

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TELECONFERENCE
April 13, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Vince Chowdhury, Demetra English, Erica Howard, Teri Marquantte, Bill Moran, Jason Schneider and Charlene Wisner-Howard

Members Absent: Marcella Barnett, Hayley Reddish
***Excused**

**Late Arrivals/
Early Departures:** Lynn Bittel – late arrival, tech issues

Staff Present: Rodney Milton, Brittany McGaughy

Guests Present: Jessica Prosser, Jeff Hancock

Roll Call

Chairperson Teri Marquantte called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll call followed.

Approval of Agenda

Vince Chowdhury motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Bill Moran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Bill Moran motioned to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Vince Chowdhury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Committee Member Briefings - open

Teri Marquantte requested to have an updated contact list of members sent to group. Brittany stated she would forward the updated list to the committee.

Communications from Staff

a. **CD Manager Updates – Rodney Milton, Manager**

• **Housing Strategy Update**

Rodney explained the department will be working to improve communication and outreach to the general public by hiring a Community Engagement Manager. Interviews have been conducted over the last week and a hiring decision will be made soon. He explained the benefits of hiring this manager to the housing strategy, specifically with the work group responsible for communication and outreach. This new position will be of great assistance

with relaying information to the public that is clear, understandable and digestible. He also explained the 'Production and Preservation' work group, led by him, is currently focused on developing a project pipeline. This pipeline will include affordable housing projects and other projects that are housing related. The purpose is to move these projects through the process thoughtfully, provide funding, and utilization of funding. Rodney stated the second work group 'Places and Process' has been focused on where these projects should take place. For example, whether a new housing project should be built around transportation routes. This group is also looking at the inventory of city owned properties. Another focus this group is working on is the process and what the timeline for a development process looks like.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **COVID response updates- Rental Assistance update, Homelessness Update**

Rodney provided an update on rental assistance. The City of Aurora has provided over 766 households with rental assistance since June 19, 2020, when the first assistance check was issued. One hundred seventy-eight (178) households have been awarded assistance in Ward I; 75 households were awarded assistance in Ward II; 262 households have been awarded in Ward III; 135 households have been awarded in Ward IV; 49 households have been awarded in Ward V; and 54 households have been awarded in Ward VI. Roughly \$3.2M dollars used to aid those in need and avoid eviction. The state of Colorado is also working to assist the city and help process applications and award those in need.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **CDBG CV-Recommendation Update**

Rodney provided an update regarding the CDBG CV recommendation. He advised that the two recommendations from the GAP Financing evaluation group from the previous month will be going to the upcoming HORNS policy committee meeting on May 6, 2021 for recommendation.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Gap Financing Release- Evaluation Requests**

Rodney explained the GAP Financing evaluation requests will be going to the upcoming HORNS policy committee meeting on May 6, 2021 for recommendation as well.

Discussion ensued. Staff answered the Committee members questions.

- **Other Updates**

Jessica stated that Community Development will be presenting at the Housing Authority board meeting on May 13, 2021. Jessica advised the invite would be shared with those interested in attending. Jessica also advised of the City Council Study Session on May 3, 2021 that will be reviewing the use of stimulus funds. The city will be receiving roughly \$72 M in Department of Treasury money. This study session will see staff's recommendations on how these funds may be spent. Jessica also mentioned that there will be a safe space demonstration coming soon.

b. Loan Write-Offs – Jeff Hancock, Financial Supervisor

Jeff Hancock presented the Write-off report.

Communications from Committee

- None.

Adjournment

- Charlene Wisner-Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lynn Bittel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Minutes taken by:

Brittany McGaughey 05/17/2021
Brittany McGaughey Date
Administrative Specialist
Housing and Community Services Department

Minutes reviewed by:

Rodney M. Milton, Jr. 09/01/2021
Rodney Milton, Manager Date
Community Development Division

Minutes approved by:

Teri Marquante 5/17/2021
Teri Marquante, Chairperson Date