of the Mark H. Wentworth Home, thanked the Committee for its past support of the agency and its work with seniors. She reported that the agency's program continues to serve seniors in Portsmouth and the area and that its programming is increasing and is enjoying wide support in the community.

Sandra Beaudry of Child and Family Services thanked the committee for its past support of the agency through the Public Service Agency Grant program. She said the funding is helping the agency to continue to meet the counseling needs of families with children in Portsmouth.

Susan Hess, representing the New Heights program, sought recognition and indicated she is interested in learning more about the CDBG program and is aware that the program has been supportive of the New Heights Program in the past.

Vice Chair Rooney closed the public hearing and thanked all for their attendance.

Following this presentation, Mr. Moore presented on the topic of the second public hearing, which was an update on FY 2011 projects. He provided updates on following projects, Hovey Fountain Accessibility Project (completed); City Hall Doorway Accessibility Improvements (completed); Betty's Dream Generator Project (completed); Cross Roads House Family Building Renovation (in progress); Manufactured Home Water Meter Upgrade Project (completed); and the Concord & Porpoise Ways Streetscape Improvement Project. He also provided updates on the Housing Rehabilitation Program and Residential Accessibility Grant program activity.

Mr. Moore expanded up on the status of the Concord and Porpoise Way project. He reminded the Committee that funding for construction of a portion of the improvements was included in last year's budget. He said he expected the bid documents for this project to be released shortly.

Mr. Moore noted that since the last meeting of the CAC, staff had worked diligently to comply with Consolidated Plan requirements by HUD as well as the requirements to update the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. He summarized the impediments identified as part of the study and noted that he would work with the Committee to insure its recommended Annual Plan and Budget included actions to address the identified impediments in the Analysis.

Mr. Moore then provided a synopsis of the impacts of the Federal SAFE Act Legislation and newly adopted New Hampshire RSAs related to licensing requirements for loan originators. He explained the impacts of the legislation on the current administrative protocols for HomeTown, the City's first-time homebuyers program as well as the Housing Rehabilitation Program. He said that staff recommended structuring the assistance provided under the Rehab program as grant assistance as opposed to loan assistance, in order to comply with the new requirements. The Committee discussed the recommendation and was in agreement about changing the assistance to grants, as is currently done with the Residential Accessibility Grant program.

General discussion took place regarding the comments made during the public hearing and the upcoming Annual Plan and Budget. Mr. Moore indicated that additional work would be completed between now and the next meeting of the Committee and he would report back more specifically on the budget as well as available funding and projects submitted. He noted that, in the previous year, having flexible funding available for City wide accessibility improvements was a useful tool to have authorized in the budget. He noted two projects were undertaken and noted that at least one additional accessibility project has been raised at local housing development.

Vice Chairperson Rooney then moved on to the meeting minutes from the June 23, 2010 meeting. Mr. Moore noted that Ms. Langely was present at the meeting and the notes should be amended to reflect that. Ms. Langely then moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Ms. Carmody seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.