

MEETING RECORD
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
February 22, 2017

CAC in Attendance: Grady Burns, Belinda Gerry, Ernestine Gilbert, Joe Gray, Larry Pelletier, Doris Russell, Theresa Smith, and Rick Whiting

CAC Absent: Peter Flanders, Kelli Flynn Aiken, Mitch Thomas and Tom Poulin (excused absence)

Staff: Yvette Bouttenot, Alison Pepin, and Michael Chammings

Welcome:

Committee Chair Grady Burns welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

Introductions:

CAC members introduced themselves.

Consolidated Plan Overview and Status of First Year Programs/Projects:

Yvette Bouttenot gave a review of the first year projected outcomes for the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Discussion about lagging progress :

- **Promote jobs and development** – the STAR Program was not rolled out until late October, we have since received 4 application.
- **Make neighborhood streets safer and more walkable**– Hampshire Street project due to break ground late spring.
- **Increase owner occupancy** – Difficult program to find financially capable households. Common roadblocks are credit problems, insufficient income., etc. Staff continues to market program.
- **Support construction of affordable housing** – 62 Spring Street is scheduled to break ground this summer.

Discussion:

There was a discussion about Co-Op Housing and what the potential advantages and disadvantages could be. Committee member, Rick Whiting discussed his experience with Co-Op Housing and how the restrictions are far more all-encompassing, therefore it can be harder to find buyers. It was asked, what is the role of the City in supporting Co-Op Housing? Response: The city is still exploring its options to work with Craig Saddle mire and or other developers of Co-Op Housing.

A comment was made that it seems reasonable to move Co-Op funds to an area more in need.

What is the STAR Program and how is word getting out? *The STAR Program is a Business Loan Program is designed to encourage the creation or enhancement of business enterprises by providing low interest and forgivable financing for commercial property owners, new or expanding businesses,*

or micro-enterprise business. The program objective is to create new employment opportunities for low and moderate income households and to revitalize storefront spaces in the target areas. Four applications have been submitted to date. Word is getting out through word of mouth, marketing, Economic Development Round Table, the web-site and posters in City Hall.

Community Concepts Weatherization – Would like to see a match from the City added to the description.

Work with Me – Why is the police department involved in Work with Me? *The Police Department has an interest in helping at-risk kids receive job skills. This gives them an opportunity for employment and may prevent involvement in criminal activity. Through their work, they recognized a need and know how to help.*

Committee Member, Larry Pelletier read an e-mail from Shelly Mogul, Auburn School Department, Curriculum Director outlining the skill set a student needs to be successful in life and how the police department is partnering with them to achieve this.

Prevent Homelessness – Can more funds be allocated toward social service agencies that address homelessness? CDBG puts a cap on how much money can be allocated toward public service agencies. There is a 15% cap on the allocation plus program income. Discussion ensued resulting in a vote to add money back to line items Safe Voices and Tedford Shelter.

A motion was made by Rick Whiting and Seconded by Joe Gray to add \$1000.00 back to line item Safe Voices/Social Services and to add \$1000.00 back to line item Tedford Housing & Support Services for Homelessness.

Passage – 7-0

Comments:

Craig Phillips, Executive Director, Tedford Shelter – Spoke about the Stable Home Program.

Alyse Johansen, Executive Director, Safe Voices – Spoke about the Safe Voices program.

Both expressed appreciation for the past CDBG funding and for proposing to fully fund this year's request for funds.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Alison F. Pepin
Community Development