

APPROVED ON JANUARY 31, 2012

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING**

JANUARY 12, 2012

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
Conference Room A**

6:30 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Nancy Emerson, Vice Chairperson Dani Rooney, Algene Bailey, Jean Pecunies, Lynne Langley

Absent: Constance Carmody (excused); Bob Layton (excused)

Staff: David Moore, Community Development Director

Chairperson Emerson opened the meeting and moved to the consideration of minutes from the April 5th and May 5th 2011 meetings. Vice-Chair Rooney moved that the minutes from both meetings be approved; Mr. Bailey seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Chairperson Emerson then opened the meeting and moved to the evening's two public hearings. She recognized Community Development Director David Moore to review the purpose of each public hearing and make a presentation. Mr. Moore summarized the FY 2012-2013 Annual Plan and Budget process and provided an overview of past CDBG projects and described the eligible requirements for CDBG-funded projects. He indicated that the CAC would be formulating its recommendation on the CDBG budget to the City Manager in the coming months and that additional project ideas could be submitted to the CAC after this public hearing. Mr. Moore advised the Committee that the amount of funding available for CDBG projects and programs in FY 2011-2012 was not yet known; however, the funding for the federal CDBG formula had been decreased by 10% during the FFY federal appropriations process. He said he anticipated that funds available for the upcoming year would be at least 10% less than the current year grant of entitlement grant of \$594,463.

In addition, Mr. Moore presented updates on the CDBG-funded projects included in the previous year's annual plan. These updates included the completion of the Concord Way & Porpoise Way Streetscape Improvement Project; completion of the Cross Roads House Family Building Renovation project; the Housing Rehab and Residential Accessibility Grant programs and the first-time homebuyers program, HomeTown as well as the FY 2011-2012 funded grant round for the non-profit accessibility grant program.

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 the CAC consider designating resources to review the parking and traffic issues related to Ranger Way. He mentioned that the neighborhood had concerns with the parking situation on this street, especially as a result of its proximity the Little League ball field. He presented a letter to the Committee from a resident living on Ranger Way. In addition, he mentioned that the neighborhood had been working with the Department of Public Works to secure improvements to Maynard Park, the park under the I-95 bridge in the neighborhood. He asked that the CAC consider supporting improvements to this park. He advised the

Committee that the State of NH would soon be carrying out a sound barrier installation project on the bridge to benefit the residents of the neighborhood.

Richard Candee, Vice President of the Portsmouth Historical Society, indicated that he would like to request funding in support of accessibility improvements needed for the Discover Portsmouth Center building at the corner of Middle and Islington Streets. He said the Society is planning on conducting another phase of major building improvements in 2014 -2015. He said the work would involve upgrading the existing bathrooms to insure compliance with accessibility standards as well as the relocation of the existing ramp that services the rear of the facility. Dr. Candee, indicated the ramp was out of ADA compliance and does not currently serve the buildings two tenants outside of the normal operating hours of the Discover Portsmouth Center. He indicated that prior to providing funding for construction work, he would like to request support for the design of the improvements this year.

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.

Catherine Edison, Development Director at the Community Child Care Center, was recognized and thanked the Committee for its past support. She also provided new information about its efforts to partner with Portsmouth Music and Arts Center to provide additional services to the students they serve in their program.

Chairperson Emerson closed the public hearing and thanked all for their attendance.

Under other business, Mr. Moore and the Committee discussed recent press coverage related to the Senior Center in Portsmouth. A general discussion took place regarding senior services and Mr. Moore indicated that he would provide more information about any developments around this issue at future meetings.

Mr. Moore briefly addressed the Public Service Agency Grant round for FY 2011-2012 and there was consensus to move forward with the grant round.

Mr. Moore also summarized the progress to date on the Atlantic Heights Emergency Access project and made the Committee aware that the report presented to the Traffic and Safety Committee in December is on the City's website. He said he would keep the Committee up to date on this issue as well.

Chairperson Emerson adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.