

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
Conference Room A**

6:00 P.M.

Present: Vice Chairwoman Dani Rooney, Constance Carmody, Lynne Langley

Absent: Chairwoman Nancy Emerson, Alicia Weaver, Alison Hamilton

Staff: David Moore, Adam Cannon

Vice Chairwoman Dani Rooney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

As there was not a quorum of the Committee, no action was taken on the minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting.

Community Development Director David Moore began a discussion of the 2014-2015 Annual Plan and Budget. The first topic covered was the FY14-15 Entitlement Grant Figure. Mr. Moore indicated that it had not been determined yet, but that the CDBG program received additional funding nationwide. He anticipates that funding will be at or above current levels.

Next, the Committee discussed continuing projects and programs for the FY14-15 budget. Mr. Adam Cannon updated the Committee on the status of the budget line item for an Emergency Power Source for Public Service Agencies. Mr. Cannon reminded the Committee that last year Mr. Byron Grant of Operation Blessing had come forward to speak in support of funding for an emergency power source at the Operation Blessing facility. This power source would ensure that the donated meat they receive would not spoil in the event that a storm knocks out power. City staff have been in discussions with Mr. Grant about moving forward with this project and are looking forward to beginning the project following the completion of a another City initiative with Operation Blessing.

Mr. Cannon also discussed the City Hall Accessibility item. He indicated that both he and Mr. Moore had met with Public Works to discuss the initiation of this project. From that meeting, they had determined that Public Works has a plan for a large-scale improvement of City Hall in the near future and that they would prefer construction of City Hall improvements to be simultaneous rather than segregated.

Next, Mr. Moore briefly discussed the Housing Rehabilitation Program & Administration, Residential Accessibility Grants (which are staffed by Office Manager Terry Poulin and Housing Rehabilitation Specialist Dan Hartrey). He noted that the Housing Rehabilitation Program is seeing a great response this year and that 6 people had already received a helping of assistance. He indicated that the Residential Accessibility Program may need some more promotion to inform people of its availability. Mr. Moore also discussed the HomeTown Program for First Time Homebuyers and stated that it was going very well.

Next, the Committee discussed General Administration for FY14-15. Mr. Moore stated that he does not expect much change in administration costs.

Mr. Cannon then gave a report on the status of the Public Service Agency Grant Program for FY14-15. Mr. Cannon noted that \$79,000 was granted to agencies in the last fiscal year. Both he and David were hopeful that there would be additional funding for public services for FY14-15. He also expected that there will be a few agencies that would apply that did not apply in the last fiscal year.

The Committee then moved onto a discussion of issues raised at the public hearing on January 14, 2014. Mr. Moore gave a brief summary of an email that Stephanie Krenn sent to Mr. Moore regarding a resident's

concerns with Raleigh Way drainage. City staff is following-up and this issue will be handled outside of the FY14-15 budget. It is likely that the work can be incorporated in the existing Ranger Way work.

Next, Mr. Moore gave a report back on the request for an emergency exit from the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood. He noted that the City has spent a large amount of time researching the various possibilities for an exit. This included an option of repairing the existing, yet aged boat road or creating a new road through PSNH property along the rail lines. The PSNH route was currently unviable due to various right-of-way hurdles and CDBG eligibility hurdles. The boat road has since been upgraded by the City's maintenance crew in Public Works and there was hope for additional work. When the City presented a change order to the Parking, Traffic and Safety Committee for consideration, it found that there was no appetite for moving forward on further improvements to the boat road. Mr. Moore noted that interested parties would need to contact the Parking, Traffic and Safety Committee regarding both a permanent emergency access and truck re-routing.

Mr. Moore also discussed the City's efforts in revamping its security procedures in the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood and the effort to improve coordination and perhaps conduct emergency drills involving Police, Fire and neighborhood residents.

Following this discussion, Mr. Cannon gave a brief presentation to the Committee on requested accessibility improvements for the Woodbury Avenue (Rite-Aid) Intersection and Gosling Road Intersection. He stated that Public Works has planned signal improvements for accessibility at the Woodbury Intersection as part of a recently distributed RFP. He also discussed the Gosling Intersection and the potential for improvements to accessibility along Gosling Road. Access to the Crossings at Fox Run mall is currently very difficult for disabled and, in particular, people who rely on wheelchairs. Mr. Cannon then noted that David and he met with the City's Transportation Planner and learned about the HAWK signal system and its role in reducing vehicle-induced injuries to pedestrians. Mr. Moore informed the Committee that staff would conduct more research and report back on its findings.

Ms. Langley stated that she had heard past requests to the Committee to fund improvements at the Woodbury intersection. She also asked if the Planning Department was aware of any specific modifications to the site in plan review. Ms. Langley also recounted how disabled people had difficulty managing the intersection leading to Bournival's Jeep due to the rocks in the sidewalk.

The Committee generally discussed the City's recent cooperation with Operation Blessing on several projects including the transfer of the Greenleaf Recreation Facility, the installation of an accessible lift, and the installation of an Emergency Power Source to protect meat from storm outages.

Mr. Moore indicated that there could be the potential for design work or traffic engineering at the Gosling Intersection. Mr. Moore also noted how Operation Blessing was recently recognized for its great service to the community at a recent City Council Meeting.

Mr. Moore discussed ongoing developments with Maynard Park in the wake of the park's closure. Ms. Langley asked Mr. Moore if the state would take care of the park's removal. Mr. Moore indicated that staff would ask about this and follow-up with the Committee. The Committee discussed the removal of the equipment at the park.

Following this, Ms. Rooney adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.