

DRAFT

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

JANUARY 13, 2015

**PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL
Conference Room A**

6:30 P.M.

Present: Alison Hamilton, Constance Carmody, Judy Bunnell

Absent: Chairwoman Nancy Emerson (excused), Vice Chairwoman Dani Rooney (excused) Lynne Langley, (excused)

Staff: David Moore

Ms. Langley opened the public hearing. Mr. Moore was then invited to provide a presentation prior to hearing from the public. Mr. Moore explained that the CDBG program was at the beginning of the Annual Plan and Budget Planning period for FY 2015-FY2016. In addition, the City is preparing the Consolidated Plan for the upcoming five-year period of which FY 2015-2016 is the first year. The ConPlan period will cover FY 2016 to FY2020. He indicated that while much of the data collection and analysis are conducted at the staff level, the CAC and the community will be involved in consultations with agencies serving persons earning low and moderate incomes as well as setting priority needs and goals for the next five years. He said the work on the plan has begun and will continue throughout the spring on the same schedule as the regular Annual Plan and Budget, however this work will be much more extensive this year. In addition to reviewing the previous five-year period's goals, Mr. Moore provided a background presentation on the CDBG program, eligible activities, and recent past initiatives and projects of the CDBG program in Portsmouth. After having concluded his presentation, Acting Chair Langley opened the meeting to the public.

Sue Cobler, Development Director at the Gundalow Company, spoke on behalf of a recently submitted accessibility grant application that was submitted as part of a grant round in FY 2014-2015. She provided background on the Gundalow Company, including the people served and its public mission. She stated the agency is actively working to ensure people of all abilities can access its programs. She explained the benefit of an accessible ramp and dock to its operations, which are based out of Prescott Park.

Next, Matt Glenn of the Gundalow Company spoke in support of Ms. Cobler's comments and added his perspective as Captain of the Gundalow's Piscataqua vessel. He also expressed the necessity of the new ramp and float for serving clients who have disabilities and explained the technical requirements of the project in more detail.

Byron Grant, Executive Director of Operation Blessing, was recognized he reviewed the agency's past success in collaborating with the City on the reuse of the Greenleaf Recreation Center on Greenleaf Avenue. He described the programs vibrancy, growth in terms of participation, and the benefits it has for at risk teens who access the programs. He said he is collaboration with nine other agencies to bring programming and services to the youth at the center.

He also spoke regarding needs of the Greenleaf Recreation Center building, which include streetscape improvement and pavement upgrades to the parking lot. He also noted that the City's skateboard facility, which abuts the Greenleaf Center, but is not part of Operation Blessings' lease with the City, is in need of upgrades. He is interested in leading an improvement project and initial research has indicated that as much as \$60,000 is needed for that project.

Martha Stone, Executive Director of Cross Roads House Inc. was then recognized. She spoke both on behalf of Cross Roads House as well as the Greater Seacoast Coalition to End Homelessness. She indicated that Cross Roads House is full each night in all seasons, however she indicated that the length of stays by each

client are decreasing. In addition, she advises that a new coordinated access initiative between regional service providers is helping potential clients avoid the shelter altogether and move forward directly to transitional or permanent placement that are better aligned with their needs. She indicated that Cross Roads House is an active member of the GSCEH and recently the Coalition completed a summit on homelessness that resulted in a new agreed upon set of priorities for the homeless service community to focus on in the near term. She gave background on the previous efforts of the Coalition to focus on core issues facing each member agency, which resulted in the implementation of the coordinated access program. She indicated that among the priorities identified as part of the latest summit included a coordinated care program with area hospitals, data aggregation and analysis, as well as advocacy work.

Karley LaPierre of the Portsmouth Housing Authority then spoke on behalf of the Making Community and Classroom Connections program (MCCC). She reported on the success of the program's first full year in Portsmouth. She provided examples of the youth program and partnerships that MCCC had brought to the students it served. She reminded the Committee that its FY2014-2015 Public Services Grant permitted the program to reach students outside of the single school environment that was funded as part of the federal program. She indicated that the PHA would be submitting for another grant application in FY 2015-2016 and thanked the Committee for its support.

After no other members of the public sought recognition Acting Chair Langley closed the public hearing.

Mr. Moore provided a few additional program updates prior to a discussion about the evening's public comments. Mr. Moore reviewed updated information from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding eligible census block areas where certain activities for CDBG are permissible including improvements to public rights of way. Noting that there were some changes in the eligible areas where over 51% of the resident households earn below 80% of median family income, he described the new eligible areas. He noted that the Atlantic Heights neighborhood was no longer part of the census block group where 51% of residents earned below 80% of MFI. He also described the remaining areas which included the West and East Woodbury Areas, including Osprey Landing, Gosling Meadows, and the Betty's Dream apartments as well as areas in the Islington Street corridor that had been similarly eligible up until 2003.

After a brief discussion of the new Census data, Acting Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.