

MEETING RECORD

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting February 11, 2015

CAC in Attendance: Lisa Cote, Peter Flanders, Kelli Aiken Flynn, Belinda Gerry, Joe Gray, Adam Lee, Larry Pelletier, Tom Poulin, Doris Russell, Theresa Smith, Judy Webber and Rick Whiting

Consultants: Frank O'Hara

Staff: Reine Mynahan and Lori Lewis

Welcome:

Adam Lee welcomed everyone back to today's meeting and turned it over to Reine and Frank.

Minutes:

Review the meeting minutes of January 6, 2015.

Motion: by Belinda Gerry to approve the minutes of the meeting on January 6, 2015.

2nd by Judy Webber

Vote: 11-0-1 in favor, motion carried.

Review Community Development Materials:

Reine informed the committee about the meeting that a subcommittee had on the application process for business loans.

- Will have fillable application forms on the website
- Suggestion for one application for all public lenders and host a meeting to include; AVCG, LAEGC, CCI and Coastal Enterprises.
- Contact banks to join in on training sessions to market programs
- Increase Small Business Program from \$15,000 to \$30,000

Review of Goals and Plan:

Frank went over the Strategic Plan Overview/Consolidated Plan for 2015-2019. In the strategic plan there are four high priorities, four medium and two low priority goals.

Target areas are going to be focusing on Downtown, Union Street and New Auburn. Even though there are two more target areas; Sandy Beach and Manley Road.

Needs, Goals, Strategies and Outputs:

- High Priority goals:
 1. Support People in their Efforts to Transition Out of Poverty
 2. Prevent Deterioration of Housing Stock
 3. Promote Jobs and Development
 4. Make Neighborhood Streets Safer and More Walkable
- Medium Priority goals:
 1. Prevent Homelessness
 2. Increase Owner Occupancy
 3. Reduce Blighting Influences
 4. Improve Parks and Establish Community Gardens

- Low Priority goals:
 1. Support Fair Housing and Increase Housing Choice
 2. Support New Housing Construction

Questions/Comments:

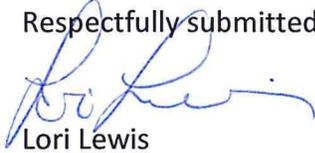
1. *Can we make the wording in 5-year output #2 under Transition out of poverty sound more like #2 under strategies?*
Response: We can take out parenting skills and word it more like the one under strategies.
2. *There will be a meeting with Lewiston on code enforcement and to see if they can help with Lead Grant inspections.*
3. *Can we remove "TIF-like structure" from the sentence under Promote Jobs; City policies?*
Response: Maybe change to incentives.
4. *Under businesses, 20 businesses might be a stretch; there is not a lot of demand.*
5. *There will have to be a meeting with Union Street and New Auburn areas to see what the specific needs & concerns are for neighborhood sidewalk safety.*
6. *Is it possible that the City's CIP could cover most of the costs for lighting and sidewalks?*
Response: There needs to be a major upgrade to LED lights. Should also check with Efficiency Maine to see if there are any available funds there. A light study should be done as well; like Lewiston has done.
7. *Can the taller trees be cut down and replaced with smaller ones? They are blocking a lot of the natural light on a majority of the street.*
8. *Under Homelessness; the security deposit program has been a successful program in getting people out of shelters, it is a loan that has to be repaid.*
9. *Do we have numbers for just Auburn homeless?*
Response: There was a survey done not too long ago, will check to see if we can get those numbers.
10. *Maybe look at Portland's Housing First program.*
11. *Can we integrate Poverty & Homelessness to satisfy HUD?*
Response: Will look at wording and see what can be done.
12. *As part of the down payment program renters are counseled and helped with coming up with a budget before purchasing. This has been a fairly successful program.*
13. *Could we remove "Muslim" from the wording in Fair Housing, 5-year output?*
Response: We will come up with an alternative phrase for the sentence.
14. *For Blight it cannot just be removal of trash it has to be improvements to the building.*
15. *Eric Cousens is working on a better tracking system for code enforcement.*
16. *For the public gardens, CDBG is working with Kirsten from St. Mary's. A committee is working on finding the best places and plans for these gardens.*
17. *Will there be partnering up with the local schools agricultural departments?*
Response: We are hoping to include them somewhere in the process.
18. *We should also contact L&A Fund and see if they would be will to partner with us or match funds for community gardens.*
19. *New housing stock is good for neighborhoods.*
20. *For this committee new housing is a low priority but for the city it is a high priority.*

The changes will be sent out in a new highlighted document so that everyone can see them. And everyone was okay with voting by e-mail.

It was recommended that after the approval of the budget that we should meet three times a year to go over progress in the different areas.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Lewis
Community Development Assistant